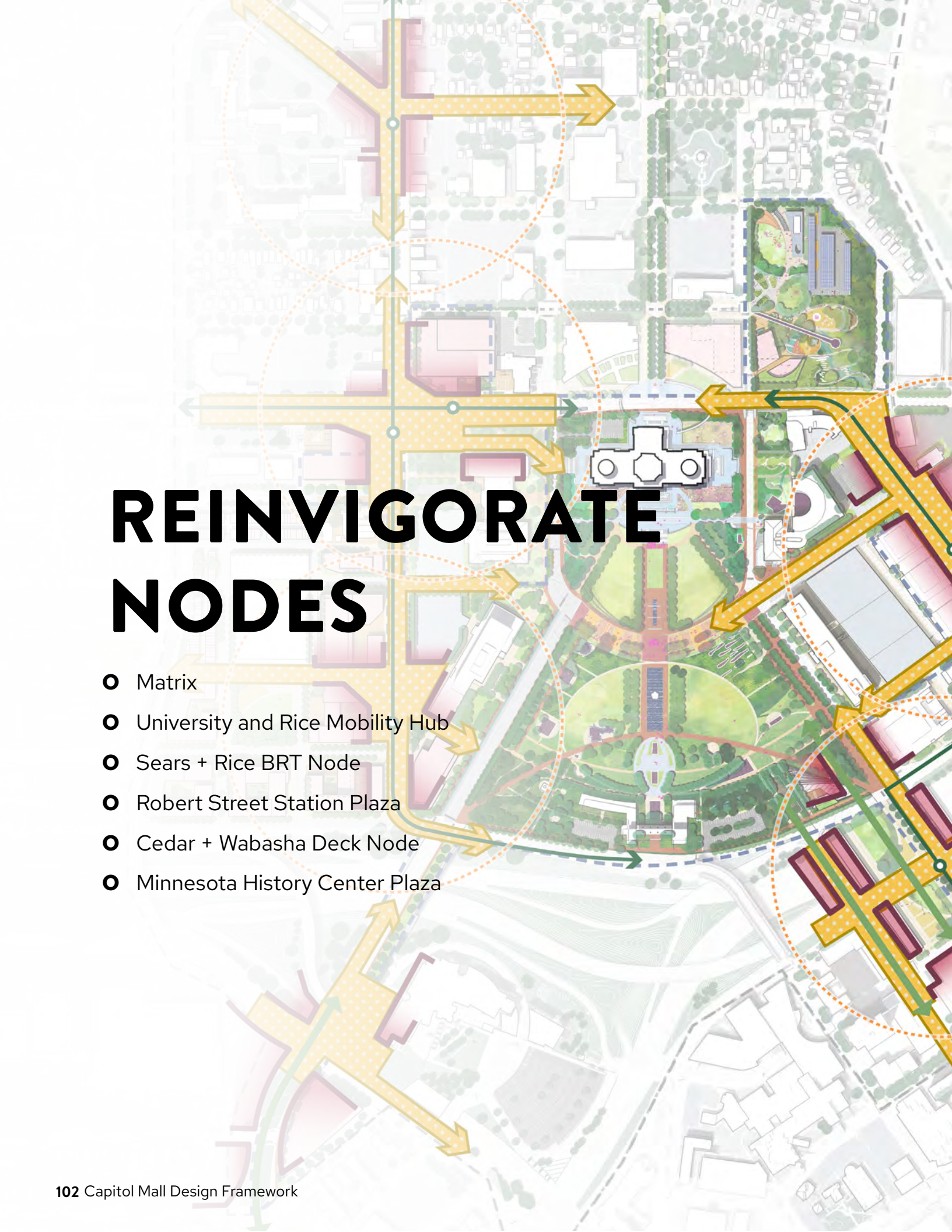


REINVIGORATE NODES

- Matrix
- University and Rice Mobility Hub
- Sears + Rice BRT Node
- Robert Street Station Plaza
- Cedar + Wabasha Deck Node
- Minnesota History Center Plaza

Reinvigorate nodes that connect the community to the Capitol in each direction.

REINVIGORATE NODES THAT CONNECT THE COMMUNITY TO THE CAPITOL IN EACH DIRECTION

Nodes describe the major arrival points to the Capitol Campus and facilitate the first experiences people have when arriving. They include the Minnesota History Center Plaza, Sears and Rice BRT Station, University and Rice Mobility Hub, Como and Rice BRT Station, Robert Street Station Plaza, and Cedar and Wabasha Park Deck. Additionally, nodes connect the Capitol Mall to the surrounding community and operate as thresholds between these various distinct spaces. These points are multimodal in that they capture people arriving by car, light rail, bus, or walking. Focusing placemaking investments in these areas ensures nodes become vibrant public realms that welcome all Minnesotans to the Capitol Mall. Public realm enhancements can include signage and wayfinding, active ground floors that promote visibility and natural surveillance, complete street design with pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, public art and commemoration, historic/cultural storytelling, and other unique placemaking approaches.

TAKEAWAYS

- Nodes are opportunities to focus placemaking investments in intentional areas to make the most impact.
- Creating a vibrant public realm at each node provides a welcoming and inviting entrance to the Capitol Campus for those arriving by car, transit and pathways.

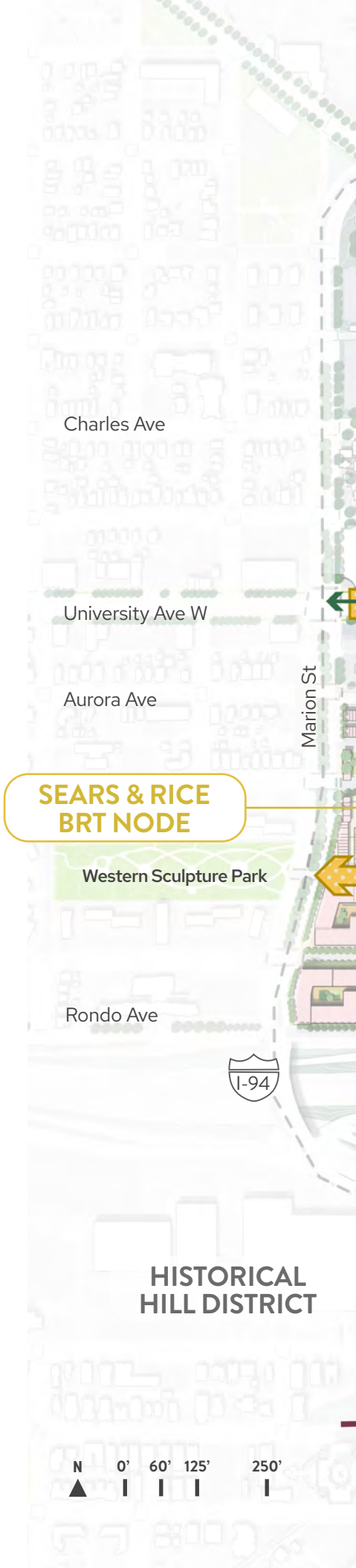
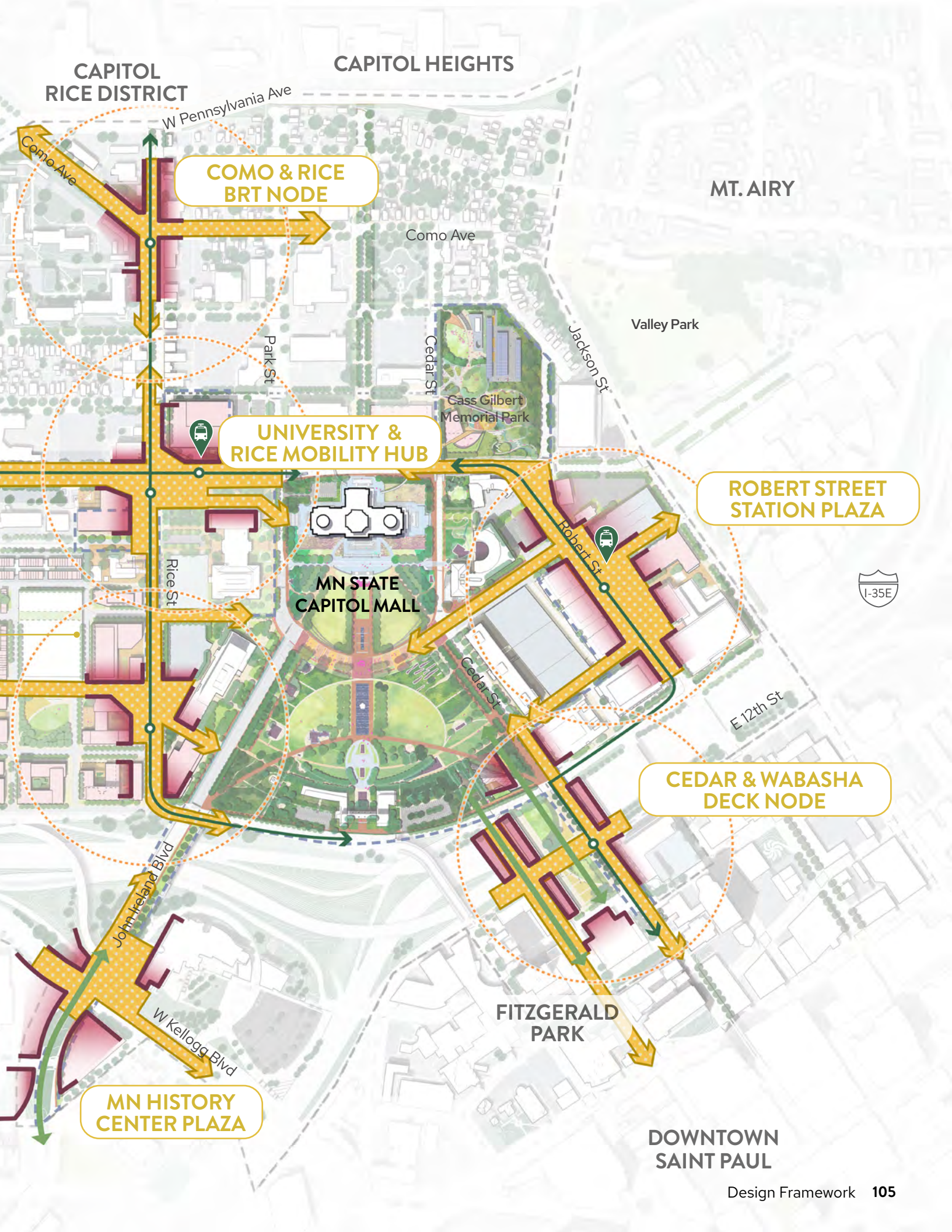
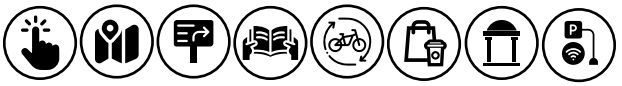
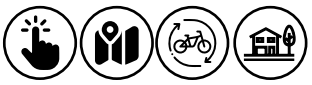
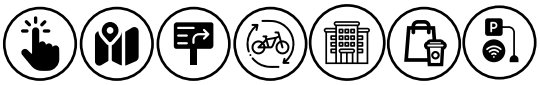
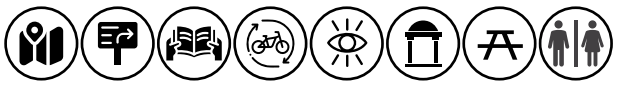
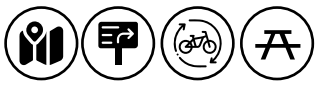


Figure 55. Capitol Mall Nodes


CAPITOL
RICE DISTRICT
CAPITOL HEIGHTS
W Pennsylvania Ave
Como Ave
COMO & RICE
BRT NODE
MT. AIRY
Como Ave
Valley Park
Park St
Cedar St
Jackson St
Cass Gilbert
Memorial Park
UNIVERSITY &
RICE MOBILITY HUB
ROBERT STREET
STATION PLAZA
Robert St
Rice St
MN STATE
CAPITOL MALL
I-35E
Cedar St
E 12th St
CEDAR & WABASHA
DECK NODE
John Ireland Blvd
W Kellogg Blvd
FITZGERALD
PARK
MN HISTORY
CENTER PLAZA
DOWNTOWN
SAINT PAUL

REINVIGORATE NODES

MATRIX

LOCATION	TYPOLOGY	KIT OF PARTS
UNIVERSITY & RICE MOBILITY HUB	Multi-modal mobility hub Urban Core	
SEARS & RICE BRT NODE	Mixed-use district with enhanced transit options Urban District	
COMO & RICE BRT NODE	Neighborhood Transit Street with Bike Lanes	
ROBERT STREET STATION PLAZA	Mixed-use district with Multi-modal mobility hub Urban Core	
CEDAR & WABASHA DECK NODE	Iconic urban park and Activity Hub	
MN HISTORY CENTER PLAZA	Cultural destination	

CHARACTERISTICS

- Clear signage and wayfinding systems with digital platforms and mobile apps provide real-time transit updates and highlight pick-up/drop-off areas.
- Mobility options such as light rail stations, micromobility stations and pedestrian crossings create barrier-free access.
- Active ground floors enhance visibility and natural surveillance.

- Complete street design accommodates all visitors.
- Pedestrian-friendly sidewalks with tree canopy provide comfort during the day and human-scaled lighting enhances walkability and safety after traditional working hours.
- Mixed-use development with kiosks and wayfinding systems provide recommendations for attractions and amenities within the Capitol Campus.

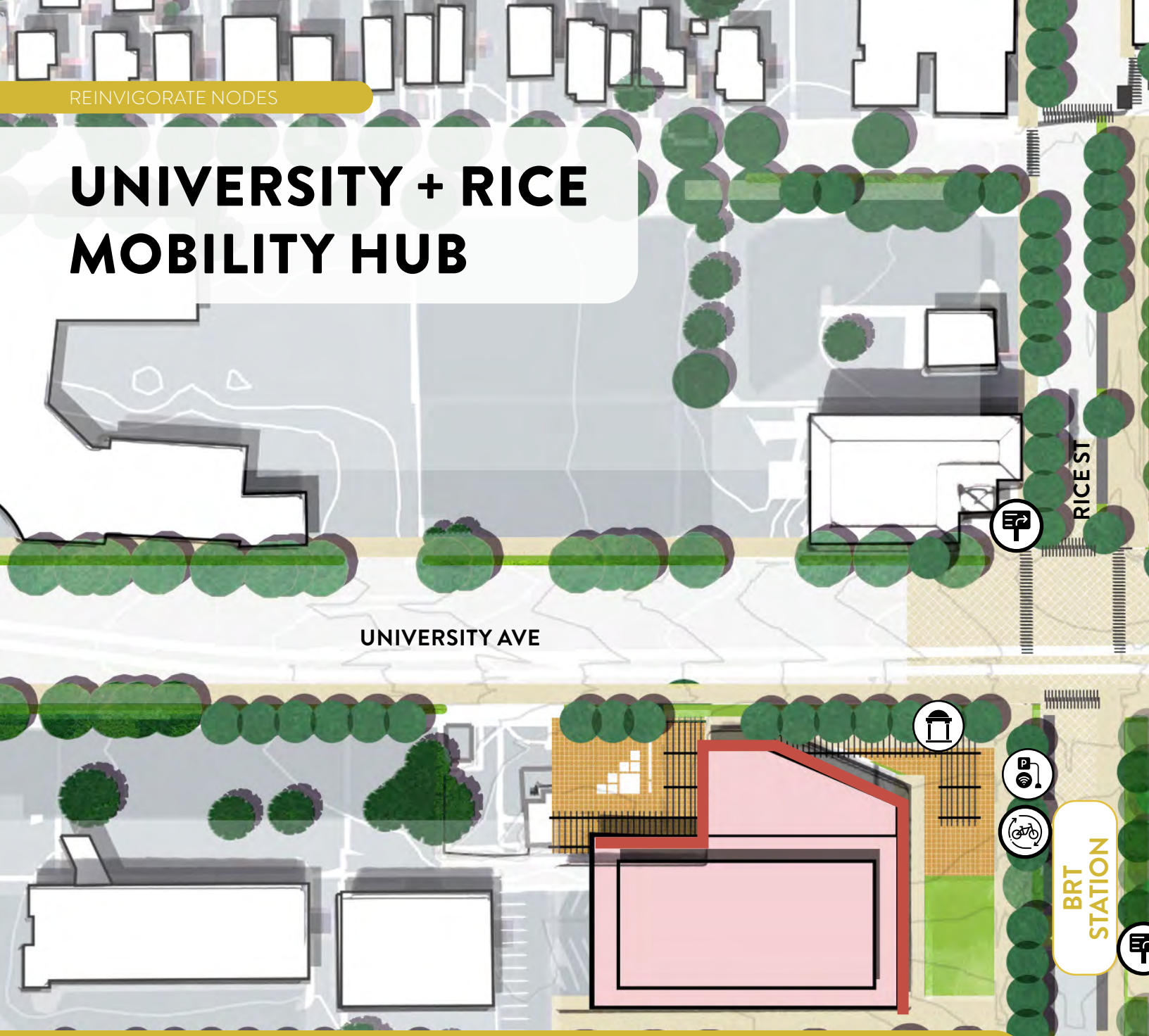
- Pedestrian-friendly sidewalks with tree canopy provide comfort during the day and human-scaled lighting enhances walkability and safety after traditional working hours.
- Dedicated micromobility infrastructure provides a safe and diverse transportation and recreation environment.

- Office building campus with urban plazas and retail stores enhance walkability and vibrancy.
- Transit stations with kiosks and wayfinding systems help orient between stations.
- Pedestrian-friendly sidewalks with tree canopy provide comfort during the day and human-scaled lighting enhances walkability and safety after traditional working hours.

- Diverse amenities such as welcome center, cafe, restrooms, and wayfinding information enhance visitor experience and community space
- Warmer spaces such as covered pavilions or under-tree canopies offer protection from inclement weather.
- Climate-adaptive features like water management systems mitigate the impact of heavy rainfall and extreme temperatures.

- A strategically planned view corridor framed by landscape maximizes scenic vistas and focal points along the linear park.
- Clear signage and wayfinding systems at the intersections direct people to major destinations.

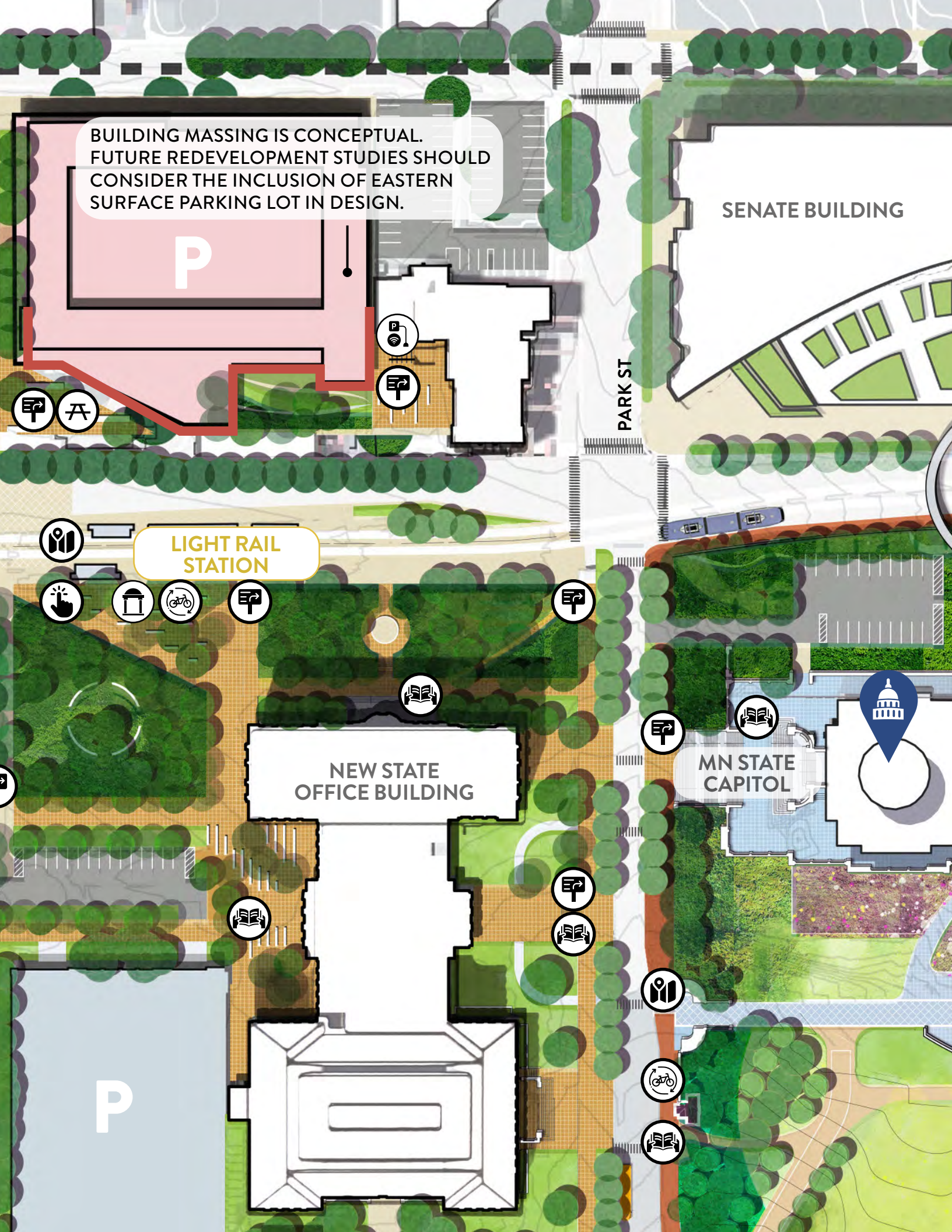
UNIVERSITY + RICE MOBILITY HUB



CHARACTERISTICS

- Clear signage and wayfinding systems with digital platforms and mobile apps provide real-time transit updates.
- Mobility options like light rail stations, micromobility stations and pedestrian crossings create barrier-free access.
- Active ground floors enhance visibility and natural surveillance.
- Reference the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Capitol Rice Development Framework for more information.

Figure 56. University and Rice Mobility Hub Plan
Note: SOB Landscape to be coordinated


BUILDING MASSING IS CONCEPTUAL.
FUTURE REDEVELOPMENT STUDIES SHOULD
CONSIDER THE INCLUSION OF EASTERN
SURFACE PARKING LOT IN DESIGN.
P
SENATE BUILDING
PARK ST
LIGHT RAIL
STATION
NEW STATE
OFFICE BUILDING
MN STATE
CAPITOL
P

UNIVERSITY + RICE MOBILITY HUB

VISION AND KIT OF PARTS

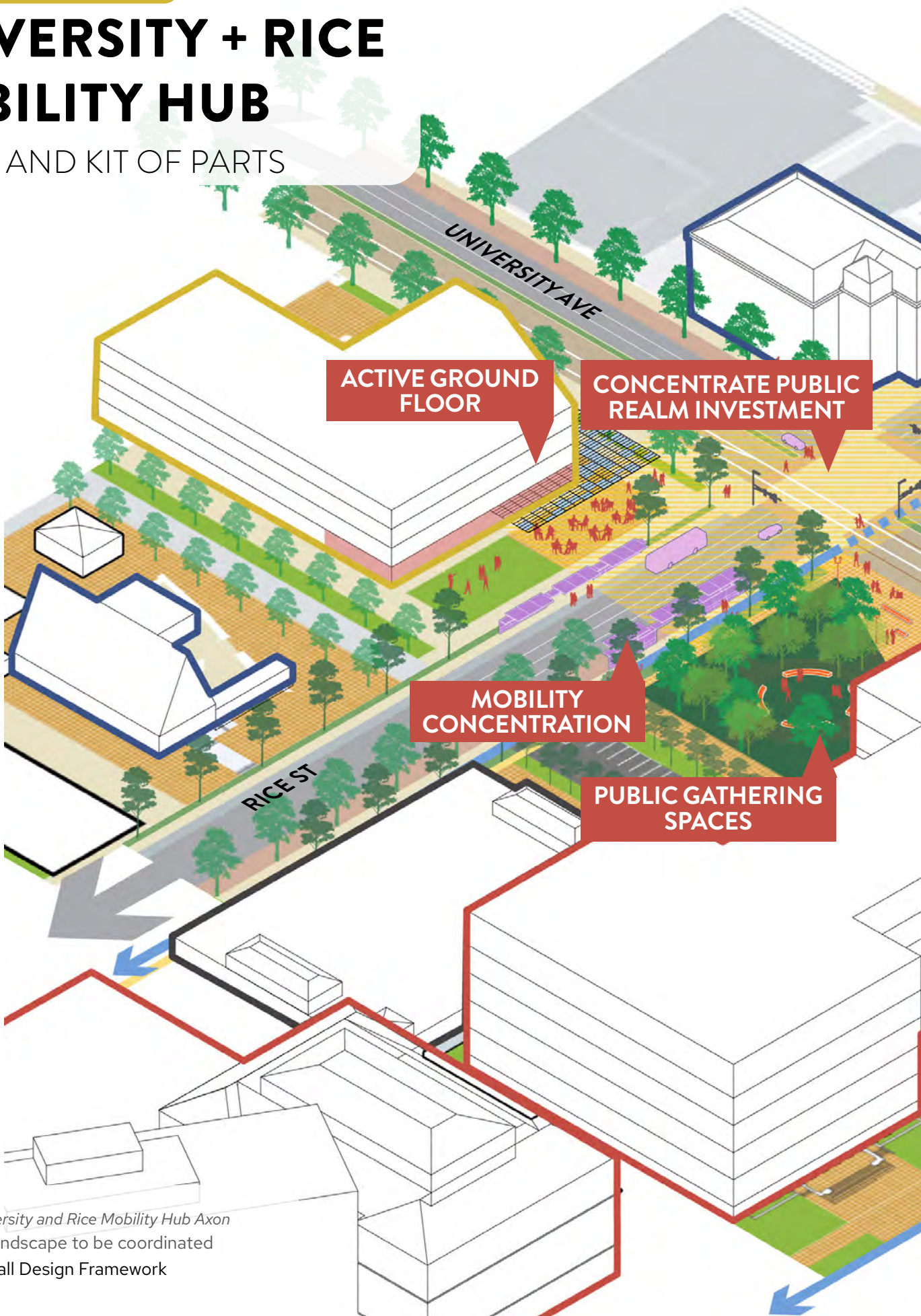
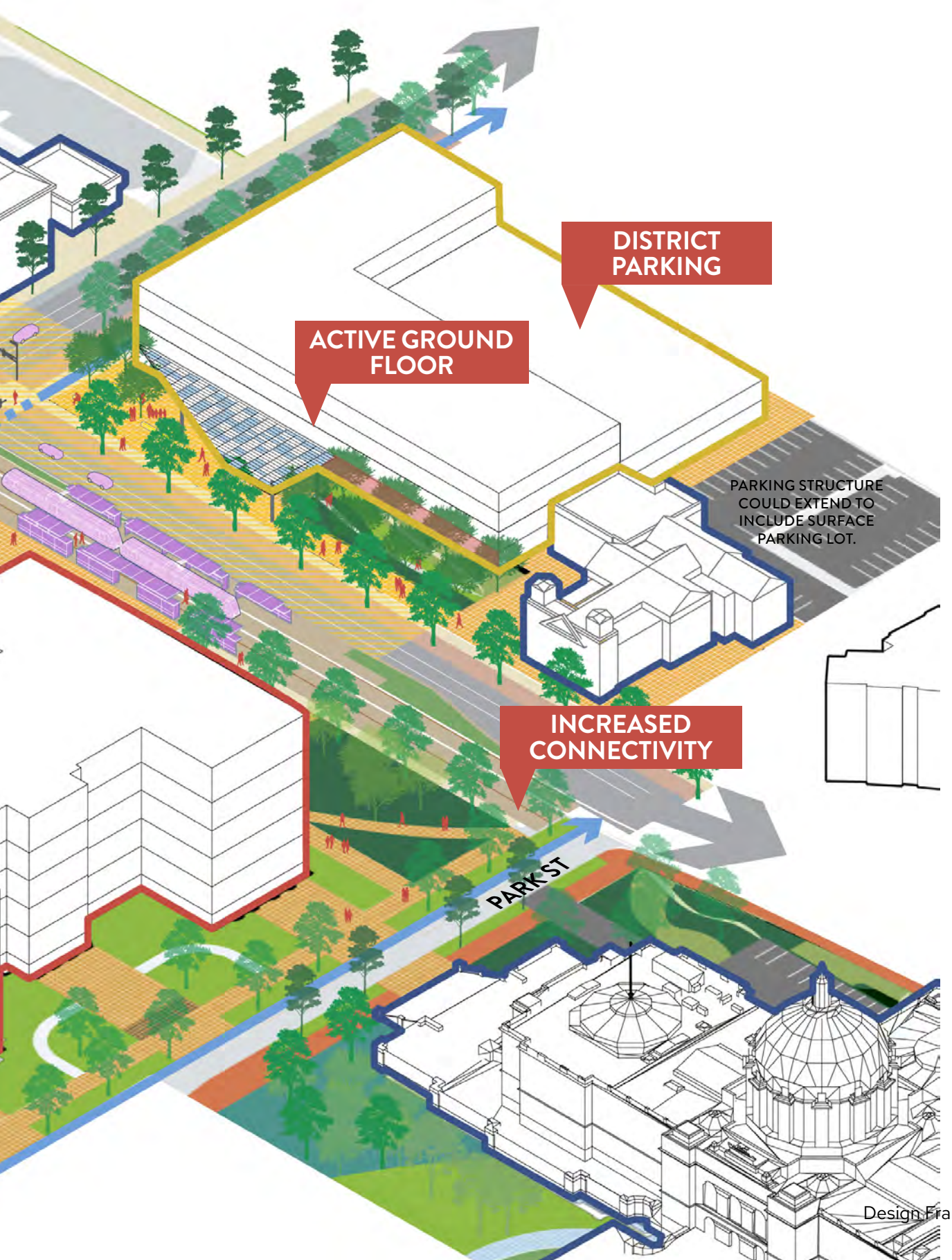


Figure 57. University and Rice Mobility Hub Axon
Note: SOB Landscape to be coordinated


DISTRICT PARKING
ACTIVE GROUND FLOOR
PARKING STRUCTURE COULD EXTEND TO INCLUDE SURFACE PARKING LOT.
INCREASED CONNECTIVITY
PARK ST

UNIVERSITY AND RICE MOBILITY HUB

PRECEDENTS

Figure 58. Gateway Plaza, Richmond VA

Source: Gateway Plaza. Lamar Johnson Collaborative, theljc.com

KIT OF PARTS

Clear signage and wayfinding systems with digital platforms and mobile apps provide real-time transit updates.

Mobility options like light rail stations, micromobility stations and pedestrian crossings create barrier-free access.

Active ground floors enhance visibility and natural surveillance.

Figure 59. Sydney CBD and South East Light Rail, Sydney

Source: Sydney CBD and South East Light Rail, Aspect Studios, www.aspect-studios.com

Figure 60. The Avenue, Washington D.C.
Source: The Avenue DC, Sasaki

Figure 61. The Avenue, Washington D.C.
Source: The Avenue DC, Sasaki

Figure 62. Sydney CBD and South East Light Rail, Sydney
Source: Sydney CBD and South East Light Rail, Aspect Studios, www.aspect-studios.com

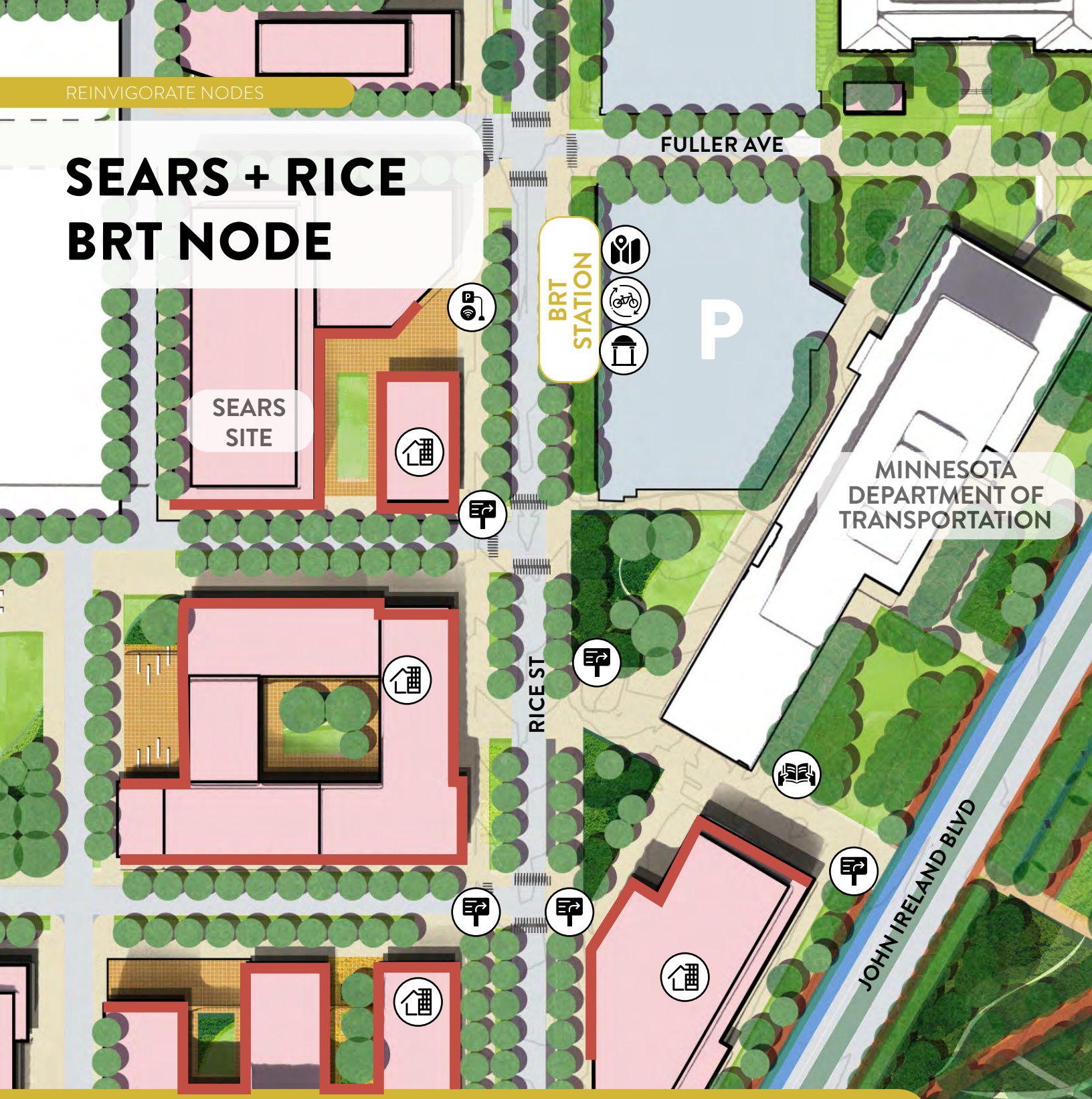
Figure 63. Sydney CBD and South East Light Rail, Sydney
Source: Sydney CBD and South East Light Rail, Aspect Studios, www.aspect-studios.com

MOBILITY HUB

RENDERING


CAPITOL/RICE

SEARS + RICE BRT NODE



CHARACTERISTICS

- Complete street design accommodates all visitor groups.
- Pedestrian-friendly sidewalks with tree canopy provide comfort during the day and human-scaled lighting enhances walkability and safety after hours.
- Mixed-use development with kiosks and wayfinding systems provide recommendations for attractions and amenities within the area.

Figure 64. Pont Neuf and La Samaritaine Place, Paris
Source: Pont Neuf and La Samaritaine Place, IN SITU Paysages & urbanisme, https://landezine.com/pont-neuf-and-la-samaritaine-place-by-in-situ/

Figure 66. Mason on Mariposa, CA
Source: Mason on Mariposa, David Baker Architects, https://www.dbarchitect.com/projects/mason-mariposa

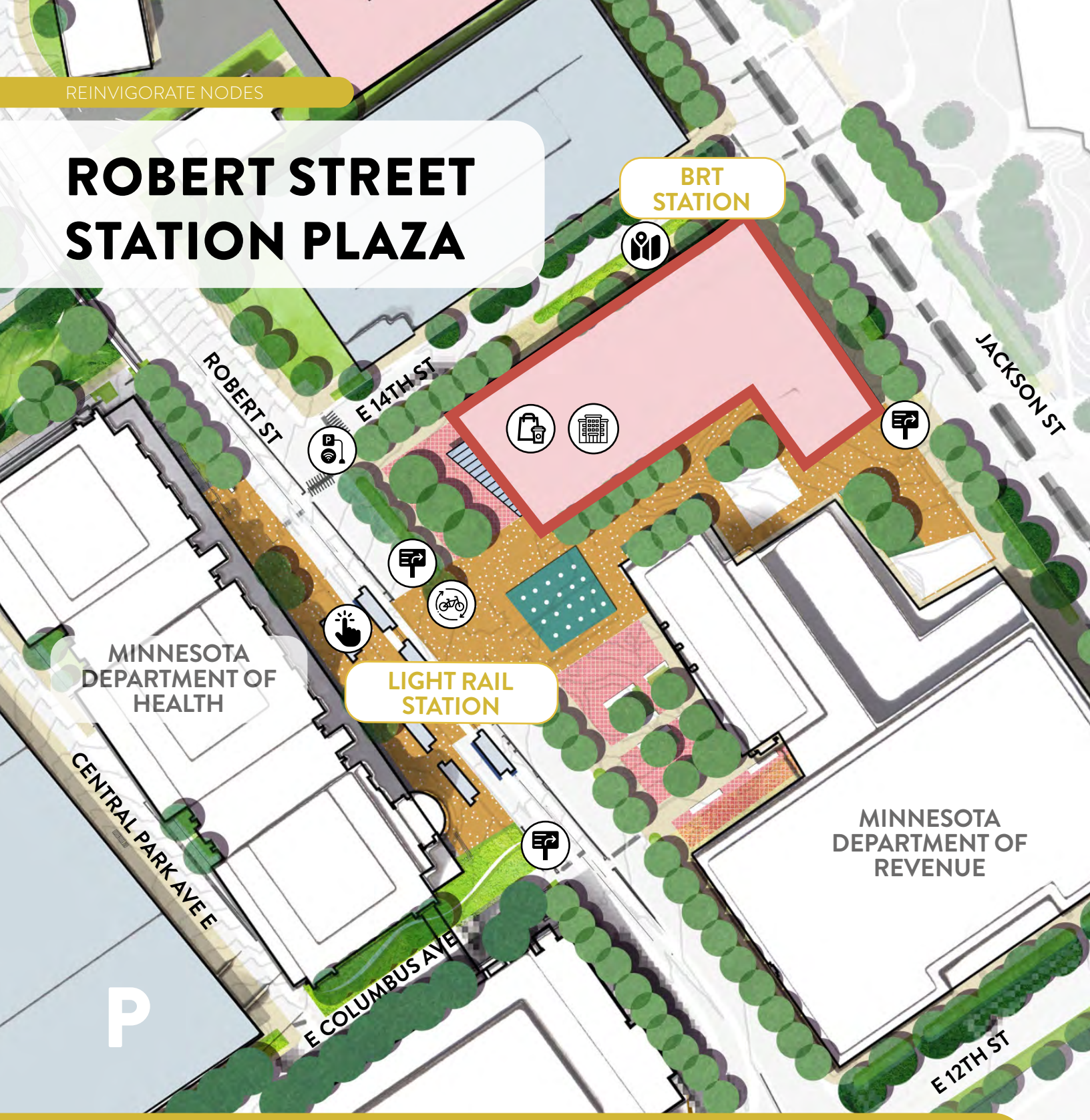
Figure 65. Assembly Row, MA
Source: Assembly Row, Copley Wolff Design Group, https://copley-wolff.com/all-projects/assembly-row

Figure 67. The Avenue, Washington D.C.
Source: The Avenue DC, Sasaki

Figure 68. Pont Neuf and La Samaritaine Place, Paris
Source:Pont Neuf and La Samaritaine Place, IN SITU Paysages & urbanisme, https://landezine.com/pont-neuf-and-la-samaritaine-place-by-in-situ/

Figure 69. Flaniermeile Friedrichstrabe, Berlin
Source: Volksentscheid Berlin Autofrei, https://worldwarzero.com/magazine/2022/01/on-a-high-note-berliners-push-to-create-largest-car-free-urban-area/

ROBERT STREET STATION PLAZA



CHARACTERISTICS

- Office environment with urban plazas and retail stores enhances walkability and vibrancy.
- Pedestrian-friendly sidewalks with tree canopy provide comfort during the day and human-scaled lighting enhances walkability and safety after hours.
- Transit stations with kiosks and wayfinding systems help orient people between stations.

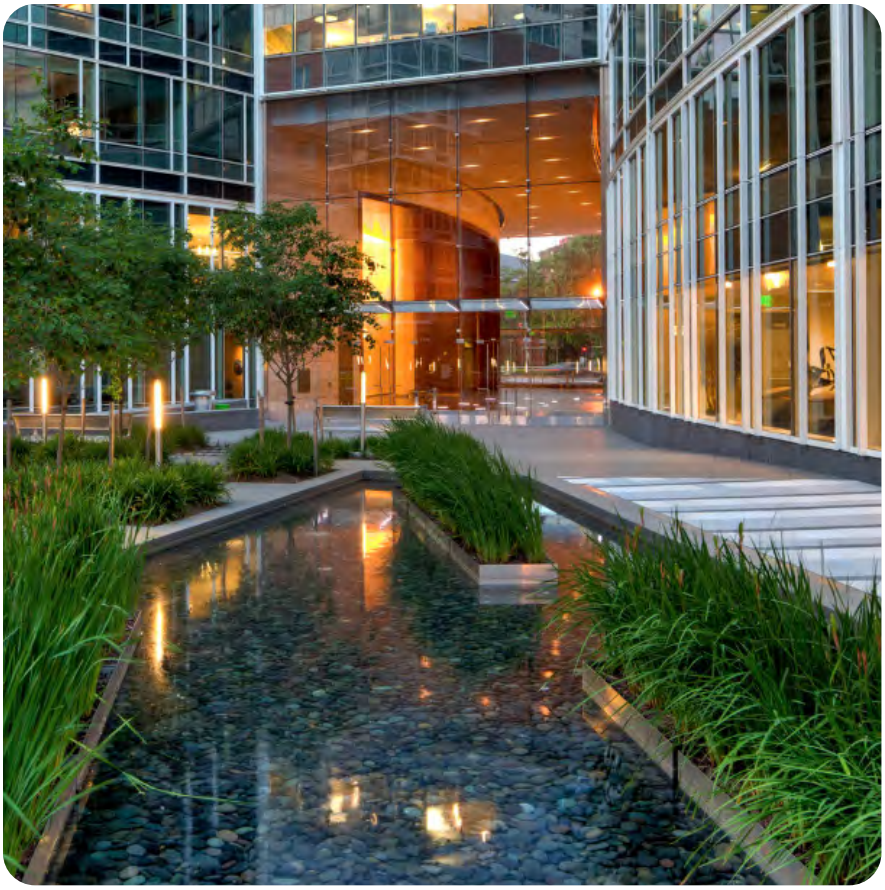


Figure 70. The Avenue, Washington D.C.
Source: The Avenue DC, Sasaki

Figure 71. Dilworth Park
Source: Dilworth Park, OLIN Studio, www.theolinstudio.com/dilworth-park

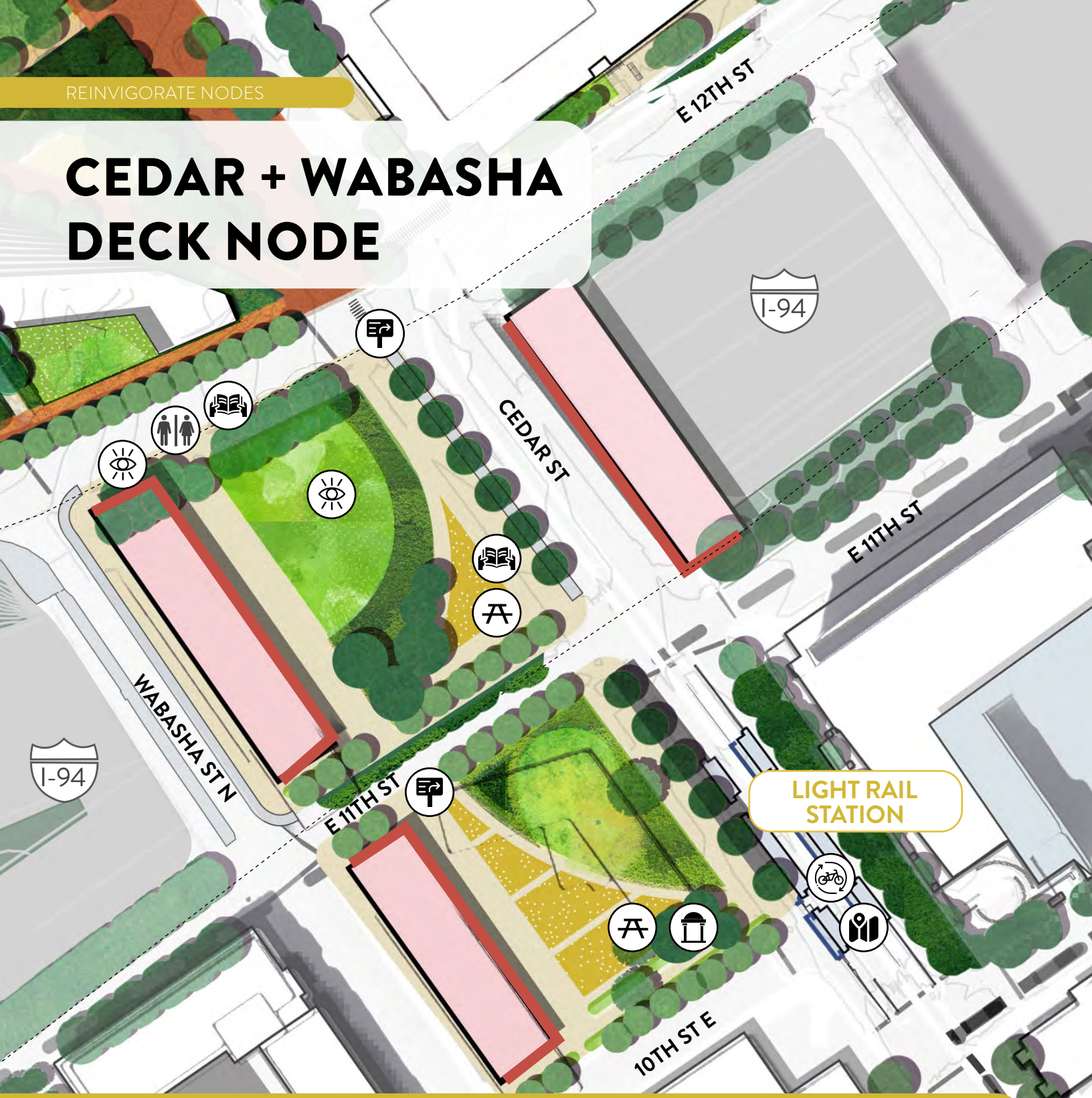
Figure 72. Hooper Street, San Francisco, CA
Source: Hooper Street, Surfacedesign, https://www.sdisf.com/hooper-street

Figure 73. The Avenue, Washington D.C.
Source: The Avenue DC, Sasaki

Figure 74. Ponderosa Commons, University of British Columbia
Source: Ponderosa Commons, Hapa Collaborative, https://landezine.com/ponderosa-commons/

Figure 75. Hooper Street, San Francisco, CA
Source: Hooper Street, Surfacedesign, https://www.sdisf.com/hooper-street

CEDAR + WABASHA DECK NODE



CHARACTERISTICS

- Park provide diverse amenities such as welcome center, cafe and restrooms and wayfinding Diverse amenities such as a welcome center, cafe, restrooms, and wayfinding information enhance visitor experience and community space.
- Sheltered areas like covered pavilions and tree canopies offer protection from inclement weather.
- Climate-adaptive features like water management systems mitigate the impact of heavy rainfall or extreme temperatures.

Figure 76. Street, Klyde Warren Park, Dallas, TX
Source: Klyde Warren Park, OJB, https://www.ojb.com/work/klydewarrenpark/

Figure 77. Festival, Klyde Warren Park, Dallas, TX
Source: Klyde Warren Park, OJB, https://www.ojb.com/work/klydewarrenpark/

Figure 78. Festival Park, Castle Rock, CO
Source: Festival Park, Design Workshop, https://www.designworkshop.com/projects/festival-park.html

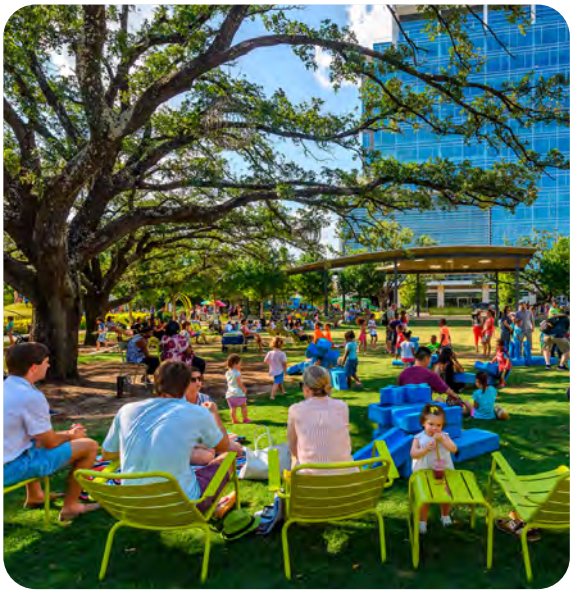
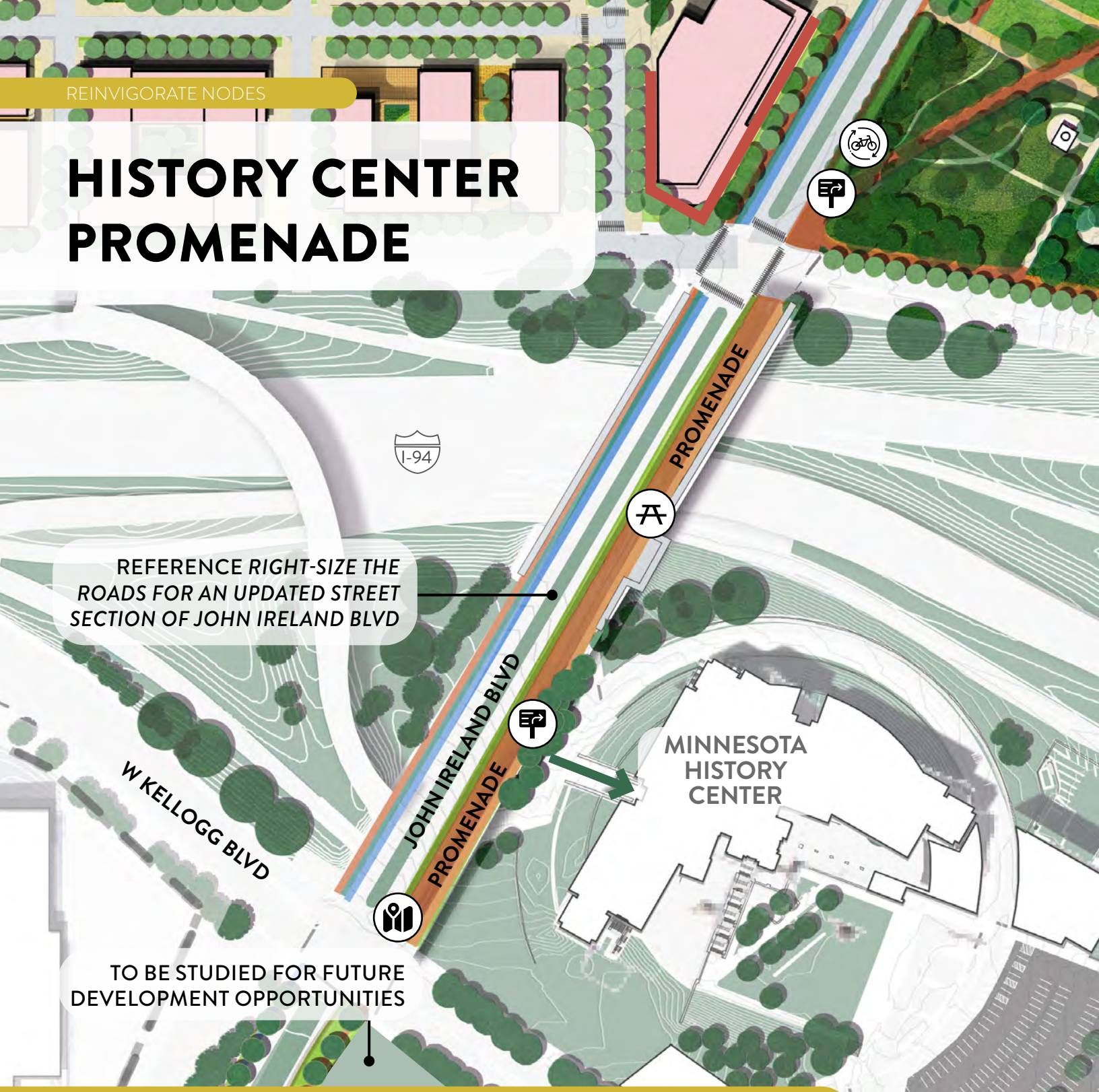


Figure 79. Tree Canopy, Levy Park, Houston, TX
Source: Levy Park, OJB, https://www.ojb.com/work/levy-park/phyllis-w-smale-

Figure 80. Flexible market areas, Festival Park, Castle Rock , CO
Source : Festival Park, Design Workshop, https://www.designworkshop.com/projects/festival-park.html

Figure 81. Ohio Smale Riverfront Park , OH
Source: Smale Riverfront Park, Sasaki, https://www.sasaki.com/projects/cincinnati-john-g-and-phyllis-w-smale-riverfront-park/

HISTORY CENTER PROMENADE



CHARACTERISTICS

- A strategically planned view corridor framed by landscape maximizes scenic vistas and focal points along the linear park.
- Clear signage and wayfinding systems at the intersections direct people to major destinations.
- Summit Park to be studied for future development opportunities, so long as historic views are maintained.

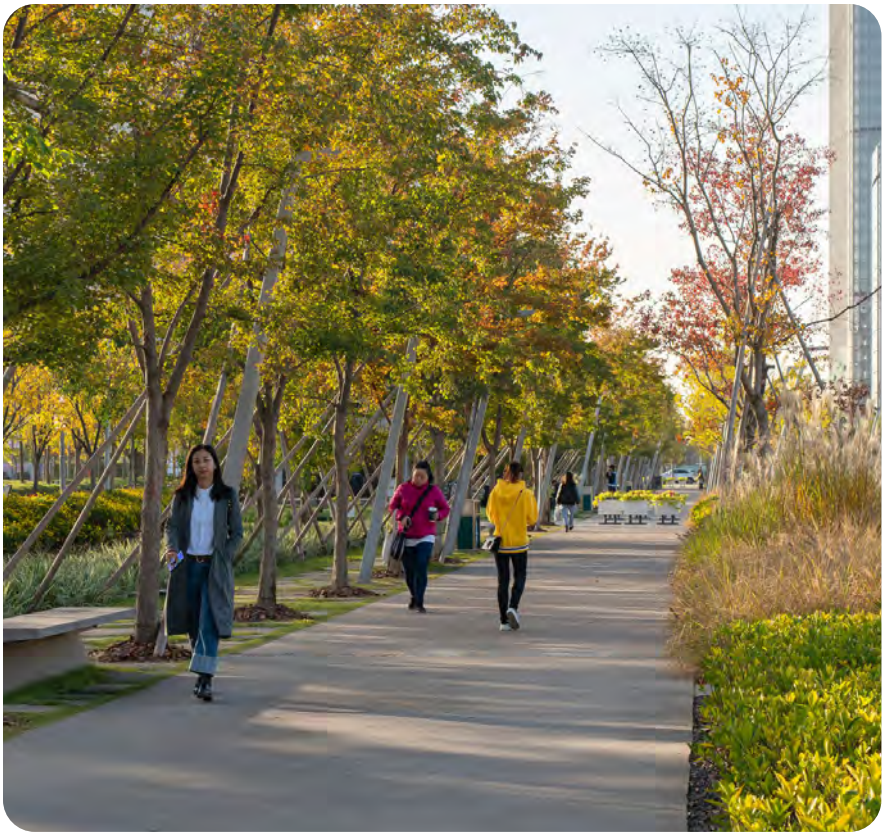


Figure 82. Xuhui Runway Park, Shanghai
Source: Xuhui Runway Park, Sasaki, https://www.sasaki.com/projects/xuhui-runway-park/

Figure 83. Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus Streetscape, NY

Source: Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus Streetscape, SCAPE, https://www.scapestudio.com/projects/buffalo-niagara-medical-campus-streetscape/

Figure 84. Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus Streetscape,NY

Source: https://www.scapestudio.com/projects/buffalo-niagara-medical-campus-streetscape/

Figure 85. Seating, Canberra Constitution Avenue, Canberra
Source: https://landezine.com/constitution-avenue-canberra-by-jane-irwin-landscape-architecture/

Figure 86. Governors Island, NY
Source: Governors Island, Trust for Governors Island, https://www.govisland.com/

Figure 87. Canberra Constitution Avenue, Canberra
Source: Canberra Constitution Avenue, Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture, https://landezine.com/constitution-avenue-canberra-by-jane-irwin-landscape-architecture/