



## **Block 95 FAQ**

**\*Last updated 3-Jun-20**

### **What is Block 95?**

“Block 95” refers to the block on Swedish’s First Hill campus sitting between Minor and Boren avenues and Columbia and Cherry streets. Starting in 2005, Swedish developed a Major Institution Master Plan (MIMP), in collaboration with the City of Seattle and the community, that includes replacing aging facilities on our First Hill campus, including Block 95.

### **What is planned for Block 95?**

The current project includes the demolition of existing structures, beginning in June. This project will fulfill our promise to the community to remove the empty buildings, which will improve safety on the block and enhance the appearance of the First Hill campus.

When the demolition is completed, Block 95 will be surrounded by proper fencing and barriers to protect people from getting onto the site. We are working with the local arts community to create fencing that adds to the First Hill neighborhood and supports local artists.

We are hopeful that we can move forward in the future with the construction of a new tower for outpatient care on this site. However, in light of current challenges, we are reviewing our financial position and will determine an appropriate schedule for that phase of the master plan.

### **What steps are being taken to ensure safety and minimize disruption during the demolition?**

Swedish has worked with Mortenson, our general contractor, to make certain we are in compliance with all requirements related to safety and disruption.

We have implemented a comprehensive plan to safely remove any hazardous material, such as asbestos, in compliance with all regulatory requirements.

We are also making every effort to minimize noise and vibrations. This includes limiting the high-volume portions of this work to daytime hours, in compliance with the City’s noise ordinances, and keeping work on the weekend to a minimum.

A uniformed officer will be on-site to help direct traffic and minimize disruptions to traffic flow. Streets will be cleaned daily, and demolition areas will be watered down to reduce dust.

In addition, Mortenson has implemented worksite guidelines to make sure everyone on the job site is complying with COVID-19 guidelines.



**How is Swedish financing this project?**

The demolition on Block 95 is considered an operating expense (not capital) and is being paid for as part of our normal budgeting process.

**Why is Swedish investing in this project now, despite current financial challenges?**

We recently received approval for the demolition after working with the City of Seattle for nearly a year and a half to obtain the necessary permits. We have decided to proceed with the demolition now rather than wait and risk the permit being rescinded. In addition, there is major underground utility work around that block that will be completed during the same period. By completing both projects now, we avoid causing disruption twice.