

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Palmer Drive Development
Pedestrian Bridge over Washtenaw Avenue

Action Requested: Approval to Proceed with Project

Background:

Construction of a pedestrian bridge across Washtenaw has long been desired as a way to link the medical and central campus. It also would greatly enhance safety by getting pedestrians off the road as it bends into Huron. The bridge will be 17 feet above Washtenaw Avenue and vary from 10 to 22 feet in width where it connects to the Commons Building. Its span will be 277 feet. To provide context, the existing pedestrian bridge just south of this bridge is 14 feet wide. Thus, the new bridge should not be an imposing structure for drivers underneath it. The walkway surface of this new bridge and connecting sidewalk and plaza will be constructed with gentle grade changes to encourage use and accommodate individuals with disabilities, as well as cyclists.

The Pedestrian Bridge will be constructed as a concrete structure with stone cladding until the point at which the bridge turns northward. It will be located over Washtenaw Avenue just south of Zina Pitcher Place. It is designed to transition the elevated walkway adjacent to the Commons Building to grade level on the east side of Washtenaw Avenue. The scope of this project includes the civil, architectural, mechanical and electrical work necessary to accomplish these improvements.

The estimated cost of the project is \$3,200,000 with funding provided by central administration funds. 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 firms of Venturi Scott Brown & Associates, Inc. and SmithGroup, Inc. will design the project. Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2002 and be complete in December 2003, in conjunction with the opening of the adjacent Commons Building. This project should help address parking demand since it allows easier pedestrian access and connection between the medical center and central campus.

We recommend that the Regents approve the Palmer Drive Development Pedestrian Bridge over Washtenaw Avenue project as described, and authorize issuing the project for bids and awarding construction contracts providing that bids are within the approved budget.

Respectfully submitted,



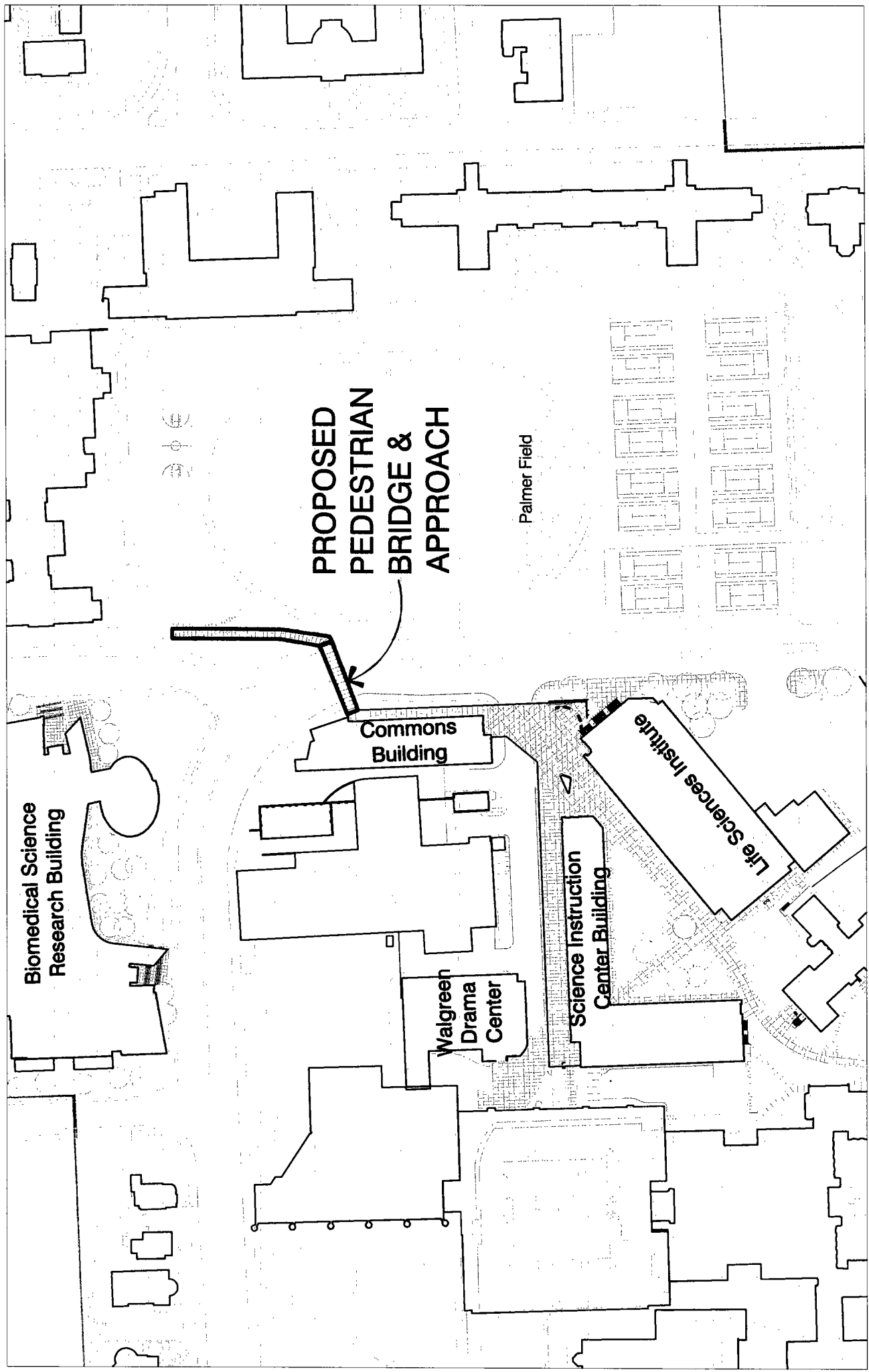
Robert Kasdin
Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

December 2001

Attachments

APPROVED BY THE REGENTS

DEC 13 2001



**PROPOSED
PEDESTRIAN
BRIDGE &
APPROACH**

Palmer Field

Biomedical Science
Research Building

Commons
Building

Walgreen
Drama
Center

Science Instruction
Center Building

Life Sciences Institute

**PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
PALMER DRIVE SITE PLAN**

Palmer Drive Project, U of M
Building Plan Source: Smith Group/VSBA

KEY

-  Proposed Pedestrian Bridge & Approach
-  New / Proposed Buildings
-  Existing UM Buildings



