

# **Challenges Facing Wishard Hospital Shown to Be Too Numerous for Effective Renovation**

*Hospital's plan to build new facilities will require no tax increase*

On July 12, Wishard Health Services announced its plans to build a new hospital after independent, architectural and engineering studies determined there is no option to renovate the current Wishard facilities. With critical resources, such as one of only two adult Level 1 Trauma Centers in the state, Indiana's busiest emergency department, the state's only psychiatric emergency department and the region's only adult burn center, Wishard has earned the reputation for providing critical care for central Indiana's most traumatic injuries.

Currently Wishard occupies 17 different buildings on property adjacent to the IUPUI campus. Some of the buildings that currently house patient care date back to 1914. Wishard's outdated, sprawling and cobbled-together facilities also create inefficiencies. There is only one elevator to transport patients needing surgery from the emergency department. The hallways are often crowded with visitors, children, supplies and other hindrances. It is not uncommon for patients to travel the length of more than three football fields to receive the treatment they need.

In the last five years, Wishard has cut total property tax as a percent of total revenue from 15.3 percent in 2004 to approximately 5.4 percent in 2009. Overall, property taxes will provide Wishard with \$24.9 million. Each year the project is delayed, it will cost Wishard \$53 million and increase the risk of catastrophic failure.

With no candidate elections this year, the Wishard referendum bond will be the only countywide bond issue on the Nov. 3 ballot. The Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County will need to win a majority vote and then receive approval from the City-County Council to advance with financing the bonds. For more information about Wishard Health Services, visit [WishardFacts.org](http://WishardFacts.org).