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Idaho Capitol Restoration Groundbreaking Friday April 27

(BOISE) – The Idaho Capitol Commission will officially break ground for the restoration and expansion of the state Capitol building on Friday, April 27, 2007 at 12:15p.m. The 30-minute lunchtime ceremony takes place on the south Capitol steps. Commissioners and their guests will dig soil from a once and future flower bed east of the steps and adjacent to Jefferson street. The two and a half year project has already marginally begun while significant construction begins in May. The Capitol restoration team then begins a very tight schedule, closing the Capitol until January 8th, 2010, the beginning of the 2010 legislative session.

The thirty-month renovation, restoration, and rehabilitation of the Capitol is the culmination of over eight years of effort by the Idaho Capitol Commission. The Idaho Capitol Commission recently adopted single story underground wings to its Capitol master plan. The wings include hearing rooms larger than those in the existing Capitol, encouraging increased citizen access.

Commissioner Carl Bianchi summarized the recent combined Idaho Capitol projects as “allowing for the Capitol restoration to go forward, for state government to operate in a working Capitol building, and for additional public hearing rooms to allow Idaho citizens greater participation in the legislative process.”

Full closure of the state Capitol becomes official when the Division of Public Works determines that all Capitol building tenants are completely moved off the property.

The Idaho Department of Administration and Idaho Legislative Services Office are in the midst of a highly choreographed schedule of weekend moves for state agencies and legislative support staffs to occupy nearby state owned office buildings. Government will function year round from those temporary “swing space” offices until the contractors complete the restoration and expansion.

“All Capitol building tenants remain within sight of the Capitol building, and responsive, accessible government will continue”, said Keith Johnson, Department of Administration Director.

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