



*Proposed exterior view of the National Hockey and Events Center.*

## ***Hockey and Events Center renovation to start in 2011 at St. Cloud State***

Enhancing the fan experience and creating an event center for Central Minnesota are two of the goals of a planned \$31.1 million renovation and addition project for the National Hockey Center.

The 20-year-old structure, on the south end of the St. Cloud State University campus, will be renovated and expanded into a regional events center and multipurpose venue.

When completed in 2013, the building will have 20-30 luxury suites and additional seats. The entrance, ticketing, administration, pro shop, concourse, restroom and concession areas will be upgraded. In its concert configuration, the facility will hold about 8,000.

In addition to hockey, the building will be capable of hosting concerts, theater productions, speakers, ceremonies and a variety of athletic events.

"We plan to build a complex that puts fans first, emphasizes the history and tradition of our university and teams with the spirit of Husky hockey," President Earl Potter III said. "It will bring to central Minnesota entertainment and events unlike any before."

The project is being funded by \$6.5 million from the State of Minnesota and nearly \$23 million in projected private money, sponsorships and naming rights income.

The National Hockey and Events Center (NHEC) and the proposed St. Cloud Civic Center addition are described as "anchors" for extensive development of Fifth Avenue in central St. Cloud. The Fifth Avenue Live! project is expected to include housing, commercial and retail facilities connecting the city's downtown and the St. Cloud State campus. The initial phase of the project, a \$30-million structure being developed as partnership between private developers and the Wedum Foundation will be completed by August of 2010. St. Cloud State will lease much of building to house 455 students in apartment-style living along with a 12,000-square-foot welcome center. Nearly 20,000-square-foot of retail space is also included in the structure.

For more information on NHEC project, please call Sara Granheim at 320-308-2073

