

Demolition project marks start of transportation improvements at State Center

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On the heels of the landmark Economic Inclusion Plan signing earlier this month, today, the State Center redevelopment project reached another significant marker with the commencement of demolition at 890 Linden Avenue. The demolition is the first step in reconfiguring the street grid adjacent to the project – including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. (MLK, Jr. Blvd.) and Howard Street intersection – to make it safer and more pedestrian friendly, as well as reconnect State Center with Midtown.

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Mark Wasserman, Senior Vice President, External Affairs & Development for the University of Maryland Medical System, helped operate the bulldozer to begin demolition, while Baltimore City Councilman William H. Cole, IV, Maryland General Hospital CEO Sylvia Smith Johnson, Maryland Department of Transportation State Center Project Director Chris Patusky, and Baltimore Development Corporation President M.J. “Jay” Brodie looked on.

“This single project encompasses two of our core goals for the entire redevelopment – real walkability and reconnecting State Center with the surrounding community,” said Caroline Moore, leader of the State Center development team. “As we continue to make these changes, the community will see what is possible – and how our efforts, together, will shape Baltimore’s future.”

In addition to improved pedestrian access at the MLK, Jr. Blvd./Linden Avenue intersection, the widening of MLK, Jr. Blvd. with an additional lane between Madison Street and Linden Avenue will help free up rush-hour traffic jams.

The vacant, four-story building under demolition formerly housed the Linden Deli, which relocated to 897-899 North Howard Street in May, 2011.