

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents

December 18, 2008

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: University Stores and Alexander G. Ruthven Museums Building
Museum of Zoology Collection Relocation and Renovations

Action

Requested: Approval of Project and Authorization to Appoint an Architect

Background:

The Alexander G. Ruthven Museums Building houses some of the finest zoological research collections that are essential components of life sciences research and instruction at the University of Michigan. The Museum of Zoology's "wet" collection is comprised of over 3.3 million specimens that are generally stored in glass vessels filled with ethyl alcohol. The needs for storage exceed the available capacity of appropriate storage locations within Ruthven. The project will relocate the majority of the "wet" collection and support areas into approximately 46,000 gross square feet of renovated space within the University Stores building, while retaining a small portion of the collection at Ruthven for teaching purposes. The project will also renovate approximately 6,800 gross square feet within Ruthven to create a modern storage compartment for the teaching specimens as well as upgrade the building's existing fire alarm system. The scope of this project includes the architectural, mechanical and electrical work necessary to accomplish these improvements. Although there will be a temporary loss of some adjacent parking spaces during construction, there will be no permanent impact on parking from this project.

The estimated cost of the project is \$20,000,000. Funding will be provided from investment proceeds. The construction cash flow may be provided, all or in part, by increasing the commercial paper issuance under the commercial paper program, secured by a pledge of General Revenues, and authorized by the Regents. The architectural firm of SmithGroup will design the project. 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 Regents approve the University Stores and Alexander G. Ruthven Museums Building Museum of Zoology Collection Relocation and Renovations project as described and authorize commissioning SmithGroup for its design.

Respectfully submitted,


Timothy P. Slottow
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

December 2008