

How did we get here?

Former House Majority Leader Ryan Winkler

State Representative Ginny Klevorn

Bob Meyerson, Former House Sergeant-at-Arms

Minnesota House of Representatives

Presentation to the CAAP Board – April 11, 2023



The need was growing around us

- Security situation changed after Capitol was fenced due to threats and the January 6th insurrection.
- Building deteriorating - prone to flooding, and mold – and infrastructure from generations ago.
- Non-accessible building bursting at the seams

Photo credit: State Tribune, MN House, and Reuters

June 2021 – Building renovations and expansion authorized to welcome Minnesotans and be safe

2021 First Special Session Chapter 12 (Article 2, Section 7) (Minnesota Statutes 16B.2406) was enacted. This was the Capitol Area Building Account to address health, life safety, and security needs.

This authorization passed both bodies of a divided legislature.

Some stipulations on money:

- Cannot tear down the State Office Building
- Allows for expansion
- Authority to use bonding authority through end of 2023

2022 Summer and Fall Process of assessing tenant needs

- 9 workshops (each workshop lasting 3 days)
- This worked spanned over 4 months
- 25-35 tenant representatives at each workshop including representatives of each caucus
- These workshops primarily focused on the needs of the tenants and functional aspects of the work of the legislature
- The needs assessment was not complete until after the workshops were completed.

Full presentation was made at the last CAAP Board Meeting by MOCA on the process. Their presentation is available upon request.

Late Fall / Early Winter

Authorization by House Rules Committee

- Plans were held close until after authorization by the Rules Committee.
- There was not a certainty that the building would be approved. The authorization process was not complete until December 2022, and initial focus was addressing security and space requirements of building tenants.
- Earlier engagement and work together would have given us more time to develop full range of Capitol and neighborhood connection opportunities prior to 2023.

Late Winter / Early Spring

A new focus on weaving Capitol Complex and the Community

- A season of active engagement between CAAP Board and Legislature
- Multiple legislators have read and engaged with the 2040 Comprehensive Plan
- Using the work of the CAAP Board and their community engagement on the Comprehensive Plan – a new set of proposals arose to move the 2040 Plan forward. (*Merritt Clapp-Smith will walk through the expanded set of proposals*)
- Engagement is regular and productive on many projects.
- Broader set of proposals is now set up for success this legislative session.