

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Date: January 25, 2011
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Capitol Improvement Project Gets Underway

State Capitol - Construction on the State Capitol is scheduled to start in March after the legislative session ends. The first phase of the project will target the front of the Capitol.

Secretary of State Max Maxfield chairs the Capitol Complex Advisory Committee, which reviewed this proposal as did the State Building Commission, which is made up of the top five elected officials in the state. Maxfield says, "We're eager to get this work underway to improve the safety, accessibility and appearance of the State Capitol. We want the Capitol to be a showcase for the entire state and we feel the plans we have will make all citizens proud."

Renderings of the first phase will be on display to the public starting on Monday, January 31st, at the Capitol. Maxfield says the public is invited to stop by and view the plans. "This first phase alone will create a more attractive space to welcome visitors to the Capitol," Maxfield says.

Included in the work to start in March are:

- A replacement of the old sandstone stairs leading to the main entrance. This will use sandstone that matches the existing stairs and will even come from the same quarry.

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- A decorative entryway between the stairs and West 24th Street. The decorative entryway will feature the State Seal.
- An expansion allowing for the statue of Chief Washakie to be on display in front of the Capitol. Esther Hobart Morris's statue will remain on display. The two statues will be on the East and West sides of the decorative entryway. These are the two statues displayed in Washington, D.C. on behalf of the State of Wyoming.
- The removal of the two pine trees in front of the Capitol.

“This entire effort will open up the view of the Capitol so that it provides for a gathering space and matches the building’s original images,” Representative Dan Zwonitzer says. Zwonitzer is from Cheyenne and is also a member of the Capitol Complex Advisory Committee.

“While the removal of the pine trees is unfortunate, it is necessary for this work to proceed and the idea was thoroughly vetted by our Committee and the State Building Commission,” Maxfield says. “I am also pleased that later on in this process we will plant replacement trees on the Capitol grounds.”