

Orlando Fashion Square land deal closes, redevelopment could start in a year



By AUSTIN FULLER
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Developer Chuck Whittall announced he has closed on the land underneath Orlando Fashion Square for about \$25 million on Friday afternoon.

Developer Chuck Whittall hopes to start the redevelopment of Orlando Fashion Square mall in a year after closing on the land underneath it for about \$25 million on Friday.

Whittall, president and CEO of Unicorp National Developments, will be partnering with Daryl Carter in hopes of redeveloping the roughly 46 acres. He said they hope to meet with Bancorp, the owner of the mall's building, within a week or two.

"We don't believe it's a profit-making venture for them," Whittall said. "Ultimately the property should be redeveloped."

If the developers reach a deal with Bancorp, Whittall said he would like to have "shovels in the ground" in a year.

GrowthSpotter has reported that the redevelopment project could include apartment buildings, a hotel, a grocery store, a dine-in movie theater and a bowling alley. Whittall said Macy's, which is already at Fashion Square, is interested in being part of the redevelopment.

Friday's sale did not include the former Sears property that has been transformed into a Floor & Decor and an empty space that had been slated for an Orchard Supply Hardware until that company was shut down.

Whittall said they have had conversations about that property, but it is not needed for the project.

Whittall said he has been friends with Carter for more than 20 years. Earlier this year, Carter sold Whittall 76 acres for a mixed-use development called **O-Town West**.

Bancorp could not be reached for comment.

afuller@orlandosentinel.com