The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Walter E. Lay Automotive Engineering Laboratory Electric Vehicle Center Education and Research Renovation

Action Requested: Approval to Proceed with Project

Background:

The Walter E. Lay Automotive Engineering Laboratory Electric Vehicle Center Education and Research Renovation project will renovate and upgrade approximately 7,000 gross square feet to support the educational and research missions of the Electric Vehicle Center. This renovation of 5 of the lab's 19 test cells will meet modern engineering needs by creating a modular electric vehicle and component testbed lab, a battery management system instructional lab, and improved high bay space for vehicle and shop work. In addition, since the building was originally constructed in 1957, the project will include building code updates and replacement of key building systems, including substations, power distribution systems, air handlers, overhead doors, and the process cooling water system. The scope of this project includes the architectural, electrical, and mechanical work necessary to accomplish these improvements. There will be no impact on parking from this project.

The estimated cost of the project is $26,000,000. Funding will be provided from College of Engineering resources, Office of the Provost resources, reserves and State of Michigan grant. The construction cash flow may be provided, all or in part, by bond or note proceeds, secured by a pledge of General Revenues, and authorized by the Board of Regents. The architectural firm of SmithGroup will design the project. Construction is scheduled to be completed in the winter of 2028.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the Walter E. Lay Automotive Engineering Laboratory Electric Vehicle Center Education and Research Renovation 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 A. Hewlett III
Interim Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

September 2026