

Midtown Tower Still Needs Funds



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Rochester, N.Y. – The Midtown Tower redevelopment was not awarded \$2 million in state funding requested by the Finger Lakes Economic Development Council. The state announced regional awards earlier this month.

More than a year after reaching a [deal](#) with Christa Development and Morgan Management to turn the tower in luxury housing, [construction](#) on the \$73.5 million project has yet to begin.

Financing is an issue and the developers are still seeking tenants, Mayor Tom Richards said in a recent interview.

“The problem is the problem we have for all these things. We have to somehow get the reasonable projected demand – tenants – lined up with the kind of building that you build and how much it [costs](#),” Richards said. The mayor acknowledged the tower is the next big problem to solve at the Midtown site, after Windstream agreed to locate in the Seneca Building.

For now, Midtown Tower is a steel skeleton marring the skyline.

“As far as the way it looks, it’s ugly,” said downtown worker Dan Peck. “I’d like to see it renovated and brought back to life.”

Christa and Morgan did not return calls for comment on the status of the project.

“I know people would sort of like this to sprout out of the ground all at one time. Practically that’s not how things get done,” said Richards. He added there’s no rush, as infrastructure still needs to be installed on the site and that will take a couple years.

Sandra Parker of the Rochester Business Alliance sat on the Finger Lakes Committee that applied for the \$2 million in state funding. She said the Midtown Tower project was in her top three projects that needed assistance.

“Something will have to happen to the Midtown Tower. Is it something that’s going to happen in the next 6 months? I don’t know, but I think something will happen,” Parker said. “Things of that magnitude in the economy that we have don’t happen right away. It takes a lot of work.”

Parker said the council can apply for funding in next year’s round of grants.