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## EAST PEORIA CLOSER TO NEW DOWNTOWN



By Tierney Modglin

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For seven years...the City of East Peoria has worked with Cullinan Properties on the plan to reconstruct the downtown.

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The plan is to take 88 acres of barren land and turn it into a vibrant downtown.

East Peoria Mayor Dave Mingus says it won't just benefit the City of East Peoria.

East Peoria Mayor Dave Mingus says, "This is not just an East Peoria project. This is a regional project that's going to draw thousands of people for jobs, thousands of people as far as retail, community of living, it's an urbanism type concept."

But the city has yet to decide just what the new streetscape for East Peoria 2010 will look like.

A half-dozen architectural firms have inquired about taking on the task of designing a whole new urban community--with homes, shops and a civic triangle that will be used for community events like farmer's markets and concerts.

The East Peoria Council will decide next month of what this new vision of the city will look like.

Mayor Mingus says as soon as IDOT sends the 26 million dollars in funding the City will begin the reconstruction of downtown East Peoria.

The Cullinan Properties Director of Site Planning and Construction says the possibilities are endless for East Peoria.

Rick Jeremiah, The Cullinan Properties Director of Site Planning and Construction says, "The area is kind of split in itself. You've got the North end of Peoria and you've got East Peoria as new growth areas and East Peoria has the potential to be really strong on this side of that situation."

Rick Jeremiah says this project will do wonders for the local economy.

Rick Jeremiah, The Cullinan Properties Director of Site Planning and Construction says, "It's going to be driving two different aspects. It's going to add real estate taxes immediately to the formula in East Peoria. But also it's going to add another level of sales tax growth within the City of East Peoria."

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