

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute Addition

Action

Requested: Approval of Schematic Design and Authorization to Proceed with Construction

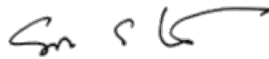
Background:

At the February 2025 meeting, the Board of Regents approved the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute Addition project and the appointment of SmithGroup as the architect for its design. This project proposes establishing an Electric Vehicle Center (EVC) battery laboratory through the construction of an approximately 33,800 gross-square-foot addition to the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI). The new space will support research and hands-on experience in next-generation battery technologies. The lab will also include dedicated space for welding battery cells into modules, 500 channels of computer-controlled cell cycling, lab user offices, a conference room and a multi-use, reconfigurable lobby. The facility is designed with tours in mind, with windows into the dry room and research areas. The addition will also feature an enclosed penthouse housing dehumidifiers essential to battery laboratory operations. Additionally, there will be minor renovations within UMTRI and a new on-site fire hydrant will improve safety coverage. The scope of this project includes the architectural, electrical, and mechanical work necessary to accomplish these improvements. We estimate additional parking spaces will be needed for this project. These parking needs will be accommodated by pedestrian access to lot NC85.

The estimated cost of the project is \$60,000,000. Funding will be provided from a State of Michigan Grant. 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. Construction is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2027.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the schematic design for the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute Addition project per attachment and authorize proceeding with construction provided that bids are within the approved budget.

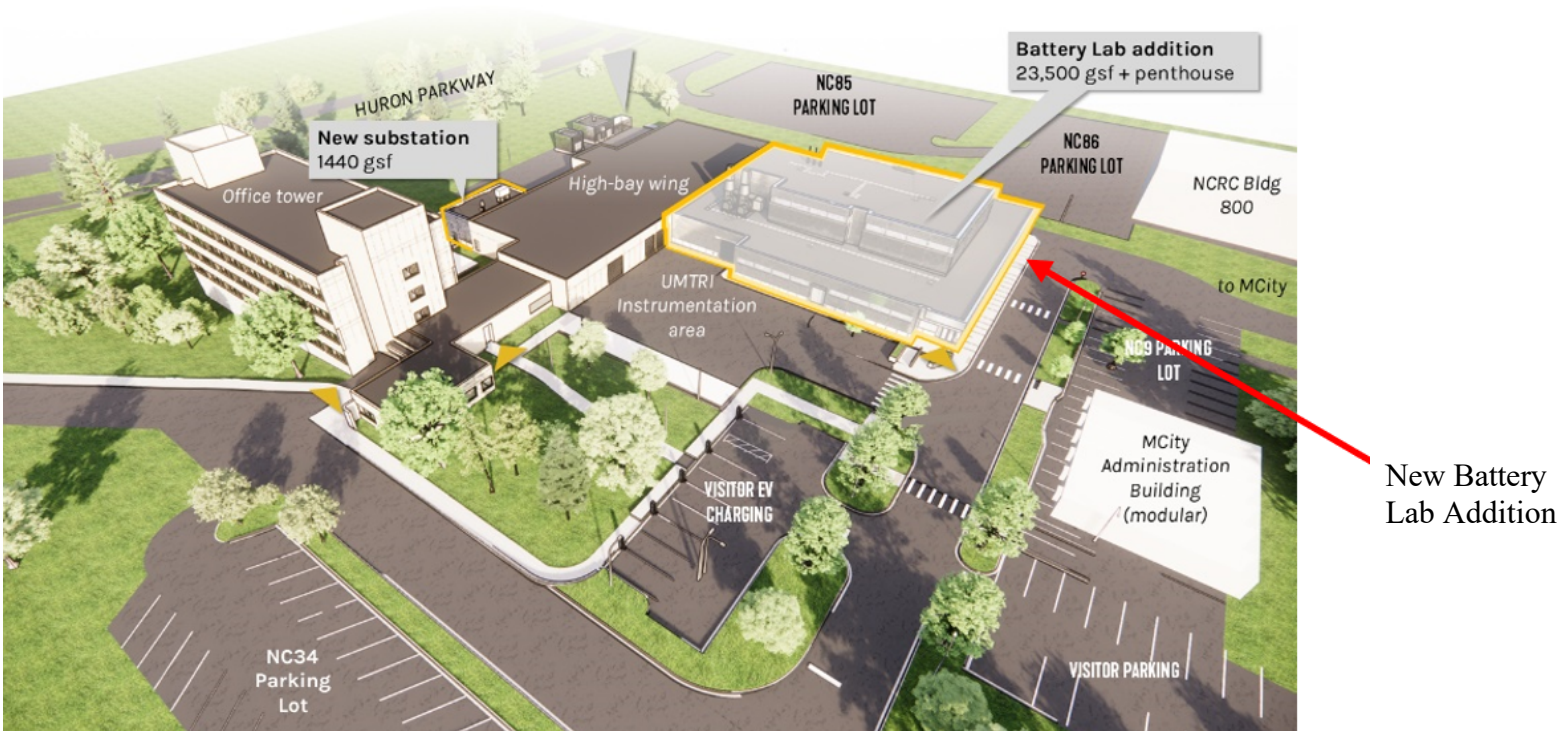
Respectfully submitted,



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Geoffrey S. Chatas  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

October 2025  
Attachment



Rendering of North Elevation