

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Detroit Observatory
Classroom and Accessibility Addition

Action

Requested: Approval of Project and Authorization to Appoint an Architect

Background:

Constructed in 1854, the Detroit Observatory is the second-oldest building on campus and the university's first dedicated scientific research laboratory. Two additions were constructed in 1868 and 1908 as the facility's teaching mission evolved, and in 1999, a restoration of the building was completed. The Detroit Observatory is a historic resource for the university and surrounding community, but it lacks accessibility, classrooms, restrooms, and support spaces that would allow it to be a destination that links the university's history of scientific study to the present and beyond. We propose a project that will construct a below-ground addition of approximately 6,000 gross square feet to the Detroit Observatory that will provide program and support space (see attached map). The addition will house a flexible multi-use classroom, a new entry and reception area, restrooms, storage, catering, and support spaces. Additional improvements include site work to allow for improved accessibility and greater connectivity. The project includes significant earthwork and specialized footings and foundations to protect the historic building and support the below-grade addition and landscape above. Only a minor renovation of the existing building to accommodate the addition is planned. The scope of this project includes the architectural, electrical, and mechanical 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.

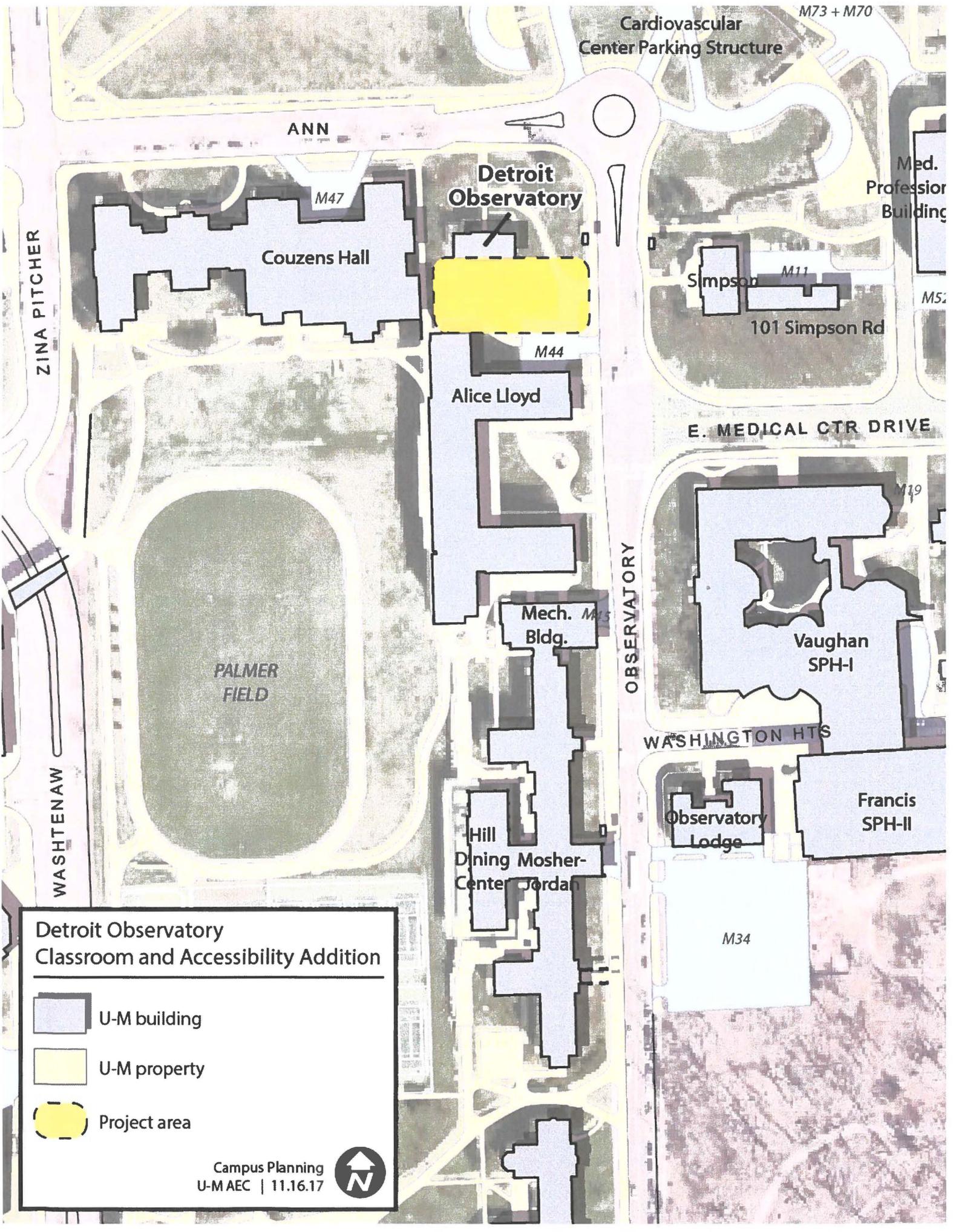
The estimated cost of the project is \$10,000,000. Funding will be provided from Bentley Historical Library gifts and resources and investment proceeds. The construction cash flow may be provided, all or in part, by bond proceeds or increasing the commercial paper issuance under the commercial paper program, secured by a pledge of General Revenues, and authorized by the Board of Regents. The architectural firm of Harley Ellis Devereaux will design the project. The project is expected to provide an average of 13 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 Detroit Observatory Classroom and Accessibility Addition project as described and authorize commissioning Harley Ellis Devereaux for its design.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin F. Hegarty
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer



**Detroit Observatory
Classroom and Accessibility Addition**

-  U-M building
-  U-M property
-  Project area

Campus Planning
U-M AEC | 11.16.17

