

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the
Regents
March 20, 2014

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Mobility Transformation Facility

Action

Requested: Approval of Schematic Design and Authorization to Issue the Project for Bids and Award Construction Contracts

Background:

At the October 2013 meeting, the Board of Regents approved the Mobility Transformation Facility project and the appointment of Mannik Smith Group as the architect for its design. The College of Engineering and University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI), in collaboration with the University of Michigan Office of Research, the University of Michigan Energy Institute, and the State of Michigan Department of Transportation, propose creating a facility to simulate everyday driving conditions for the testing of connected and automated vehicles. The project will include the site clearing, grading, infrastructure and roadways for a four-lane 1,000-foot straight asphalt road, merge lanes, a network of asphalt and concrete urban streets, roundabout, traffic circle, crushed-gravel road segment, concrete calibration pad, service road connecting to the UMTRI parking lot, storage lot, security fencing around the entire site, covered pavilion, lighting, and electrical and networking infrastructure. This project also includes landscaping and storm water management, with a bridge, culverts, and bank stabilization to minimize wetland impacts adjacent to Millers Creek. The College of Engineering and UMTRI will be responsible for the future installation of site accessories that are not included in this project. Over time, these accessories may include building facades placed onto foundations to simulate urban streets, street signs and trusses for overhead highway signage, roadway and pedestrian lights, railroad crossings, traffic signals, benches, traffic barrels, mock fire hydrants, and other devices necessary to simulate a realistic driving environment. Parking will be provided on site as part of the project.

The estimated cost of the project is \$6,500,000. Funding will be provided from resources through the College of Engineering, Office of Research, University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, Office of the Provost, and a grant from the State of Michigan Department of Transportation. 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 project is expected to provide an average of 30 on-site construction jobs. Construction is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2014.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the schematic design for the Mobility Transformation Facility project as presented at the meeting, and authorize issuing the project for bids and awarding construction contracts providing that bids are within the approved budget.

Respectfully submitted,


Timothy P. Slotow
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

March 2014