

# Toledo Clinic Cancer Center set to open next year

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BY KATE SNYDER / THE BLADE



Artist renderings of the future Toledo Clinic Cancer Center, scheduled to be complete in March 2022.

In about one year the Toledo Clinic Cancer Center in Maumee is scheduled to be up and running.

“Having a significant presence in Maumee and Perrysburg is important to us,” said Mike D’Eramo, the Toledo Clinic’s chief administrative officer. “So we hope to be doing more.”

The cancer center is a centerpiece of Side Cut Crossings, a 58-acre development off the Anthony Wayne Trail between Ford Street and Monclova Road. Project plans first announced in October, 2017, include the \$30 million facility along with senior housing, a hotel, and retail space.

The cancer center itself is planned to have different sections, Mr. D’Eramo said, including medical oncology, diagnostic radiology, and radiation oncology. He described the site as an evolution of Toledo Clinic’s south campus.

Plans for establishing a local cancer center began as a way to combat patient “leakage,” Mr. D’Eramo said. In total, around 25 percent to 30 percent of patients with cancer decide to get their treatment elsewhere, such as Cleveland, Columbus, or Detroit.

Part of that migration is because of other facilities' reputations, he said, like the James Cancer Center in Columbus.

"Toledo Clinic by itself can't compete with the James Cancer Center," Mr. D'Eramo said.

But through partnerships with organizations like Karmanos Cancer Center in Detroit and Eleanor N. Dana Cancer Center at the University of Toledo, Mr. D'Eramo said Toledo Clinic cancer patients will be able to get world-class treatment without leaving home.

Traveling back and forth between a home in Maumee and Columbus or Cleveland for treatment is financially, emotionally, and physically draining for patients, he said, and avoiding that kind of logistics burden is paramount for patient care.

"These are weeks and months of care and treatment," Mr. D'Eramo said. "Having the treatment close to home was an essential part of their support."

At Karmanos, officials are excited about the prospect of working with Toledo.

"This partnership represents a bold and ambitious collaboration for cancer treatment and research in Lucas County and northwest Ohio," said Dr. Justin Klamerus, president of the Karmanos Cancer Hospital & Network. "Our colleagues at The Toledo Clinic share a common vision with the entire team at Karmanos: use the very latest in treatment modalities combined with access to 'bench-to-bedside' clinical trials and precision medicine to achieve the goal of eradication of cancer."

Dr. Rex Mowat, a Toledo Clinic oncologist, said patients want to know they have access to specialists and specialty surgeons, and through the new cancer center and partnerships, they'll have that.

"We could probably do 98 percent of all cancer care that is required," he said. "We'll never get to 100 percent."

That 2 percent would include certain clinical trials or proton therapy, Dr. Mowat said, but the vast majority of patients will be able to get their care from the center.

"Care's a lot easier for the patients closer to home," he said. "You're sleeping in your own bed."

Dr. Mowat also emphasized the inconvenience of getting cancer treatment in another city or even another state — patients have to call off work, he said, or patients' relatives have to call off work to drive them to treatment. And it only gets harder the older that patients are, he said.

"It's time to step up the services for our patients," he said. "That's why we're building this center."