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## Glassboro planning \$15M hotel/conference project

Philadelphia Business Journal - by [Peter Van Allen](#) Staff Writer

GLASSBORO, N.J. -- A \$15 million hotel-and-conference center is planned as part of a larger effort to revitalize this university borough.

Plans call for a 100-room **Holiday Inn Express & Suites** that can also accommodate guests for banquets, seminars and other meetings. It will have 6,000 square feet of meeting space.

The hotel is part of the ongoing Rowan Boulevard, an economic development project by the borough and **Rowan University**. The hotel will be at the new street's intersection with Route 322.

"It's one of the key anchors. It's very important," said Glassboro Mayor Leo McCabe, adding that visitors to the borough or Rowan University now stay in hotels 10 to 15 miles away, in Deptford or Bridgeport, elsewhere in Gloucester County.

The hotel-and-conference center is expected to generate \$629,000 in annual property taxes, create 125 jobs and add millions of dollars to the economy.

The hotel is expected to open in fall 2009.

Glassboro has a population of 19,000 and Rowan University has a population of 10,000, including students and faculty.

The Rowan Boulevard Project concept was proposed in 2000 by the late Mayor Alvin Shpeen and Rowan President Donald Farish. Plans call for a hotel-and-conference center, student housing complex and the mixed-use buildings -- all of which would create more vitality on the boulevard, which bisects the campus.

"There's nothing like this right now, with the conference-center space and restaurant," said Glassboro Administrator Joseph A. Brigandi Jr.

This latest deal was signed by the downtown master developer, Glassboro-based **SORA Holdings LLC**, in partnership with a Maryland hotel company, Sandalwood Management/Sunset Management. Sandalwood principals King Patel and Paul Patel own a dozen hotels, including two near the campus of the University of Maryland in College Park.

In this case, the Holiday Inn Express will be equipped with a business center, WiFi and flat-screen televisions. It will also include a full-service restaurant with a liquor license. Under the master plan, the hotel would also be near a stop for a proposed light rail.

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