

Facebook post City of Bloomington, IN - Office of the Mayor
3:06 p.m. Oct. 7, 2022

This summer, the City of Bloomington proposed a path forward to expand the convention center located on College Avenue as a collaboration with the Monroe County Commissioners. Despite hoping to reach an agreement on moving the project forward together, these recent negotiations have concluded without a resolution.

Public Engagement Director Mary Catherine Carmichael, who has led the recent effort, commented, "Six years of trying to find a common path forward, including our latest attempt in the past few months with the support of many in the community including Chamber Director Eric Spoonmore and leaders in government, business, tourism, and other sectors, has not produced a consensus. We believe that it's time to shift focus fully to what we can do to follow through on our commitment to use the City's portion of the food and beverage tax to expand the space available for conventions and other large gatherings in Bloomington.

"We believe a flexible facility that can accommodate larger groups remains an unfulfilled but important economic and cultural asset missing in Bloomington. We also believe an opportunity exists to develop something that will complement the current facility, create jobs, strengthen our downtown, and reinvigorate an underdeveloped corridor in the heart of our city. We look forward to continuing to engage with residents and stakeholders, including our County Commissioners, County Council, and City Council colleagues, as well as the Food and Beverage Tax Commission whose approval of any proposal will be crucial. Following a period of that engagement, we expect to be able to announce potential next steps in the next 30-45 days. Thanks to all who have championed this effort so far and continue their commitment to the mission of this potentially transformative project in our downtown."