



DOWNTOWN UPDATE

THE GROUND HAS BEEN BROKEN

The official groundbreaking for the new Civic & Convention Center took place on **Monday, April 17, 2006**. About 50 people attended the groundbreaking ceremony, including **Mayor Mark Begich**, developers **Mark Pfeffer** and **Jim Rubini**, **ACCCY** co-chairs **Wilson Hughes**, **Tennys Owens** and **Chris Swalling**, and **ACVB** President **Bruce Bustamante**.

The new **Convention Center** builds on one of Anchorage's greatest strengths – the visitor industry – which last year **attracted more than 800,000 visitors** who **contributed over \$1 billion** to the economy.

The project is expected to **generate about 1,300 construction jobs** during its three years of construction and **1,900 new direct and indirect jobs** once its opens in Fall 2008.

WHAT ABOUT STREET CLOSURES?

The streets that are closed now – 7th Avenue between F and G Streets, F Street between 7th and 8th Avenues, part of G Street between 7th and 8th Avenues – **will remain closed throughout the construction of the Convention Center** with one exception:

On or about August 1, they will **reopen one northbound lane on F Street** between 7th and 8th Avenues, adjacent to the Atwood Building. In addition, the barricades on G Street between 7th and 8th Avenues will be pushed back allowing **one southbound lane on G Street and one lane of on-street parking** adjacent to the **ConocoPhillips** building.

SPEAKING OF PARKING...

For businesses located at or near the site of the new Convention Center, parking is a huge concern. Several businesses voiced those concerns at a meeting on Monday morning with parties involved in the construction of the new Convention Center, including **RISE Alaska**, **RIM Architects**, **Neeser Construction** and the Municipality.

Workers from the Atwood Building now will **use the JC Penney's parking garage and the parking lot just to the north of the Atwood Building** on 7th Avenue between E & F Streets. **The good news is that parking lot will be open to the public after 5:00pm on weekdays and all day on weekends**. However, be aware that **they will tow non-Atwood vehicles that park in that lot during business hours**, so make sure you tell your customers.

In the near future, **some of the on-street parking spots** that are currently closed **on F Street between 6th and 7th Avenues will likely be reopened**. The Traffic Department and the Parking Authority are still working on which spots to reopen. And the single **loading zone** currently at the corner **of F Street and 7th Avenue** (in front of Dark Horse Coffee) **will be expanded** to accommodate more than one vehicle.



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The Vision of the Anchorage Downtown Partnership is to be a not-for-profit organization that is a recognized symbol that promotes and advocates, in collaboration with the Municipality and the community at large, for a vital, "year around," clean, safe Downtown Anchorage for those who live, work and visit Downtown.