



The hold-up, said Dover, has been at least in part about money. In Maryland, the rates hospitals charge for services are regulated in an effort to keep them affordable for the state's residents, but that can financially strap the hospitals, he said.

"We are in a state where it is very, very hard to generate income from the work that we do that we can put back into capital improvements," Dover explained. "It's kept hospital costs down across the state, but what it didn't allow hospitals to do is to develop a war chest of dollars to build new buildings."

In fact, Dover speculated, Hopkins likely is lagging most other hospitals that have replaced their buildings at least once in the past four decades.

"We're actually behind the curve as far as building new buildings goes," he said.

Dover, who has been at Hopkins for 30 years, has noted a need for a new children's care facility for at least 20, he said.

The Children's Center is so outdated, he said, that modern-day ambulances are too big for the bays and are forced instead to deliver children to the adult emergency department.

The redevelopment, Dover added, is a thrill for Hopkins veterans like himself. "I'm ecstatic."