



Capitol Infrastructure Upgrade Report

May 2018 Vol. 2 Issue 2

House Portion of CIU Begins in June



Decorative art on the tin ceiling coffers continues to peel and fall onto members, desks, and the floor below.

Image Courtesy of the MSCC

The Capitol Infrastructure Upgrade (CIU) project will move inside the Capitol’s north wing as soon as the legislature recesses in June. At this point crews will begin working in the House Chamber and the adjoining rooms, as well as in several House offices.

The House was one of the first places where Capitol staff began noticing problems several years ago. Splitting

(original) desks, peeling ceiling paint, sagging portraits, and cracking plaster all indicated trouble. Then, in 2017, leaking pipes in the gallery caused original paint and plaster to fall on a member during session. Something needed to be done—and fast.

Many of these problems stem from the Capitol’s constantly fluctuating temperatures and humidity levels. They will be addressed as part of the CIU project through a variety of means. For example, all new fancoils (for heating and cooling) will be installed in the House this summer. New air handlers will go into the attic above the Chamber. Work will begin on a state-of-the-art DOAS (Dedicated Outdoor Air System) that will draw air into the building through the roof—not at ground level (where it comes in currently). These upgrades will improve the Capitol’s internal environment while providing a more secure workplace.

The CIU team will also upgrade House portions of the Capitol’s fire alarm and suppression system. New devices with early detection sensors will be installed, creating a safer environment for legislators, staff, and visitors.

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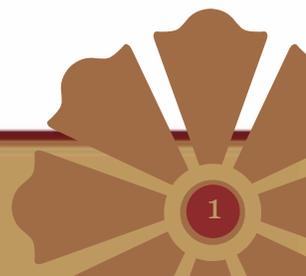
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Capitol To Remain Open Throughout CIU Project

Yes, the Capitol will be open throughout the CIU project! The Michigan State Capitol Commission is committed to keeping the Capitol accessible to state government, staff, and visitors alike throughout the duration of the CIU project, slated to end in 2020. Guided tours will continue during normal business hours, and events like the ever-popular farmers markets will be held this summer. We strongly encourage people to stop in and see what’s going on!

If for any reason the MSCC does need to close the Capitol on an odd Saturday for a power outage or a life safety system modification, advance notice will be provided on the Capitol’s website and via social media.



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House Portion of CIU...

To reduce the Capitol's heat and electrical loads, custom LED panels will be installed in the House attic. These panels will provide more consistent and uniform light above the beautiful etched glass ceiling tiles. At the same time, antique and reproduction chandeliers and lighting fixtures will be relamped with color appropriate LED bulbs. Such changes will reduce heat damage to the decorative ceiling art while lowering the Capitol's electricity bill!



Repaired plaster on the underside of the west House gallery. The dark panels are probably the only portions of the chamber's original decorative art to survive.



Original walnut House desks began to crack and split in the summer of 2015.

Images Courtesy of the MSCC

By the time the House Chamber reopens around Labor Day, it will be a safer, cleaner, and more efficient space.

House Offices Relocated During Summer 2018

A select number of House offices will close during the summer of 2018 for CIU project work. All legislators and staff working in these spaces will be temporarily relocated in the Capitol or the House Office Building. Affected offices include those used by Speaker Leonard (H-164), Rep. Glenn (H-372), Rep. VerHeulen (H-374), the Clerk of the House (H-70), the House Journal Clerks (H-64), and the office of the Michigan State Capitol Commission (H-72). Other north wing offices will remain open.

This summer will also bring the temporary closures of the Capitol's north grand stairs and the men's third floor restroom. The south grand stairs will remain open.

The MSCC and the House of Representatives thanks everyone for their patience throughout this process!

North Capitol Annex Addition Underway



An after-hours view of the work site for the new addition to the north annex.

Image Courtesy of the MSCC

In mid April crews began yet another excavation on Capitol Square for an addition to the north underground annex. Built in the 1970s, the annex contained the offices of some members of the Capitol Facilities staff, storage rooms, and assorted pieces of mechanical and electrical equipment.

The addition became necessary when the CIU design team decided to relocate electrical equipment from the Capitol's sub-

basement into the annex where it will be safe, dry, and much easier to service. It will be housed near the new underground generator vault.

Unfortunately, this move eliminated some much-needed storage space and rooms for back-of-the-house cleaning and maintenance functions. As a result, the MSCC decided to extend the annex about twenty-seven feet eastward.

The new addition will house the offices of the Director and Assistant Directors of Facility Operations, the Business Office Director, the Capitol Historian and Curator, the Capitol's Business Office, Trades, and Central Control.

The project will, of course, have an impact on the Capitol's grounds. Once the addition is complete it will be covered with earth and planted with grass. A new curving walkway will provide quick and easy access from Ottawa Street to the north ground floor entrance.

North Capitol Stairs to be Rebuilt, Vestibule Refreshed



Badly cracked stone treads are both unsightly and unsafe.

Image Courtesy of the MSCC

Throughout the summer and fall of 2018 stone masons will disassemble and rebuild the Capitol's north exterior stairs, which have long suffered the ravages of weather and time. This portion of the project will also include a general refresh of the north vestibule's plasterwork, paint, and lighting. Work in this area is slated to begin in June and end in late 2018.

As anyone who has used the north ground floor entrance on a rainy day knows, water has long leaked through the north stairs and into the vestibule. Over time this water has worn away the stone steps and the brick and concrete substructure, thereby creating bigger cracks where more water can enter, perpetuating the cycle.

Once masons finish surveying and mapping the current stonework, they will carefully remove the railings, plinths, and treads. Anything that's in good condition will be saved and cataloged, while badly decayed stone will be discarded.

Once the stairs have been disassembled, the concrete and brick substructure will be completely waterproofed. Then the elegant stone staircase will be totally rebuilt utilizing a mix of salvaged and new stone, quarried from the same formation of Berea sandstone first sourced for the Michigan State Capitol in 1872!

The north ground floor entrance will remain closed throughout the duration of this project.



New Berea sandstone will replace the cracking, heavily weathered, and poorly patched portions of the north stairs.

Image Courtesy of the MSCC

Live Stream

Watch the CIU project unfold on a live stream of the west side of Capitol Square at www.capitol.michigan.gov/restorationlivefeed.

Tour CIU Online

Tour the CIU construction site and learn about the latest progress being made at www.capitol.michigan.gov/restoration.

Want to learn more about Capitol tours, events, or history?

Visit www.capitol.michigan.gov.

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Generator Vault, CUP, and Geothermal Update



Pouring concrete for the slab-on-grade in the new central utility plant.

Image Courtesy of the MSCC

Throughout the long winter and spring dedicated crews have slogged through the mud and snow to build the Capitol's new underground generator vault and central utility plant (or CUP). Both of these new facilities will be completely underground and invisible to the average visitor when finished.

The new poured concrete generator vault is located on the north end of Capitol Square, adjacent to the north annex. It will house

two large generators designed to provide back-up and supplemental power as needed. Engineers and the project mechanical team have worked hard to design and confirm every last detail of the structure and its equipment in the Capitol's Building Information Model (or BIM). The generators and associated equipment will be purchased and installed in the coming months.

The new CUP sits immediately south of the Capitol, adjacent to the remains of the old south underground vault. It will contain all the head-end equipment for the new geothermal system, including the heater/chiller pumps. Like the generator vault, the much bigger CUP is constructed of poured concrete walls and columns. Once the roof slab is poured and the CUP's shell is complete, work on the geothermal system will resume.