

## Fiscal Highlights

### **Capitol Hill Security Upgrades** - Steven M. Allred

We can expect to see exterior and interior security upgrades on Capitol Hill in the near future. Exterior security was identified as a problem after an October 2013 incident involving a truck driving up the west side stairs and parking next to the Capitol doors. The Capitol Preservation Board asked for funding to study the issue in the 2014 General Session. The Legislature appropriated \$125,000 from the General Fund one-time to study the installation of bollards to prevent vehicles from reaching the Capitol Building.

The Capitol Preservation Board contracted with Hinman Associates, a national security expert, to provide professional recommendations. Hinman provided detailed reports to the board as to their professional opinion of how to proceed with the security plan. The board also retained MJSA Architects as the architect for the design aspect of the project. Actual costs to date are \$42,500, including \$18,400 to Hinman and \$24,100 to MJSA. The Analyst recently recommended the Executive Appropriations Committee consider pulling back the remaining \$82,500 from the original \$125,000 appropriation.

Based on the results of the Hinman study, in the 2015 General Session the board requested, and the Legislature appropriated, \$2.8 million for Capitol Hill exterior security upgrades, most of which will be used for bollards and security gates.

In a July 7, 2015 email the board announced the first affected area to begin work will be Lot G, on the west side of the Capitol near the State Office Building, which will receive a new security gate managing traffic in and out of the lot, as well as several fixed bollards. This work is scheduled to begin July 20 and is anticipated to run until August 20, 2015. Other areas on Capitol Hill will be scheduled later.

Additionally, after several interior security events, the Capitol Preservation Board requested, and the Legislature approved, \$600,000 for Capitol Hill interior security upgrades. This funding will be used to purchase and install new security cameras, upgrade existing cameras, and fund ancillary equipment such as wiring and monitors. Many of the upgraded cameras have already been installed, and installation of new cameras will occur over the remainder of the 2015 Interim.