



STATE OF TEXAS CAPITOL COMPLEX PROJECT PHASE II



Texas Capitol Complex Update

Progress updates on the Capitol Complex Project | June 8, 2026



Interior work in the 1501 Lavaca State Office Building (Photo courtesy of JE Dunn.)

As Summer Begins, Major Activity is Happening on Phase II of the Capital Complex Project

June is officially a month of change with spring breezes turning to warmer temperatures, school vacations beginning, and people taking to the road and sky for summer travels. Therefore, in this month of change, it seems fitting that we celebrate the transition taking place on Phase II of the Capital Complex Project.

The exterior of both the 1501 Lavaca and 1500 Congress buildings will be majorly complete in June, so the focus of the jobsite is changing from external to internal activities. There is a lot of movement and an increase of

workers on the project sites. The trades that specialize in interior work, such as framing, drywall, flooring, and communication cabling are moving onsite as the heavy, external equipment is coming down. The large tower crane that was a fixture of the 1501 Lavaca site for the last two years was removed in April, and the

1500 Congress tower crane will be dismantled at the end of June. The elevators in both buildings will soon be ready for construction use, which means the buck hoists, the temporary external elevators, will also come down this month.

Saying Goodbye to the 1501 Tower Crane



Above: An assembled 500-ton assist crane ready for work. The assist crane was used to dismantle the tower crane. While the assist crane was assembled, all the cables on the tower crane were disconnected, spooled, and secured. The process of dismantling the crane and removing it from a construction site takes three days. (Photo courtesy of JE Dunn)



Above: Disconnected sections of the crane's jib lay on the ground. The mobile crane sits in front of the assist crane and loads the pieces onto trucks. It took sixteen semi-trucks to remove the crane from the 1501 Lavaca project site. As soon as the trucks were loaded, the in-demand tower crane was taken to another construction site for assembly. (Photo courtesy of JE Dunn)



Above: The counterweight of the crane being hooked up and ready to fly to the ground. Bringing down a tower crane is a teeter-totter game of balancing. The crane is dismantled in an exact order to maintain the counterbalance and prevent the crane from tipping over. Crane pieces range in weight from 1,000 to 20,000 pounds. (Photo courtesy of JE Dunn)

It's Always a Good Time to Talk About Safety

During May 4-8, construction crews across the U.S. celebrated [National Construction Safety Week](#). The theme of this year's celebration was "All In Together" centered on the three pillars of Recognize, Respond, and Respect. With the additional work crews moving onto the Capital Complex project sites, Construction Manager at Risk [JE Dunn](#) took advantage of the week-long celebration to highlight the safety risks associated with the new activities beginning on the project. Safety week activities included a prize raffle for jobsite workers and daily speakers, including a local representative of OSHA. The speakers covered a wide range of topics, including:

- Fall protection
- Ladder safety with a focus on work in small, tight spaces
- Preventing complacency while doing repetitive tasks
- The role of proper storage and site cleanliness in project safety
- Current safety trends in the U.S.



"Safety Week is a show of force, an opportunity for people, companies, and even competitors, to work together and celebrate the incredibly hard work by people in our industry who make safety the foundation of everything they do."

- constructionsafetyweek.com

The Name of the Game is Efficiency and Progress

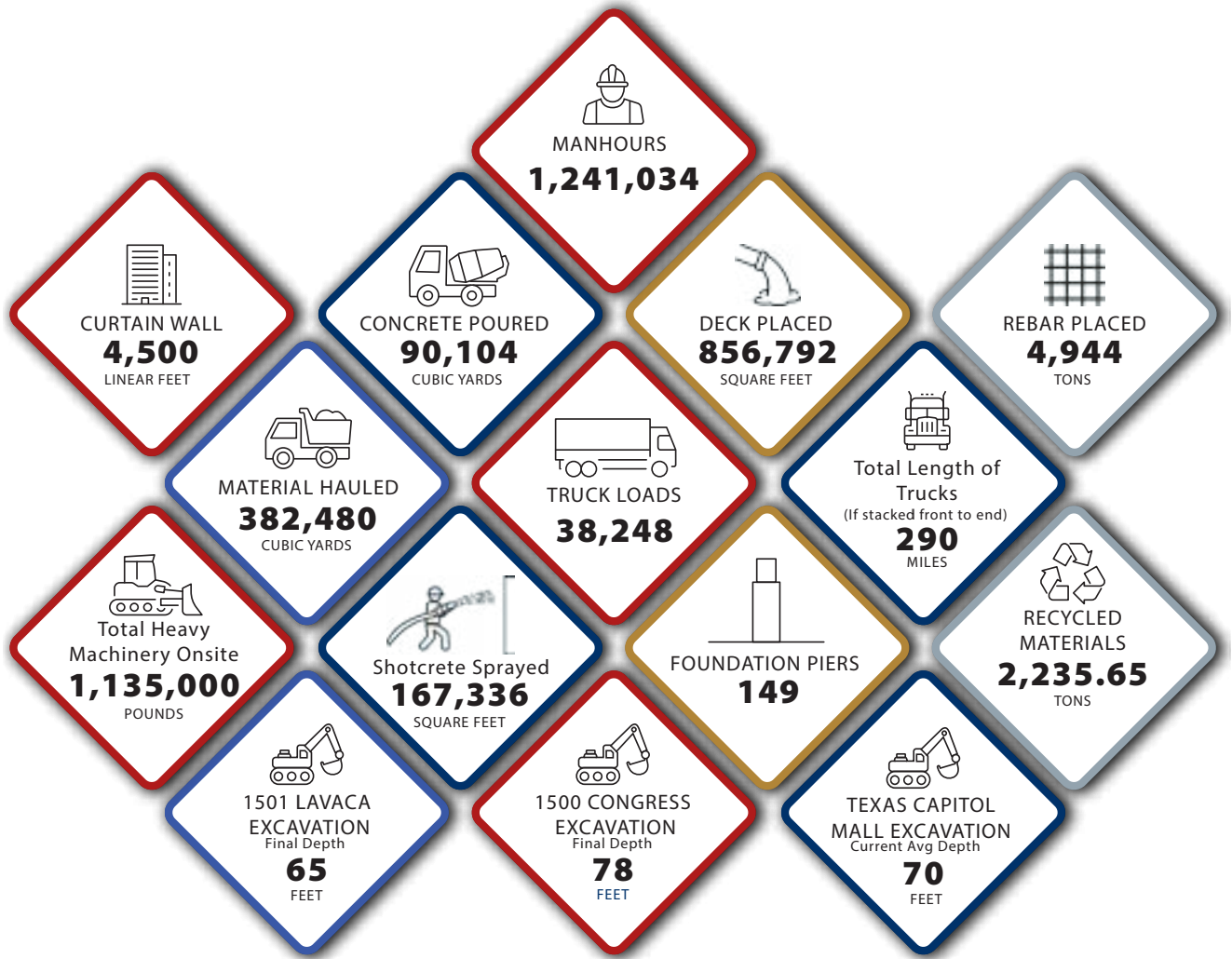
To get the site ready to tackle the building interiors, the project team has been busy completing major systems work. A critical activity is air conditioning the buildings. Sensitive materials such as flooring and cabinetry must be installed in temperature-controlled spaces to protect the materials from warping. Conditioning the buildings will also help protect workers from heat-related injuries as the summer temperatures rise.

To complete the necessary electrical work, Tumlinson Electric, LLC, the project electrical contractor, has set up stations in the 1501 Lavaca garage where apprentices are prefabricating junction boxes attached to conduit. Using prefabrication techniques for this repetitive work increases efficiency, makes installation quicker, and provides the apprentices valuable experience.

Another benefit of completing the exteriors is that JE Dunn has opened field offices inside both the 1501 Lavaca and 1500 Congress buildings. This operational milestone saves time by keeping teams on site. The offices provide space for daily foreman and stand-up meetings, with six-week planning boards displayed on the walls. Together, these spaces support efficiency through faster communication and decision-making.

As we head into summer, the excitement of watching the new buildings rise may be behind us, but the joy in watching the interior spaces take shape is heating up.

Project Statistics





Team Spotlight – K&M Elevator, LLC

Project Role – Elevator Trade Partner

Our Team Spotlight series highlights the contributions of the project team members completing the historic Capitol Complex Project Phase II.

Photo: K&M Elevator, LLC team (Photo courtesy of K&M Elevator, LLC)

Elevators keep multi-story buildings moving, connecting people to every floor. Office buildings like the eight-story 1501 Lavaca and five-story 1500 Congress buildings rely on complex vertical transportation systems to serve State employees and visitors.

[K&M Elevator, LLC](#) provides vertical transportation services across Texas and is the elevator trade partner for the [JE Dunn Construction](#) team on the Capitol Complex Phase II project.

A Career Found by Chance, Built with Purpose

After high school, Jason Eggleston had his sights set on becoming a firefighter. He served in the U.S. Marines Corps, then completed firefighting training but faced a long hiring process in the competitive industry. When his neighbor, a mechanic at [Schindler Elevator](#), offered him a position as an assistant, Jason found a new passion and his life's work.

Jason worked his way up to mechanic and then superintendent. In the early 2000's, he became the operations manager for a small, independent firm. It was there he met Fallon, the company's office manager. They married and planned a future together. In 2014 they purchased Longhorn Elevator with savings and support from family and friends. Buying the Fort Worth business provided name recognition and an established customer base. They started the business with three employees while Fallon worked part time as a project manager at another company. After two years of success, they renamed the company K&M Elevator, LLC using the first initials of their two oldest daughters.

Today, the company has grown to 79 employees, and their daughter Kaitlin has joined the team as a project manager. Jason has spent more than 30 years in the industry and still loves the work.

"To become a good elevator man you need to understand your role and have strong relationships with the other trades," says Jason. "Elevator installation requires a lot of collaboration to ensure nothing is missed and the project goes smoothly."

Phase II of the Capitol Complex Project

K&M Elevator will install eighteen traction elevators for Phase II:

- **1501 Lavaca:** nine passenger elevators and one service elevator
- **1500 Congress:** five passenger elevators and one service elevator
- **Texas Capitol Mall Portal:** two elevators serving the parking garage

Because elevators require long lead times, K&M's work began early. Once architect of record, [HOK](#), completed the architectural drawings, construction manager-at-risk JE Dunn reviewed the plans with K& M Elevator. K&M then sent the drawings to the manufacturers for fabrication with precise specifications to ensure



Serving Clients Across the State

K&M Elevator, LLC specializes in elevators, escalators, moving sidewalks, and wheelchair lift services. They provide new installation, modernization, maintenance, service, and repair. Signature projects include the UT Whitis Court Residence Hall, UT Autry C. Stephen Engineering Discovery Building, UT Southwestern Medical Center Brain Institute, Dallas Fort Worth International Airport Skylink Elevator Replacement, and Houston Airport System's Federal Inspection Services.

that the custom elevator systems would fit within the building skeleton.

While the elevators were manufactured, JE Dunn constructed the elevator shafts, called hoist ways. For the 1501 Lavaca and 1500 Congress buildings, the hoist ways were constructed floor by floor. The installation of the elevators could only begin after the hoist ways were dried in (protected from the weather). K&M visited the site during construction of the shafts to verify measurements and maintained close coordination with the other trade partners. This included working with [Tumlinson Electric](#) to coordinate power and scheduling requirements for the elevator systems.



View looking downward into an elevator hoist way. (Photo courtesy of TFC)



Top and Bottom Photos: Installation of the cab in the South 1 elevator in the 1501 Lavaca State Office Building. (Photos courtesy of K&M Elevator, LLC)

Expert Installation and Inspection

The fabricated elevators are delivered to the site in pieces on fifty-five-foot trucks and installed one panel piece at a time. To date, all the 1501 Lavaca elevators have been delivered and are being installed.

Each elevator takes ten to twelve weeks to install, and the installation is performed in two phases:

Phase 1 is the rough-in, or physical installation of the elevator components. The typical crew for the installation of an elevator is a mechanic and an assistant. The crew uses chains and electric hoist equipment to move material in and out of the shaft. Once the elevator is roughed in, workers from other trades will install the doors and finishes around the front of the elevator.

Phase 2 is testing and inspections. The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) and Building Inspection Division (BID) of the City of Austin inspect the installation and equipment to ensure passenger safety and performance standards. Approval of these inspections allows temporary access for the trades working in the building to use the elevators for work crews and materials. At this point, JE Dunn will remove the temporary buck hoists from the project.

Staying Safe

Installing elevators in multi-story buildings requires focus and dedication to safety procedures. Work areas are enclosed by at least three walls, separating the elevator crews from other trades. The crews wear safety harnesses to protect them as they work high above the building floor, and tools are tethered to prevent anything from dropping into the shafts. Access is controlled with no one allowed above or below the installation. K&M Elevator invests in the most up-to-date safety training and certifications for their employees. A K&M Elevator superintendent ensures that all OSHA, TFC, and JE Dunn project safety measures are in place for each installation.

Keeping Dollars in Texas

As a small business, K&M Elevator takes pride in keeping dollars—and craftsmanship—in Texas.

“Fallon and I engage in every aspect of the project,” says Jason. “We view every project as a custom installation and provide a high level of customer service to deliver a smooth, on-time installation.”

The elevator installation on Phase II of the Capitol Complex Project is estimated for completion at the end of 2026. We thank K&M Elevator, LLC for their dedication to quality client service and look forward to taking that first elevator ride in the new State office buildings.



Unless the elevator crews are working at the opening of a hoist way and are tied off, the elevator hoist ways stay barricaded to prevent access. The only people allowed in the elevator corridor when the hoist way is open is the elevator crew. (Photo courtesy of TFC)

Construction Traffic and Pedestrian Information

Click on the map below to visit the Travel page on the project website www.TexasCapitolComplex.org

Capitol Complex Project Phase II Travel Map



Please heed all safety warnings and follow the alternative safe sidewalk routes around the construction zone.

Closed Crosswalks and Sidewalks

All sidewalks and crosswalks adjacent to the construction zone are closed.

CLOSED: North Side of 15th Street (next to the construction site). Use the crosswalks and sidewalk on the State Capitol side (south side of 15th Street).

CLOSED: East Side of Lavaca (next to the construction site). Use the crosswalk and sidewalk on the William P. Clements Jr. (WPC) Building side (west side of Lavaca).

CLOSED: South Side of 16th Street (next to the construction site). Use the crosswalk and sidewalk on the Garage E side (north side of 16th Street).

CLOSED: Colorado Street between 15th and 16th Streets. The street, sidewalks, and crosswalks, including the crosswalks across 15th and 16th Streets, are closed for the duration of the construction. To travel north and south, use the sidewalks on the west side of Lavaca Street or the covered sidewalk next to the Robert E. Johnson Building (REJ) building.

CLOSED: Congress Avenue between 15th and 16th Streets. Use the covered sidewalk next to the Robert E. Johnson Building (REJ) building. Cross 15th Street at Brazos Street.

Neighborhood News

Bullock Museum - [The Bullock Texas State History Museum](#)



Music Under the Star (FREE!)

Location: Texas Capitol Mall Amphitheater (in front of the Bullock Museum), Austin

Date: Fridays in June | **Time:** 7–9 p.m. (Opener 7 p.m. • Headliner 8 p.m.)

- June 12 – Dawn & Hawkes (7 p.m.) + Rosie Flores (8 p.m.)
- June 19 – Rochelle & the Sidewinders (7 p.m.) + Tameca Jones (8 p.m.)
- June 26 – Vallejo (7 p.m.) + Alejandro Escovedo (8 p.m.) • Final night!

Food: Food trucks + The Star Cafe

Shop: Museum Store open

Parking: \$15 garage • Free for Museum Members (with member card)

Bring a blanket and your friends to enjoy live Texas music under the stars!

For more event information, visit: <https://www.thestoryoftexas.com/event-series/music-under-the-star/>

Blanton Museum of Art - [Blanton Museum of Art](#)



Blanton All Day: Summer Dance Series – Tango Edition

June 13 – Kick off the summer season with tango lessons, artful activities and much more! Enjoy free admission, food and drink vendors, 20% off at the museum store, and lovely grounds for a picnic.

For more event information, visit: <https://blantonmuseum.org/programs/blanton-all-day/>

Waterloo Greenway Conservancy - [Waterloo Greenway Conservancy](#)



Waterloo Wellness – Two-Step Night

Y'all come on out for a boot-scootin' good time at Waterloo Park! Get ready for an evening of interactive two-step lessons for all levels, led by Native Texan Two Step and set to a lively country western playlist, followed by live music from The Western Express to keep the dance floor moving. Whether you're a seasoned two-stepper or a first-time dancer, all are invited to enjoy twirling the night away at Waterloo Park!

Date: June 27, 2026 | **Time:** 6-10 p.m.

(reschedule from May 23, 2026)

For more event information, visit: <https://waterlogreenway.org/events/two-step-night-4/>

Please share and encourage co-workers and friends to sign up for this newsletter at www.TexasCapitolComplex.org.

Visit the project website at
www.TexasCapitolComplex.org
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