



Downtown post office to be sold; no word yet on what's next for site

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The U.S. Postal Service said today that it plans to sell its downtown station on **Guadalupe Street** to Atlanta-based Novare Group and its Austin partner, Andrews Urban, the companies **that developed the nearby 360 condominium high-rise**. The sale is expected to close in mid- to late 2012.

Novare had the post office site under contract several years ago, with plans to build its second downtown condo high-rise project, but delayed those plans due to the economic downturn.

Taylor Andrews, president of Andrews Urban, on Tuesday said his group and Novare "have reached agreement on how to move forward with our purchase of the site."

"It is under contract and we are exploring our options for the optimal development of the site, which could include office, residential, retail and/hotel uses," Andrews said.

"We will be continuing discussions with joint venture partners over the coming weeks, and this will determine the specifics of what will be developed on the site."

The Postal Service has met with City of Austin officials to notify them of the sale and relocation of the downtown station. Postal Service officials said they will schedule a public meeting in mid-January. The existing post office would move in late 2012 or early 2013, according to the Postal Service.

Originally, Novare planned to incorporate a new post office in the ground floor of a condo high-rise planned just west of the existing post office site. Later, the plan changed, with the Postal Service saying it would build its new station on land it owned at Red River and Ninth Streets. Today, Sam Bolen, a Postal Service spokesman, said an alternate location is yet to be determined, but it will not be at Red River and Ninth.

Courtesy of JB Goodwin