



DATE: September 25, 2015 **Sent via email**

TO: Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives

FROM: Commissioner Matt *Massman*

SUBJECT: Expected Capitol Building Conditions for 2016 Session

Dear Legislator:

As you know, nearly two-thirds of the State Capitol was closed for restoration during the 2015 legislative session. Since the end of session, the entire building has been closed for restoration with substantial work occurring in the rotunda, House of Representatives (House) Chamber, East Wing, and other areas.

Similar to our efforts prior to the 2015 session, Admin is taking steps to provide legislators and the public information regarding the expected conditions within the Capitol building for the upcoming legislative session. While the Capitol will remain largely closed for restoration during the 2016 session, the House Chamber will temporarily reopen March 1, 2016 to accommodate the regular legislative session. Following is a summary of the expected space and building conditions during the 2016 session:

Safety:

- The interior and exterior of the Capitol will continue to be an active construction site.
- Safety will be the number one priority and reflected in the safety program being implemented on the Restoration project.

Entering the Capitol:

- The Capitol building will be accessible via the tunnel system and the first floor north side entrance.
- ADA access is planned to be via the ground floor, south entry, under the Porte Cochere.

Access for the Public:

- The accessible spaces in the Capitol building will be substantially reduced from the space available in 2015. For 2016 only the House Chamber and adjacent staff space will be available and only for House floor sessions. A corridor leading to the House Chamber will also be open but the remainder of the Capitol will be closed. (See enclosed map).
 - At the end of the 2016 regular legislative session, the entire Capitol will again be immediately closed until January 2017.
 - Due to limited capacity of life-safety systems in the building, there may be no (or only very limited) access for the public to the building. The allowable occupancy to the limited space in the corridor outside of the House chamber is under review. Further information on access for the public will be provided when available.
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- The broadcast system will be available for House Public Information to provide coverage of House floor sessions in accordance with the procedures established by the House.
- There will be no access to the House Gallery.
- The Press will have access to the House Chamber in accordance with the procedures established by the House.

Bathroom Access:

- There will not be any running water in the Capitol building.
- There will be no restroom access indoors.
- There will be temporary restrooms on the exterior northeast corner of the Capitol for use during the legislative session.
- ADA accessible restrooms will be available. The final location is being determined.
- The temporary restrooms will be the more modernized trailer facilities, featuring lighting, flushable toilets and sinks with running water.

Elevators and Tunnel Access:

- The Capitol will be accessible via tunnel in both directions.
- The west elevators will be operational only to the second floor.

Where to Find More Information:

- Scan the latest information about the project on the Capitol Restoration [Website](#).
- Follow the Capitol Restoration project on [Facebook](#).
- See pictures of the Capitol Restoration progress on [Flickr](#).

As always, we appreciate the patience, understanding and support of all legislators and the public as we work to complete this historic restoration. If you have any questions, please contact our legislative liaison Matthew Scherer at Matthew.Scherer@state.mn.us.

Enclosure