



This is an artist's rendering of the future elevator shaft inside the EMU courtyard.

COURTESY

Access: Project takes six months

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mezzanine level, which will not have a lobby, he said.

There are no wheelchair-accessible restrooms on the mezzanine level, so the elevator project needed to include available ones. However, the proposal uses the elevator to get to the second-floor restrooms, therefore new restrooms do not need to be built, Robertson said.

"If we did not make these accessible, it means someone has to go outside the EMU to find an accessible restroom," Robertson said.

Currently, a metal fire escape is occupying the area where the elevator will be. The fire escape is no longer necessary and will be pulled off the side of the building, Robertson said.

"We're proposing a design that takes some clues from the existing building," Robertson said. "We want

this to be unique in its own self. It's not part of the original building and it's not part of the '70s addition."

The new elevator addition will be picking up some of the basic window shapes as well as using new design elements, Robertson said.

"This should be a compatible addition," he said.

As good as the elevator will be, it will not, however, provide easy access for people with disabilities to the post office located in the EMU facing 13th Avenue.

"I think the committee should add a stop at the post office if at all feasible," said Hilary Gerdes, a counselor for students with disabilities.

If future funding is available, the landing could be enlarged and the steps moved. This would change the lower elevation of the elevator, which is deeper than the original project planned to go,

Robertson said.

"The post office has signed a three-year contract and has just opened up a huge center south of us," said Dusty Miller, EMU Director. "They made some indications that they may not continue to support."

The University Planning Committee agreed to present the extension of the elevator shaft as an alternate bid item. It will be exercised if funding is available, Miller said.

"If we get the green light to go ahead, we could be under construction by the first part of next year," Robertson said. "It should take about six months to build."

The majority of the elevator tower will be external. Therefore, many of the offices should face little interruption or internal alteration at all, he said.



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