

"It would just be gorgeous," says Divine of the restored riverfront. "It's an opportunity we shouldn't miss."

Catalyst — Instead of serving as a catalyst for ugly, unlivable, costly and polluting urban sprawl on the edge of town, the Glenwood option could serve as a catalyst to transform a central city area blighted with riverfront industrial uses into a livable, attractive greenway with vibrant, walkable urban development.

"It would in one stroke transform Glenwood," says Diethelm of the attractive gateway to Springfield and Eugene PeaceHealth could create. "People would drive through that area and be stunned."

CONVINCING PEACEHEALTH

But while the choice is obvious to proponents of the Glenwood option, the choice isn't theirs. The biggest obstacle to the Glenwood option remains convincing PeaceHealth.

All the talk of new infrastructure to serve a new hospital in Glenwood has to be "more than just talk," PeaceHealth spokesman Terret says. "No one has shown us how the obstacles in Glenwood can be overcome," he says. "We'll keep focused on moving ahead with the RiverBend project."

If PeaceHealth isn't interested, others might be. McKenzie Willamette/Triad could locate at the site, for example. Diethelm says Glenwood would be a better site for Triad than

the EWEB site that it's now considering. The railroad makes building access to the EWEB site expensive and the roads for the new hospital would form a barrier blocking downtown Eugene from the river, according to Diethelm.

Further legal delay at RiverBend could force PeaceHealth towards Glenwood. But delay doesn't appear likely from the Springfield City Council. Earlier council votes were near unanimous for PeaceHealth. Springfield Mayor Sid Leiken says the Glenwood Option report hasn't made him less likely to support RiverBend. "RiverBend, as far as I'm concerned, the work's been done," he says.

But even with council support, legal appeals could still push PeaceHealth to Glenwood. PeaceHealth will do what it wants,

admits Moore, but "they do what they want within the constraints of public policies and sometimes you don't get to do what you want."

Another factor is increasing uncertainty about federal funds for a freeway interchange to serve RiverBend.

There are obstacles to building a new hospital in Glenwood, according to Moore, but nothing that can't be overcome with the political will that will come from a win-win solution to the hospital siting controversy that has plagued the region for years.

PeaceHealth's choices have changed since 2001 when they first made their siting decision, Moore says. "They've changed in a positive way in Glenwood and in a negative way in RiverBend." The two options have moved together and now, "This seems like a really good idea for the region and a good enough idea for PeaceHealth." **EW**

**All we are saying,
is give peace a chance.**

— John Lennon —

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