

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents  
February 21, 2013

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Varsity Drive Building  
Dry Collections Relocation Renovations

Action  
Requested: Approval of Project and Authorization to Appoint an Architect


Background:

This project will relocate dry research museum collections, associated lab spaces, and some offices for the Departments of Anthropology, Paleontology, and Zoology currently housed in the Alexander G. Ruthven Museums Building, the Campus Safety Services Building, and the Clarence Cook Little Science Building to the Varsity Drive Building. A renovation of approximately 71,000 gross square feet at the Varsity Drive Building is planned to accommodate the relocation of the collections. The project will create several environmentally-controlled areas with different temperature and humidity conditions appropriate to protect the various collections. The existing building is a warehouse, and the project will include comprehensive architectural, mechanical, and electrical work necessary to accomplish these improvements. The relocation of the “dry” research collections will create administrative efficiencies by co-locating with the “wet” research collections of the same departments at the Varsity Drive Building. The project will have a net positive effect on Central Campus parking of 40 spaces when the departmental collections are relocated from Central Campus to the Varsity Drive Building.

The estimated cost of the project is \$27,450,000. Funding will be provided from resources from the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. The construction cash flow may be provided, all or in part, by bond proceeds or increasing the commercial paper issuance under the commercial paper program, secured by a pledge of General Revenues, and authorized by the Board of Regents. The architectural firm of SmithGroupJJR will design the project. The project is expected to provide an average of 63 on-site construction jobs. Design is scheduled to begin immediately and we will return with a construction schedule when we seek approval of schematic design.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the Varsity Drive Building Dry Collections Relocation Renovations project as described and authorize commissioning SmithGroupJJR for its design.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy P. Slottow  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

February 2013