

TESTIMONY OF

Brandon Solberg, Facilities Management Director, Office of Management and Budget

Chairman Hagert and members of the committee, my name is Brandon Solberg, Facilities Management Director with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and I will be sharing a review of the Capitol grounds master plan.

The first master plan was completed in 1920, and the last three updates occurred in 1965, 2000 and 2020. The 2000 version provided a 20-year outlook which includes a 37-page master plan plus a 15-page space analysis. This version is publicly available through OMB's website on the following page: www.omb.nd.gov/capitol-complex/planning-future

The 2000 version recommended that three buildings be constructed on the Capitol grounds and the State Office Building be removed.

- Two new 80,000 square foot buildings to the east of the Judicial Wing and Department of Transportation building.
- One new 160,000 square foot building between the Governor's residence and the Legislative parking lot.

The update in 2020 was done during COVID so the study recommended no new buildings due to the implementation of telework by state agencies. This update emphasized a citizen-focused approach which would result in enhanced pedestrian and vehicular traffic patterns as well as improved walking trails with more locations for art and statues throughout the grounds.

The Capitol Grounds Planning Commission will be discussing a potential update to the master plan at their next meeting on Oct. 28. Cost will be a consideration. There have been several changes since the last update in 2020:

- Demolition of State Office Building
- Construction of State Lab
- Groundbreaking for Military Gallery
- Workplace Structure Policy and Space Optimization Planning

Projects on the Capitol Grounds

- ***Liberty Memorial Building Water Mitigation***
 - Focus is protecting the foundation and adding drain tile
 - Planned for completion this October
 - Roof replacement will be completed this biennium

- **State Lab**
 - Curb and gutter are in, and the new street will loop around the lab
 - Interior finish and mechanical work continue
 - Project is about one month behind due to weather delays
 - Scheduled for completion April of 2026 with landscaping and move-in after
- **Military Gallery**
 - Excavation of the construction site continues
 - Some interior work is occurring in the Heritage Center
 - Construction is scheduled to last two years
 - Exhibit setup and move-in may take an additional six months
 - Opening projected to occur early 2028
- **Boiler Replacement**
 - Work can be noisy at times and stopping work creates delays
 - Public areas on ground and 1st floors need hydronic boilers for heat this winter
 - Completion was scheduled for November but will be delayed up to one year
- **Window Replacement**
 - Mock windows will be installed mid-October
 - Full installation is scheduled to begin after the 1st of the year
 - Completion scheduled for October of 2026
- **Space Optimization**
 - \$5.7 million appropriation for rent, moving and space reconfiguration
 - Facility management gathered surveys and is conducting interviews
 - Goal is to formulate a space utilization plan by the end of year
 - Projects are currently underway on 14th and 15th floors
 - Shared conference rooms are being set up
- **Visitor Experience Enhancements**
 - \$3 million appropriation for Capitol building improvements
 - Top priorities are remodeling the 18th floor and interior/exterior wayfinding
 - Other areas include a tree management plan, décor, and seating improvements
 - Request for qualifications process resulted in the selection of a firm
 - Completion scheduled for June 15, 2027, based on available funding

This concludes my presentation. I would be happy to answer any questions.