



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Concrete pulverizer to begin “rubblizing” East Peoria/Downtown 2010 site**

**EAST PEORIA, IL., Jan. 22, 2009** – For a decade the site has sat as a barren 68-acre slab of concrete up to 18 inches thick. Think one man, one jackhammer and, maybe, 10 years.

Beginning as soon as Tuesday and in a matter of weeks, a rolling behemoth called the MHB Badger Breaker will churn the landscape into rocks, then rubble – and the city’s East Peoria/Downtown2010 project will begin in earnest.

“This will truly be the first step,” said East Peoria Councilman Dan Decker. “Once we see the man in the machine, we’ll be making constant progress from now on.”

Contracts have been signed and signs have been posted heralding this city’s plans with master developer Cullinan Properties Ltd. of Peoria to develop in effect a new downtown of retail, residential and community use on the site where Caterpillar Inc.’s oldest factories once stood.

Since those plants were razed in 1998, however, the site between West Washington and West Camp streets has remained covered with the immense swath of concrete that once supported them. Only weeds have penetrated its cracks.

The council recently contracted with Antigo Construction Co. to begin “rubblizing” the concrete with one of its Badger Breakers, a machine featuring a “vibratory steel drum grid roller” that smashes through and crunches the material, said city Director of Public Works Steve Ferguson.

“Our plan is to get the machine on the site Monday and begin work Tuesday,” at least on areas not heavily covered with snow, he said. “I have no idea” how much the pulverized concrete, ranging from 6 to 18 inches in depth, weighs, Ferguson said, but he won’t have to learn. The concrete will remain where it lays, except when the ground beneath it is excavated for building footings and utilities as East Peoria/Downtown2010 progresses.

But almost immediately after the Badger Breaker finishes its work, about 300,000 cubic yards of dirt, harvested from a privately-owned site on Cole Street, will be trucked in to cover the finely cracked surface, which now will permit water to penetrate to ground soil. That will enable the development site to turn green with new grass and foliage as spring arrives.

The city will pay Antigo Construction, based in Antigo, Wis., \$350,000 for the work with funds drawn from the \$8 million borrowed in a bond issue last year to finance East Peoria/Downtown2010 infrastructure.

For more information on East Peoria/Downtown2010, visit [www.eastpeoria2010.com](http://www.eastpeoria2010.com) or [www.cityofeastpeoria.com](http://www.cityofeastpeoria.com)  
For more information on Antigo Construction and the MHB Badger Breaker, visit [www.antigoconstruction.com](http://www.antigoconstruction.com).

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[www.eastpeoria2010.com](http://www.eastpeoria2010.com)