BOARD MEETING

Friday, October 3, 2025 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Conference Room 116B, Administration Building, 50 Sherburne Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55155

Virtual – Livestream available at http://www.mn.gov/caapb
Board Packet – https://mn.gov/caapb/board-meetings/

Proposed AGENDA

9:00 a.m. Meeting Kick-Off

- Item 1. Approve Minutes from June 3, 2025 (action)
- Item 2. Board Member Appointment; Introduction of New Advisor and Fellow
- Item 3. Vice Chair (action)
- **Item 4. Community Vitality Planning Update**
- Item 5. Application to Propose a New Commemorative Work: Downtown Baseball Park (action)
- Item 6. Application to Propose a New Commemorative Work: Emergency Medical Services Line of Duty Death Memorial (action)
- Item 7. Capitol Mall Design Framework Update: Upper Mall Tree Canopy (action)
- Item 8. Rice Street Redesign: Overview and Engagement Plan
- Item 9. USS Ward Gun Removal
- Item 10. Tribal Flag Plaza Ceremony
- **Item 11. Other Projects**

11:00 a.m. Adjourn

Board Meeting Packet Items

- Draft Minutes from June 3, 2025
- Memo: Community Vitality Planning Update & RCSO Workplan
- Memo and Resolution: New Commemorative Work: Emergency Medical Services Line of Duty Death Memorial
- Memo and Resolution: New Commemorative Work: Downtown Baseball Park
- Memo, Recommendation, Resolution: Capitol Mall Design Framework (Tree Canopy)
- Memo: Rice Street Redesign: Overview and Engagement Plan
- Memo: Other projects update
- Memo: Tribal Flag Plaza Ceremony
- Memo: USS Ward Gun Removal



Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board Freeman Building 625 Robert St N Saint Paul, MN 55155 651-757-1500 https://mn.gov/caapb/

Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 3, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

DRAFT Minutes

Board Members

Present: Board Chair Lt. Gov. Flanagan, Board Vice Chair Dana Badgerow, Dr. Kate Beane, Michael Bjornberg, Hannah Hills, James McClean, Melanie McMahon, Rep. Klevorn, Rep. Schultz, Senator Nelson, Senator Pappas

Left Early: Senator Pappas, Senator Nelson

Not Present: James Garrett, Jr.

Quorum present? Yes.

Proceedings

Meeting Kick-Off

- Lt. Gov. calls the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.
- Overview of Agenda
- Board member roll call

Approval of Agenda

Lt. Gov. Flanagan asks to approve the agenda. Board Vice Chair Badgerow moves to approve the agenda, and Senator Pappas seconds the motion. Lt. Governor Flanagan calls for a voice vote, and there are zero nays. The agenda is approved.

Item 1 – Approve Minutes from 9/24/2024, 12/11/2024, and 03/24/2025

Lt. Gov. Flanagan asks to approve the minutes from September 24, 2024; December 11, 2024; and March 24, 2025. Board Vice Chair Badgerow moves to approve the minutes, and Hannah Hills seconds

the motion. Lt. Governor Flanagan calls for a voice vote, and there are zero nays. The agenda is approved.

Item 2 – 615 Park: Conditional Use Permit and Variance

Lt. Gov. Flanagan introduces agenda item 2 - 615 Park: Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and Variance. She then hands the meeting over to Principal Planner and Zoning Administrator Peter Musty.

Mr. Musty thanks Lt. Gov. Flanagan and brings before the Board the consideration of a conditional use permit and minimum lot size variance for 615 Park Street. He mentions the letter from applicant Bibi Abdalla and the statement and FAQ she provided. He highlights that several items in the packet are new since the Board meeting in March 2025. The applicant is proposing to open an Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS) facility licensed by the State of Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS). The applicant has completed much of the necessary paperwork for licensing to operate and occupy the facility.

The proposed investment meets all of our congregate living standards, with the exception of the lot size minimum primarily due to the unique context of it being a smaller corner lot of 0.11 acres. Mr. Musty highlights that due to recent reforms, in Saint Paul, outside of the Capitol Area, this sized adult care home (six persons or fewer) would be allowed with no Conditional Use Permit required.

CAAPB wishes to record our thanks to the Department of Human Services for their assistance and their presence today at the Board meeting.

Mr. Musty turns the meeting over to Executive Secretary Cedarleaf Dahl, who thanks Peter, Jessie, Tina, Hannah, DHS, and the staff for hosting and contributing to a lot of the public meetings.

Executive Secretary Cedarleaf Dahl explains the different roles of the CAAPB and other agencies. CAAPB approvals run parallel to both licensing and building code. CAAPB is not a licensing body. CAAPB issues the Zoning approval. The operating license to run an IRTS facility is achieved through reviews at Ramsey County, issuance from the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health or the Department of Corrections, depending on the facility. Building codes are also considered by the City of Saint Paul.

Executive Secretary Cedarleaf Dahl points out that CAAPB's focus today is about the zoning of the building, not approving the licensing of the IRTS facility. He then hands the meeting over to Board Member Hannah Hills.

Ms. Hills thanks Lt. Gov. Flanagan for providing extra time to have these conversations and for CAAPB staff to facilitate conversations. Ms. Hills explains that at the last meeting with the community, members expressed concerns about the new congregate living facility due to past experiences in the area. Ms. Hills personally witnessed CUP violations and poor living conditions as residents were relocated. These experiences have understandably shaped the community's lens. This was why the conversations with DHS and the applicant were essential.

Ms. Hills acknowledges that this IRTS facility is one of the few tools available to offer stability and transition support if we want to reduce homelessness, prevent rehospitalization, and give people a better chance at recovery. She also discusses the impacts that the Mental Health Hospital and the Vitality Fund will have on the community. Ms. Hills concludes that granting the variance is not without

risk but also points out that the facility will be highly regulated, the consequences for mismanagement are real, and the potential benefit to both residents in recovery after a mental health crisis and the broader community merits serious consideration.

Board Vice Chair Badgerow asks to go on record as saying she has never seen such due diligence on a particular application. It's just fabulous what staff has done, what Hannah has done, and the outreach to the community.

Lt. Gov. Flanagan thanks Board Vice Chair Badgerow and asks if there are additional questions/discussions from the Board.

Senator Pappas agrees that this process has been thorough, and notes that it is reassuring to know that the facility will be accepting people from hospitals and not from correctional facilities.

Senator Nelson agrees that the process has been thoroughly vetted and applauds the involvement of the neighbors, staff and CAAPB. She also asks that the record reflects that these facilities are called IRTS facilities, and that she has served on the Health and Human Services committee for over a decade and is familiar with the massive need we have for more mental health in general, including IRTS facilities.

Senator Nelson states that the CAAPB's job is to make sure that the CAP-designated 66 blocks around the Capitol follows the CAAP Board rules. She explains that we cannot change the size of the lot, and that it is the role of the CAAPB to maintain those minimums. She states that the site is very small, and that she would not be in support.

Lt. Gov. Flanagan thanks Senator Nelson and asks if there are any comments or discussions online.

James McClean expresses appreciation for Senator Nelson's comments. Mr. McClean mentions that he didn't hear the lot size as a concern from the community in Board member Hannah Hills' comments, so he was curious about the framework for variances.

Peter Musty addresses his question and explains that variances are typically applied to property sizes and property exceptions. In Capitol Heights, there are not a lot of standard lots. Mr. Musty points out that the structure on 615 Park Street is suitable for occupancy, it has access to public transit, and is near parks. Mr. Musty directs Board members to review the memo as it lays out the specific criteria. The lot size is close, but that is what is being voted on today.

Senator Nelson asks for the map of 615 Park Street to be displayed. She notes that there is no backyard and there is more city parking than there is land. She also asks how long the property has been vacant.

The applicant, Bibi Abdalla, states that it has been vacant for quite some time. She also states that they have intentions of making more space in the backyard around the garage. Bibi Abdalla also shares her experience with mental health concerns in her family.

Lt. Gov. Flanagan asks Ms. Abdalla how long the home has been vacant.

Ms. Abdalla states that it has been vacant a few years.

Representative Klevorn asks DHS if the square footage would be detrimental to human habitation of the building.

Erin Ruiz, Adult Intensive Services Lead in the Behavioral Health Division of the Department of Human Services (DHS), introduces herself to the Board and attendees. She explains that at DHS, they consider whether there is enough space to go outside and sit in the yard, enough space to live in the home and have visitors, and enough privacy for residents.

Rep. Klevorn points out that in the photo and map of the home, there are apartment buildings next to it that appear to have less green space than 615 Park Street. She asks if that is correct.

Mr. Musty answers that she is correct and it is not uncommon in the Capitol Heights blocks for there to be little green space around homes and apartment buildings.

Lt. Gov. Flanagan thanks Rep. Klevorn and Ms. Ruiz for their questions and comments. She then noted that at the last Board meeting, she, as chair, determined that additional conversation was needed with the community. And she wants to associate herself with Board Vice Chair Badgerow's remarks about how impressed she is with the staff and Ms. Hills.

She notes that licensing will not be handled by CAAPB, and there will be a rigorous process that Ms. Abdalla will go through. Lt. Gov. Flanagan then states that she thinks CAAPB should approve the conditional use permit and variance today with the conditions that have been set by the CAAPB staff. She also highlights that the City of Saint Paul makes sure the site and building are safe and up to code.

Board member Hannah Hills added that the lot size concern was not coming up with residents during the community meetings. The concern was how the property will be managed.

Executive Secretary Cedarleaf Dahl added that staff is committed to checking with the City of Saint Paul regularly and making sure we're notified if there are any concerns.

Peter Musty summarizes the resolution. There were 3 proposed conditions that resulted from collaborations since the March Board meeting: there is an adjustment clarifying bedrooms and number of occupants, the facility will maintain a direct online resource with contact information, and CAAPB staff will convene a meeting with the community/Board if property issues arise.

Senator Nelson states that she believes the vote should be divided into two separate votes because they are different issues. She then moves to do two votes: one on conditional use permit and one on the variance. Senator Pappas seconds the motion.

Lt. Gov. Flanagan asks that CAAPB staff reads the language. Executive Secretary Cedarleaf Dahl reads the resolutions separately.

Board member Melanie McMahon asks for clarification on whether the conditions outlined in the previous resolution apply to both. She thought they should be included in both the CUP and the variance as they were helpful and applicable to the work that's been done.

Executive Secretary Cedarleaf Dahl confirms the new language.

Ms. McMahon clarifies that the conditions are specific to the CUP and the variance is a standalone vote.

Senator Nelson shares her concern about the number of residents and points out that the building code is for 5 residents until a sprinkler is installed. Then at that time, an additional bedroom may be added for the maximum of 6 residents.

Lt. Gov. Flanagan notes that the resolution indicated allowing 5 guests. She asks if Senator Nelson could suggest language that she would like to be included in the resolution.

Senator Nelson asks that conditions two and three follow the granting of the conditional use permit, and condition one would apply with the variance.

Executive Secretary Cedarleaf Dahl asks if Board member McMahon or DHS could provide advice on the occupancy limit for the site.

Board member McMahon states that 5,000 square feet is a common lot size in Saint Paul and has no concern with five or six occupants at the residence as it is pretty standard in the city.

Lt. Gov. Flanagan notes that there is a motion to separate the two items in the resolution.

Executive Secretary Cedarleaf Dahl explains that one item would include the board recognizing offer for the applicant to maintain an informational online presence and accepting offer for the applicant to attend meetings proposed by CAAPB staff if necessary to address any issues. The second would be the CUP resident and room clarification attached to the variance.

Board member Hannah Hills notes that without the variance, the CUP doesn't matter because they're not allowed to operate without a variance.

Representative Klevorn expresses concern about separating the two items, as that could set a precedent for the future of giving a variance without a CUP. So, she suggests keeping them together and passing as one resolution.

Lt. Gov. Flanagan takes the roll for the motion of separating the conditional use permit and the variance. There are 9 nays and 2 ayes. The motion fails.

Lt. Gov. Flanagan asks for a motion to approve the current resolution of the conditional use permit and the variance. Board Vice Chair Badgerow motions to approve the resolution, and Board member Hannah Hills seconds the motion. Lt. Gov. Flanagan asks for any more discussion.

Senator Nelson asks that it be noted in the record that she is voting no because of her concern about granting a variance for the size of the lot in the CAAPB jurisdiction. Senator Nelson is very supportive of IRTS facilities, she knows there is a great need for them, and has personal experience in this field.

Lt. Gov. Flanagan calls the roll for approving the Conditional Use Permit and Variance resolution. There are 9 ayes and 1 nay. The motion passes.

Lt. Gov. Flanagan thanks the CAAPB and Ms. Abdalla. She then passes the meeting to Board Vice Chair Badgerow.

Item 3 – Update: Capitol Area Zoning and Design Rules

Executive Secretary Cedarleaf Dahl explains that CAAPB conducted a lot of outreach and is taking time to ensure we keep working with stakeholders and Board members and will come back with an action item in the fall. CAAPB has already done regulatory review and documentation and code testing drafts of rules. Now we're developing final rulemaking documents. He then passes the meeting to Cecilia Kim, PhD, Planning Manager at Opticos Design, Inc.

Ms. Kim introduces herself and provides her credentials. She then provides a high-level overview of the proposed draft rules and SONAR.

Ms. Kim asks for questions. Executive Secretary Cedarleaf Dahl reiterates that we are not voting on anything today, but this is an update.

Senator Nelson asks about the block standards. She also expresses concerns about parking around the Capitol Area.

Senator Pappas notes that wayfinding signs may be helpful when addressing parking concerns.

Senator Nelson asks if she could be provided with the net parking information.

Item 4. Commemorative Work: Emergency Medical Services

Lt. Gov. Flanagan moves onto agenda item 4 – an application for a Commemorative Work Emergency Medical Services Line of Duty Death Memorial (EMS LODD). She then hands the meeting over to Commemorative Works Planning Fellow Tina Chimuzu.

Ms. Chimuzu provides a historical background of the application submitted by Adam. S. Harvey, President and Founder of the EMS LODD Memorial Foundation. She then explains that the application was found to be complete and conditions for adding a new artwork were met. The next step is to gather comments on whether the application meets all the stated conditions. Ms. Chimuzu shares the resolution with the Board.

Senator Nelson moves to approve the resolution, and Board Vice Chair Badgerow seconds the motion. Lt. Gov. Flanagan calls the role for votes. There are 9 ayes, zero nays. The resolution is passed.

Ms. Chimuzu explains next steps of opening a public comment period and then bringing a summary of the comments and a staff recommendation to the Board. Then the Board will take action on whether the conditions have been met.

Item 5. Commemorative Work: Pillbox Update

Lt. Gov. Flanagan moves onto agenda item 5 – Commemorative Work: Pillbox Update and asks Ms. Chimuzu for a brief update.

Ms. Chimuzu provides a brief background of Pillbox and shares historical photos and maps of the baseball park. She also explains that the application is being processed per the rules. A public comment period was held. Twelve of the 13 comments were in favor. CAAPB is working with Pigeon Consulting who is currently conducting a historical background report.

Lt. Gov. Flanagan thanks Tina Chimuzu for the updates, and thanks Board Vice Chair Badgerow for her work on the Commemorative Works process.

Item 6. Commemorative Work: U.S.S. Ward Gun Update

Lt. Gov. Flanagan moves onto agenda item 6 – Commemorative Work: U.S.S. Ward Gun Update and hands the meeting over to Tina Chimuzu.

Ms. Chimuzu provides a background of the application to remove the U.S.S. Ward Gun from the Capitol Grounds. She provides an update about the Commemorative Artwork Review Committee (CARC), the members, and the public hearing and CARC meeting that was held on May 22, 2025. Ms. Chimuzu then summarizes the CARC recommendation.

Executive Secretary Cedarleaf Dahl and Tina Chimuzu provide an overview of the recommended Board Resolution.

Board Vice Chair Badgerow moves to accept the resolution, and Rep. Schultz seconds the motion. Lt. Gov. Flanagan asks for any discussion.

Representative Isaac Schultz served on the CARC and expresses that he enjoyed this process and seeing it work through for the first time. He states that this is a positive step in the right direction, and the feedback that was received from Minnesotans was overwhelmingly in support of this direction. For that reason, he seconded approving this resolution.

Lt. Gov. Flanagan thanks Rep. Schultz and thanks him for his service on the CARC.

Executive Secretary Cedarleaf Dahl thanks the Department of Administration for reviewing the budget and working with CAAPB to help us move this process quickly. He also thanks David and Lindsey from the Minnesota Historical Society. He also notes that Tina Chimuzu will be leaving in July, and thanks her for the fantastic job she has done with the Commemorative Works.

Lt. Gov. Flanagan calls the role for votes. There are 8 ayes and zero nays. The motion is approved.

Ms. Chimuzu provides the next steps in the removal process.

Item 7. 2025 Legislative Update and Other Projects

Lt. Gov. Flanagan moves onto agenda item 7 – 2025 Legislative Update and Other Projects. Lt. Gov. Flanagan hands the meeting over to Executive Secretary Cedarleaf Dahl.

Executive Secretary Cedarleaf Dahl shares the three items in the final State Government bill language that impacts CAAPB.

Executive Secretary Cedarleaf Dahl also mentioned a Blue Star Gold Star plaque. He also provided updates regarding the Tribal Flag Plaza and adding plants and signage. Executive Secretary Cedarleaf Dahl thanks the Lieutenant Governor's Office for their help facilitating conversations with Tribes. He also thanks Wayne from the Administration Department who helped move funds forward for the Tribal Flag Plaza. He also discussed tree plantings in the Upper Mall.

Lt. Gov. Flanagan thanks Chair Klevorn and Representative Schultz for their work on the CAAPB.

Lt. Gov. Flanagan shares that Board Vice Chair Dana Badgerow will be resigning from the Board. Lt. Gov. Flanagan expresses it has been an absolute joy and pleasure working with Board Vice Chair Badgerow. Her expertise as a former Commissioner of Administration and knowledge of Minnesotans and how this state works has been invaluable. She also appreciates her patience and thoughtfulness and leadership. We will continue to see her work here at the Capitol.

Board member James McClean thanks Board Vice Chair Badgerow for her service and expresses we will miss her.

Board member Michael Bjornberg thanks Board Vice Chair Badgerow, noting that working with her is one of the highlights of his professional career and personal experiences.

Representative Klevorn thanks Board Vice Chair Badgerow for her mentorship, leadership, and guidance, and always keeping the people of Minnesota front and center.

Executive Secretary Cedarleaf Dahl thanks Board Vice Chair Badgerow for her support, mentorship, and guidance.

Lt. Gov. Flanagan asks if there is a motion to adjourn. Board member Hannah Hills moves to adjourn, and Board Vice Chair Badgerow seconds the motion. Lt. Gov. Flanagan takes a voice vote. There were zero nays.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.







625 Robert Street North Saint Paul, MN 55155 651-757-1500

https://mn.gov/caapb/

Date: October 3, 2025

To: Members of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB)

From: Erik Cedarleaf Dahl, Executive Secretary CAAPB

RE: AGENDA ITEM #3 – Vice Chair

Background

With the departure of Dana Badgerow, there is a vacancy in the role of Vice Chair for the CAAPB. As outlined in CAAPB statutes (MN Statute 15B, Subd. 3(c)(d)), the Board may elect a Vice Chair to preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair and may elect other officers as necessary to carry out its duties.

Action Required

The Board is asked to:

1. Elect a Vice Chair



Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board



625 Robert Street North Saint Paul, MN 55155 651-757-1500

https://mn.gov/caapb/

Date: October 3, 2025

To: Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board members

From: Erik Cedarleaf Dahl, Executive Secretary, CAAPB

RE: AGENDA ITEM #4 – Community Vitality Planning Update

The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB) is working closely with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) and Saint Paul Port Authority (SPPA) to implement several of the goals identified by the Capitol Area Community Task Force. The programming will focus on public safety, community building events, youth and family programming, business grants, and ambassadors focusing on community cleanup.

The programming explained in the workplan later in this memo will continue to be coordinated in partnership with existing local community members, businesses and groups, and is entirely within the community goals documented and prioritized by the Task Force in 2024 and submitted to CAAPB and the legislature.

At the October 2025 CAAP Board Meeting, board members will meet the team leads from the Sheriff's Office and hear an overview presentation of the following information, followed by a chance to ask questions.

Background

In the final Minnesota State Government bill language this session (<u>Chapter 39 – SF3045</u>), the Vitality Account plan (\$3 million) was approved and signed into law in 2025.

Sec. 45. APPROPRIATION; ADMINISTRATION.

\$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 is appropriated from the Capitol Area community vitality account to the commissioner of administration for a grant to Ramsey County for the Ramsey County sheriff to implement a coordinated public safety and livability plan in the Capitol Area. The plan must be developed in partnership with the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board and their community partners to improve the livability, economic health, and safety of communities within the Capitol Area excluding the state-owned buildings and state leased-to-own buildings in the Capitol Area. The coordinated effort must focus specifically on public safety, youth and family programming, and street and neighborhood cleanup and ambassadors. The Ramsey County sheriff must consult the commissioner of public safety in all matters involving the Capitol complex prior to the expenditure of these funds. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2029.

In the final bonding bill, \$1 million was approved for the creation of a Capitol Area economic development grant program for the purpose of making grants to new and existing businesses within the Capitol Area in the amount of \$50,000 to \$150,000. (Chapter 14, H.F. No. 17, Section 3, Subdivision 3.)

Subd. 3. Capitol Area Economic Development Grant Program

1,000,000

(a) For a grant to the St. Paul Port Authority for the creation of a Capitol Area economic development grant program, for the purpose of making grants to new and existing businesses within the Capitol Area in the amount of \$50,000 to \$150,000 for operating equipment, facade, and other capital improvements with up to ten percent eligible for administration of the program.

An Integrated Revitalization Model Powered by RCSO, SPPA and CAAPB Collaborating with Community Partners

The project is designed to integrate public safety with community vitality, ensuring that safety efforts enable livability, social connection, and economic growth. It complements a separate \$1M grant to the Saint Paul Port Authority focused on business/economic development. CAAPB and RCSO have or will consult with neighborhood residents, neighborhood groups, State Agencies such as the Department of Administration Facilities Management, Department of Public Safety, Capitol Security, City of Saint Paul, Saint Paul Police Department, Capitol Heights Block Club, Good Neighbor Group, dozens of businesses, a diversity of residents, several medical facilities, and institutions such as League of Minnesota Cities, Saint Paul City School, and Christ on Capitol Hill Lutheran Church, and the Good Neighbor Center.

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Workplan

Developed in consultation with CAAPB Staff, legislative staff, and community group leads, the Capitol Area Public Safety & Vitality Project is a three-year initiative (July 2025–June 2028), funded by a \$3M state grant to the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) (net \$2.865M after administrative costs). The programming is directly informed by the Community Vitality Task Force recommendations.

CAAPB's Role: Guidance, Relationships, and Support

Through quarterly reviews, CAAPB supports alignment with community priorities and the comprehensive plan. Collaborating with RCSO and partners, CAAPB offers expert guidance on design standards and community cocreation, enhancing the area's safety, livability, and economic vitality while addressing post-COVID challenges.

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office: Three Pillars of Programming

- 1. Public Safety through Community Engagement
 - Deputies, patrols, mobile security cameras, safety walks.
 - o **Goal:** 15% crime reduction in disorderly conduct/narcotics by Year 3.
- 2. Youth & Family Programming
 - o After-school, leadership, literacy, conflict resolution, family nights, arts and wellness activities.
 - o Goal: 300 youth engagements annually, 500 storefront interactions, 80% positive feedback.
- 3. Neighborhood Cleanup & Ambassadors
 - o Street beautification, quarterly cleanups, placemaking projects, youth-led initiatives.

 Goal: Quarterly cleanup events and receive positive community feedback on neighborhood appearance by Year 3.

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Supporting Structure:

- **Regular partner and community meetings** convening a working 'CAP Team' to drive and support programming and to report on progress towards objectives.
- Community Gatherings and Pop-Up Barbeques leveraging current practices RSCO brings.
- **Rice Street storefront hub** providing a visible address to host engagement activities, community and partnership meetings, youth programs, safety resources, and business grants and resources.
- Community input and co-creation via forums and surveys.
- Performance metrics built into regular reporting and CAAPB consultations.
- **Website** for resources and grant information, latest updates, event info, calendar, promotion, and reporting on successes.
- Collaboration from the Sheriff's Team as an Inspector from RCSO will lead each of the programming pillars, all managed by Inspector Darrin McDonald. RCSO Deputies will patrol the Capitol Area, coordinating and complementing SPPD and Capitol Security's established presence in the Capitol Area.
 - Note: RCSO Inspectors programming activities and Deputies presence will focus on off-campus issues. RCSO Community Service Officers and Ambassadors will assist.

Strengths of the Work Plan

- Alignment with Task Force recommendations on youth programming, cleanup/ambassadors, community co-creation, and safety/livability balance.
- Clear, measurable outcomes tied to budget allocations (crime reduction, engagement counts, survey targets).
- Partnership-driven approach includes CAAPB, Port Authority, nonprofits, schools, and residents (Consulting with: City of Saint Paul, DPS, Capitol Security).
- **Sustaining of Vitality** gains, and momentum through post-2028 initial funding sunset, Rice Street reconstruction.

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Budget Overview

Total Net Budget: \$2.865M (plus in-kind contributions valued over \$1M).

1. Community Engagement & Youth Services - \$1.49M (52%)

- Four Community Service Officers (\$939K).
- o Nonprofit contracts for youth development (\$175K), family outreach (\$150K), social connection (\$165K), and placemaking/wellness (\$60K).
- o In-kind: Frogtown Community Center space, local artists, RCSO supplemental youth programming.

2. Community Policing & Safety - \$966K (34%)

- o Two Deputies full-time (\$906K).
- o Mobile security camera (\$60K).
- o In-kind: RCSO crime analysis, leadership, partnerships, supplemental patrols.

3. Infrastructure & Accessibility – \$188K (7%)

Rice Street storefront setup (\$88K) and operations (\$100K).

o In-kind: accessibility design consultation, volunteer contributions.

4. Administrative Overhead - \$150K (5%)

- State (4.5%) and County oversight (hiring, planning, coordination).
- o In-kind: CAAPB staff support, fiscal management systems.

5. Supplies & Equipment - \$70K (2%)

- o Youth program supplies, outreach materials, signage (\$50K).
- o CPED improvements (lighting, etc., \$20K).
- o In-kind: cleanup kits, volunteer labor.

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Summary Budget Table

Category	Amount (\$)	Percentage (%)	Details
Community Engagement/Youth Services	\$1,489,909	52%	Ambassadors, youth/family programs
2. Community Policing & Safety	\$966,582	34%	Deputies, mobile camera, patrols
3. Infrastructure/Accessibility	\$188,508	7%	Rice Street storefront setup
4. Administrative Overhead	\$150,000	5%	Grant oversight, coordination
5. Program Supplies/Equipment	\$70,000	2%	Youth materials, CPTED investments
Total	\$2,865,000	100%	(Net after \$135,000 overhead)

In-kind contributions by RCSO currently estimated at: \$1,089,000.

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Implementation Timeline

Year 1 (2025-2026):

- Deploy deputies & camera, launch storefront, co-create youth programs (100–300 youth).
- Quarterly CAAPB check-ins; three block parties; three public art projects.

Year 2 (2026-2027):

- Sustain patrols, storefront, and youth programs (300+ youth annually).
- Annual CAAPB report showing 15% crime reduction, 70% positive safety surveys.
- Develop long-term Rice Street vitality plan.

Year 3 (2027-2028):

- Secure post-2028 funding.
- Achieve final metrics: 15% crime reduction, 80% positive youth feedback, 75% satisfaction with storefront hub.

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Governance & Oversight

• Fiscal oversight: Department of Administration; monthly invoicing by RCSO; quarterly budget reviews.

 Metrics and Accountability: Quarterly community and CAAPB check-ins and annual public presentations (2026–2028) that include updates on performance measures — safety, youth engagement, trust score increases, livability and overall community satisfaction.

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Next Steps

- **1. Initiate Year 1 Implementation (2025–2026):** Deploy deputies and mobile security cameras, launch the Rice Street storefront hub, and co-create youth programs targeting 100–300 youth engagements, while organizing block parties and community engagement efforts.
- **2. Establish Quarterly Check-ins and Metrics Tracking:** Set up the governance structure with quarterly CAAPB and community check-ins to monitor progress, ensuring fiscal oversight through monthly invoicing by RCSO and tracking performance metrics such as crime reduction, youth engagement, and community feedback.
- **3. Develop Partnerships and Community Co-Creation Forums:** Convene the 'CAP Team' with RCSO, Saint Paul Port Authority, and community partners (e.g., Capitol Heights Block Club, local businesses, nonprofits) to hold regular meetings and community forums, ensuring ongoing input and co-creation through surveys and events to align programming with Task Force recommendations.

Saint Paul Port Authority (SPPA):

Capitol Outreach for Revitalization and Expansion (CORE) Grant Program

Overview

The Saint Paul Port Authority's **Capitol Outreach for Revitalization and Expansion (CORE) Grant Program**, authorized by the Legislature during the last session, is a **capital improvement initiative** designed to:

- Spur economic revitalization in the Capitol Area,
- Strengthen community resilience, and
- Support long-term business growth.

This program directly aligns with the Capitol Area Community Vitality (CACV) Task Force outcomes and 2040 Comprehensive Plan goals, emphasizing equity and inclusion, sustainability, community-driven development, and neighborhood vitality.

SPPA Program Design

The CORE program introduces a **key economic development tool** for the Capitol Area, enabling businesses to make transformative capital investments that generate jobs, enhance vitality, and expand the tax base. Staff will continue to coordinate with the Port Authority and provide updates as implementation moves forward.

- Funding & Scope: Up to 17 grants will be awarded, ranging from \$50,000 to \$150,000.
- Eligible Applicants: Businesses operating within or relocating to the Capitol Area.
- **Use of Funds:** Capital improvements such as equipment purchases, façade upgrades, and property-based investments.
- Ineligible Applicants: Mobile or home-based businesses, nonprofits, government agencies, schools, and faith-based organizations. This restriction reflects the Port Authority's mission to expand the job base and tax base.

SPPA Administration

- The Port Authority is finalizing program documents with the Department of Administration, including the budget, workplan, application, and grant agreement.
- Applications will be reviewed and scored by the Port Authority's Credit Committee.
- Compliance with Minnesota contracting law is required (prevailing wage, contractor in good standing, and conflict-of-interest standards).

SPPA Next Steps

- Outreach Campaign: Targeted to partners, stakeholders, elected officials, the Ramsey County Sheriff's
 Office, and the community. Engagement will include informational meetings, direct outreach, and social
 media.
- **Timeline:** Applications are anticipated to open in November/December 2025, positioning local businesses to launch investments as early as 2026.

Attachment

Attachment A: Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Draft Vitality Program Workplan



Capitol Area Public Safety & Vitality Work Plan & Budget





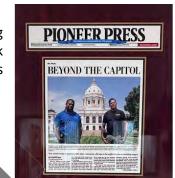


Introduction

The **Capitol Area Public Safety & Vitality Project**, funded by a \$3 million state grant to the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office (RCSO), aims to enhance public safety, livability, and vitality in Saint Paul's Capitol Area. After a 4.5% charge (\$135,000) for administrative overhead by the Minnesota Department of Administration, \$2.865 million is allocated over three years (July 2025 – June 2028) to support project initiatives.

Developed in partnership with the Capitol Area Architectural & Planning Board (CAAPB) and rooted in the Capitol Area Community Vitality Task Force's recommendations, this initiative emphasizes three of the pillars identified through a planning process in 2024:

- Public safety through community engagement
- Youth and family programming services
- Street and neighborhood cleanup with community ambassadors



Public safety is integrated with vitality by creating secure environments that foster community engagement, support economic growth, and enhance neighborhood vibrancy through co-created programs. The Saint Paul Port Authority also received an additional \$1 million grant to address a fourth pillar: support for business and economic development in the Capitol Area.

This document is an integrated workplan and budget narrative. It provides summary of programmatic objectives, cost breakdowns, and in-kind contributions while emphasizing community co-creation (particularly in community engagement/youth services), and connecting public safety and vitality together. This document ensures alignment with the Legislative intent, Vitality Task Force recommendations, and CAAPB recommendations prioritizing livability, economic health, and safety.

Project Summary

The Capitol Area Public Safety & Vitality Project is the core of community-driven revitalization initiative to enhance and sustain safety, livability, community strength and to support youth and families in the Capitol Area. It leverages a \$2.865 million (net) grant to the RCSO and complements an additional \$1 million grant to the Saint Paul Port Authority for economic development.

The project includes:

- Public safety efforts, such as proactive patrols and mobile cameras, enable vitality by creating safe spaces for community activities and economic growth.
- Youth and family programs co-created with residents, businesses, and organizations promote livability through education and social connection.
- Cleanup and ambassador initiatives enhance neighborhood aesthetics, supporting economic health by attracting businesses and visitors.
- Community co-creation ensures programs reflect Capitol Area needs, fostering trust and longterm impact.



Project Background

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

RCSO is Minnesota's first law enforcement agency, established in 1849 before Minnesota was a state. The office provides public safety, law enforcement, and community services in accordance with constitutional and statutory mandates. With nearly 500 employees, the office is committed to leadership in public safety through professionalism, partnerships, and community.

RCSO is uniquely positioned to lead this work in partnership with CAAPB, community, and partner organizations, including the City of Saint Paul, Saint Paul Port Authority, Metropolitan Council, State of Minnesota, and Ramsey County departments. At RCSO, community engagement and youth outreach are embedded within every division of the office. RCSO builds and fosters relationships across the region. Current community engagement efforts will be leveraged to support this work.

Capitol Area Architectural & Planning Board

CAAPB is a Minnesota state agency responsible for guiding the development and design of the Capitol Area in Saint Paul, which includes about 60 blocks surrounding the State Capitol. The Capitol Area is designated by state law (Minnesota Statutes, section 158.02) includes the business and homes around the Minnesota State Capitol. The Capitol Area's statutory boundaries include Pennsylvania Avenue to Interstate and Jackson Street to Marion Street.

Established to preserve the area's architectural integrity and character, CAAPB oversees zoning, urban planning, and design standards for public and private development within the area. It reviews proposed buildings, memorials, and renovations to ensure they align with long-term planning goals. Governed by a 12-member board, including appointees from the Governor, Legislature, and City of Saint Paul, CAAPB works collaboratively with government agencies and community to ensure the Capitol Area remains a safe, accessible, and vibrant space.

Background

The Capitol Area Public Safety & Vitality Project is collaboratively addressing new investment change, and long range revitalization. Capitol Area neighborhoods have faced multiple, overlapping challenges in recent years, including the loss of workers, impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest, shifts to remote work affecting the commercial market, corridor-wide business and retail decline, drug trafficking, housing instability, and concentrated poverty. At the same time, the area is entering a period of significant transformation, driven by investments in new building projects and infrastructure improvements.

Project funding will support the community in stabilizing and moving forward. It will provide the time and capacity to evaluate and develop strong, realistic, and sustainable models for community development and revitalization. This work is grounded in the further development of community assets and resources. A targeted investments over the span of this project will support the creation of a long-term development model that brings together partners to build a shared, effective, and collaborative future.

Objectives

The Capitol Area Public Safety & Vitality Project is a team effort from July 2025 to June 2028 by the RCSO, CAAPB, and community partners. Objectives are focused on increasing safety, improving access to wraparound services, promoting economic growth, and bringing residents together to cultivate and empower a stronger community.

Enhance community safety and vitality through partnerships that integrate public safety with community engagement and economic growth.

Reduce quality-of-life issues and criminal activity (e.g., 15% reduction in disorderly conduct/narcotics) to create vibrant, livable neighborhoods.

Improve access to safety net, stability, and preventive services through a co-created storefront hub.

Strengthen partnerships with public agencies, neighborhood organizations, and residents for collaborative, non-duplicative programming.

Promote violence prevention through co-created youth and family engagement, fostering livability and social cohesion.

Foster long-term sustainability through beautification, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), and post-2028 funding plans.



Budget Overview

The proposed budget allocation includes the following:

Budget: RCSO CAAPB Grant State Fiscal Years 2024-2025



Exhibit B.1

Organization:

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office & Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

		Fiscal Year 2026		Fiscal Y	ear 2027	Fiscal Year 2028	Total
Community Policing/Safety - Personnel	\$	302,194	\$		302,194	\$ 302,194	\$ 906,582
Community Policing/Safety - Equipment	\$	60,000	\$		-	\$ -	\$ 60,000
Community Engagement/Youth Services - Personnel	\$	313,303	\$		313,303	\$ 313,303	\$ 939,910
Community Engagement/Youth Services - Services	\$	100,000	\$	X	225,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 550,000
Infrastructure/Accessibility - Office Space	\$	88,508	\$		50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 188,508
Administrative Overhead- Ramsey County (5%)	\$	95,000	\$		30,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 150,000
Program Supplies/Equipment	\$	40,000	\$		15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 70,000
Total:	\$	999,005	\$		935,497	\$ 930,497	\$ 2,865,000

Program Supplies / Equipment
2%
Infrastructure / Accessibility
7%
Administrative Overhead
5%

Community Engagement /
Youth Services
52%

Community Policing and
Safety
34%

The proposed funding allocation invests in community outreach and youth services as well as provides for community policing and safety.

Page 4

Budget Narrative

The \$2.865 million budget is allocated across five categories, with detailed cost breakdowns, in-kind contributions, and linkages to vitality and the work plan's measurable outcomes (e.g., 15% crime reduction, 300 youth interactions per year, 500 storefront interactions). Community co-creation is emphasized, particularly in Community Engagement/Youth Services, to reflect Capitol Area priorities.

		Community Policing and Safety (\$966, <mark>58</mark> 2, 34%)			
Personnel: Pub	olic safety through	community engagement, increased visibility, and referrals to services			
Deputies		Two Deputies assigned full-time to grant. \$151,097/year each (base \$104,853 + benefits \$46,244).			
		Total: \$302,194/year × 3 years = \$906,582.			
Equipment					
Mobile Secu	rity Camera	\$60,000 total – Year 1 purchase for Park Street/University Avenue and other locations as needed.			
In-Kind Service	es (Estimated Value	e: \$698,918)			
RCSO in-dep	th crime analysis	Crime analysis services estimated at 500 hours/year at \$50/hour (\$75,000 over 3 years) for data-			
		driven crime mapping and hotspot identification, fostering safer corridors for economic vitality.			
Local law en	forcement	Joint partnership (\$30,000 over 3 years), strengthening community trust and livability. Local law			
partnerships	5	enforcement includes Saint Paul Police, Metro Transit Police, and Minnesota State Patrol.			
RCSO Leade	rship and	Inspector assigned to provide leadership and coordination of grant (0.8 FTE, \$480,000)			
coordination	า	$$160,000/year$ (base $$110,000 + 45\%$ benefits). Total: $$160,000 \times 3$ years = $$480,000$.			
RCSO supple	emental patrols	County-wide supplemental patrols (e.g., Carjacking/Auto Theft Unit), \$113,333/year × 3 years.			
Roles and Vital	lity Connection				
Safety:	Deputies reduce	crime 15% by Year 3, creating safe spaces that enable community vitality.			
Livability:					
	surveys, fostering vibrant neighborhoods.				
Economic:	omic: 10 annual business safety walks enhance commercial corridors, boosting economic vitality and complementing Port				
	Authority's \$1M grant.				
More:	Cleanup/Ambassadors: Deputies join quarterly "Capitol Clean" events, linking safety to neighborhood beautification and				
	community pride	. Inspector ensures community-driven outcomes via CAAPB feedback, connecting safety to vitality.			

Supports Q1 2025 deputy/camera deployment, Q2 patrol expansion, 15% crime reduction, 300+ resident engagements.





		Community Francous (Novela Comicae (CA 400 000 F30/)				
Davis a mark Amel	le constant de la con	Community Engagement/Youth Services (\$1,489,909, 52%)				
		e neighborhood aesthetics, supporting economic health by attracting businesses and visitors				
Community Service Officers		Four Community Service Officers assigned full-time to grant. \$78,326/year each (base \$58,283 +				
		\$20,043 benefits). Total: \$313,303/year × 3 years = \$939,909.				
	-	cts, co-created with Capitol Area residents, businesses, and organizations				
Youth Development		\$175,000 total – \$58,333/year for contracts with community providers, such as Boys & Girls Club,				
		Upper Mississippi Academy, etc. for after-school programs, literacy, leadership training. Estimated				
		300 youth interactions per year				
Family Outre	each	\$150,000 total – \$50,000/year for community councils to host five (5) Family Nights, parenting				
		workshops, job training access, and other opportunities for referrals to resources.				
Crime Preve	ntion / Social	\$165,000 total – \$55,000/year for nonprofits to deliver conflict resolution workshops, three (3) block				
Connection		parties per year.				
Sustainabilit	Sustainability / Placemaking \$60,000 total – \$20,000/year for wellness programs (e.g., community yoga), three (3) public art					
		projects with local artists, and youth development partnerships.				
In-Kind Service	s (Estimated Value	e: \$165,000)				
Frogtown Co	mmunity Center p	rovides space for youth programs ($$20,000$ /year \times 3 = $$60,000$).				
RCSO supple	mental communit	y and youth programming (\$25,000 year x 3 = \$75,000).				
		cemaking projects (\$10,000/year × 3 = \$30,000).				
Roles and Vital	ity Connection					
Safety:	Conflict resolutio	n workshops support 70% positive safety surveys, linking safety to community trust and vitality.				
Livability:						
	groups) engage 300 youth in after-school activities, targeting 80% positive feedback by Year 3, fostering educational					
	success and socia	al cohesion.				
Economic:	Job training acces	ss and block parties attract businesses/visitors, enhancing economic vitality.				
More:						
	Community Center) shapes program design. Quarterly CAAPB check-ins and resident surveys refine initiatives to reflect					
		ities, ensuring inclusive, responsive programming.				
-						

Supports Q1 youth program launch, Q2 100 youth participants, Q4 300 youth/500 resident interactions 10% annual trust score increase.



Infrastructure/Accessibility (\$188,508, 7%)					
Community Ac	cessibility:				
Storefront S	etup \$88,508 total – Year 1 costs				
Operations	ations \$50,000 in Years 2–3 for maintenance, utilities.				
In-Kind Service	In-Kind Services (Estimated Value: \$60,000):				
Saint Paul Po	Saint Paul Port Authority provides storefront design consultation ($$15,000 \times 1 = $15,000$).				
Local businesses donate event supplies (e.g., tables, \$5,000/year × 3 = \$15,000).					
Community volunteers assist with storefront events ($$10,000/year \times 3 = $30,000$).					
Roles and Vitality Linkage:					
Safety:	Sheriff's community substation enhances safety, encouraging community engagement and vitality.				
Livability:	Rice Street storefront hosts co-created youth programs, safety services, and 500 resident interactions, creating a vibrant				
	community hub (75% satisfaction).				
Economic:	Revitalizes Rice St., supporting commercial growth and Port Authority's \$1M grant				

Supports Q1 2025 setup, Q4 500 interactions, post-2028 sustainability.

	Administrative Overhead (\$150,000, 5%)			
Administrative a	and Support Service	es		
State (4.5%, \$	3135,000)	\$45,000/year × 3 years for grant oversight.		
County (5%, \$	\$150,000)	\$95,000 Year 1 (startup: hiring, planning), \$30,000 Year 2, \$25,000 Year 3		
In-Kind Services	(Estimated Value:	\$120,000):		
Ramsey Coun	ity provides fiscal m			
CAAPB staff s	upport coordinatio	$n = ($5,000/year \times 3 = $15,000).$		
Additional su	pport services from	the Sheriff's Office (\$25,000/year × 3 = \$75,000).		
Roles and Vitality Linkage:				
Livability:	Ensures efficient re	source use (economic health) and co-created programming (livability) via quarterly CAAPB reviews,		
	linking safety to vit	ality through transparent oversight.		

Support the overall grant and project management efforts.



Program Supplies/Equipment (\$70,000, 2%)					
Supplies	slies \$50,000 total – \$16,666/year for youth materials (\$5,000: books, art), outreach (\$5,000: flyers,				
	newsletters), event supplies (\$5,000: tables, signage).				
Equipment	\$20,000 total – Year 1 Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) investments (e.g.,				
	enhanced lighting).				
In-Kind Services	s (Estimated Value: \$45,000):				
Local busines	ses donate cleanup kits (\$5,000/year × 3 = \$15,000).				
Community v	volunteers provide cleanup labor (\$10,000/year × 3 = \$30,000).				
Roles and Vitali	ty Linkage:				
Safety:	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) improves safety, encouraging community engagement.				
Livability:	Supports co-created youth programs, quarterly "Capitol Clean" events, enhancing community pride and vibrancy.				
Economic:	Beautification attracts businesses/visitors, supporting economic vitality.				

Supports Q1 youth/cleanup launch, Q4 300 youth/500 resident interactions, sustainability goals.

Additional Information

- The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) will submit monthly invoices to the Minnesota Department of Administration, ensuring a smooth and compliant reimbursement process as required. Quarterly program and budget reviews, along with regular RCSO and CAAPB meetings, will allow for necessary adjustments, demonstrating our adherence to oversight protocols.
- On June 11, 2025, RCSO met with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Commissioner and staff to align this initiative with state guidelines, fulfilling mandated collaboration.
- Until all hiring is finalized (targeting September 1, 2025), current RCSO staff will support the initiative, ensuring continuity while addressing staffing needs, bolstered by strong community leadership support.



Timeline and Key Components

The following table provides a timeline and major planned activities:

Timeline	Timeline Major Planned Activities						
Year 1 (July 2025 – June 2026)							
Quarter 1 (Jul–Sep 2025)	 Form task force with residents, businesses, nonprofits (e.g., Frogtown Community Center, Saint Paul City School). Deploy deputies, camera. Initiate storefront setup. Launch co-created youth programs (100 youth). CAAPB Check-in (Sep 2025): Present initial metrics, resident feedback. 						
Quarter 2 (Oct–Dec 2025)	 Open storefront; expand patrols. Scale youth programs to 200 participants via community input. CAAPB Check-in (Dec 2025): Report Q1 crime metrics, youth participation. 						
Quarter 3 (Jan–Mar 2026)	 Finalize storefront; scale youth to 300 with resident-designed programs. CAAPB Check-in (Mar 2026): Update on infrastructure, safety surveys. 						
Quarter 4 (Apr–Jun 2026)	 Achieve 300 youth/500 storefront interactions, 3 block parties, 3 placemaking projects. CAAPB Check-in (Jun 2026): Year 1 evaluation, crime reduction progress. 						
	Year 2 (July 2026 – June 2027)						
All Quarters	 Sustain patrols, youth programs, storefront. Refine resident surveys. Annual CAAPB Presentation (Jun 2027): Report 15% crime reduction, 70% safety survey positivity, 300 youth/500 resident interactions. Develop Rice Street vitality sustainability plan. Recalibrate based on community, CAAPB, and legislative input 						
	Year 3 (July 2027 – June 2028)						
All Quarters	 Maintain operations; secure post-2028 funding. Annual CAAPB Presentation (Jun 2028): Final metrics (15% crime reduction, 80% youth feedback, 75% storefront satisfaction). Recalibrate based on community, CAAPB, and legislative input 						

Key Components

The Capitol Area Public Safety & Vitality Project, a partnership between RCSO and CAAPB, outlines a work plan and budget to boost safety and vitality in Saint Paul's Capitol Area (July 2025–June 2028). Supported by a \$2.865 million state grant to RCSO and \$1 million to the Saint Paul Port Authority, it focuses on key areas — Community Policing, Engagement/Youth Services, Infrastructure, Partnerships, Transit, and Beautification — as shown below. Aiming for 15% crime reduction and 300 youth engaged, the plan adapts with community feedback.

Community Policing and Safety

• Deputies, camera, patrols reduce crime 15%, enabling vitality by fostering safe spaces for engagement and economic activity.

Community Engagement/Youth Services

•Co-created programs (resident forums, youth focus groups, community council partnerships) engage 300 youth a year, 500 residents, promoting livability and social cohesion.

Infrastructure/Accessibility

• Rice Street storefront as a co-created vitality hub for services, events.

Collaborative Partnerships

•Co-creation with residents, Saint Paul Police, Metro Transit Police, Port Authority, and community councils ensures non-duplicative efforts.

Public Transit/Mobility

•Safety presence at light rail supports accessibility, enhancing vitality.

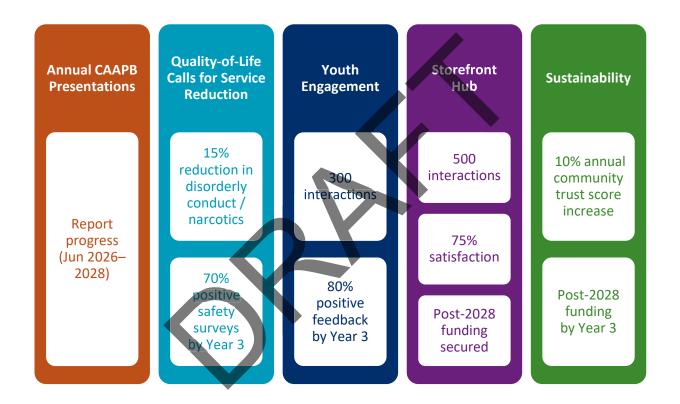
Beautification/Sustainability

•Quarterly cleanups, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), and placemaking create vibrant, economically attractive spaces.



Performance Measures

Performance measures are essential tools used to evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of grant-funded activities. They provide a framework for tracking progress toward project goals, ensuring accountability, and demonstrating outcomes to funders and stakeholders. By clearly defining specific, measurable indicators aligned with the objectives of the grant, performance measures help assess whether the allocated resources are being used effectively and whether the project is achieving its intended results. This section outlines the key performance metrics that will be used to monitor progress, guide decision-making, and support continuous improvement throughout the grant period.



Conclusion

The Capitol Area Public Safety & Vitality Project integrates public safety with vitality through cocreated programs, transparent budgeting, and in-kind partnerships. With 66% of the budget (\$1.89M) supporting youth/family programming, cleanup, ambassadors, and infrastructure, and 34% (\$966K) enhancing safety, it delivers measurable outcomes (15% crime reduction, 300 youth/500 resident interactions per year, 80% youth feedback) that align with the Capitol Area Community Vitality Task Force's goals and vision.

Community co-creation via resident forums, surveys, and partnerships ensures programs reflect Capitol Area priorities, fostering trust and sustainability beyond 2028. Quarterly CAAPB reviews and monthly fiscal reporting guarantee accountability, securing the full \$2.865 million for lasting impact.



Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board



Freeman Building 625 Robert Street North Saint Paul, MN 55155 651-757-1500

https://mn.gov/caapb/

Date: October 3, 2025

To: Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board members

From: Ella Coon, Planner Fellow, Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB)

CC: Erik Cedarleaf Dahl, Executive Secretary, CAAPB

Peter Musty, Principal Planner & Zoning Administrator, CAAPB

RE: AGENDA ITEM #5 – Application to Propose a New Commemorative Work:

Downtown Baseball Park

Downtown Baseball Park: "The Pillbox"

History as Presented in Commemorative Works Application Submitted by Stew Thornley, Halsey Hall Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research:

The Downtown Baseball Park also known as the Pillbox due to its small size, was a historic baseball park which was located on the northwest corner of 12th and Robert, on the site now occupied by the laboratory building for the Minnesota departments of Health and Agriculture. The ballpark, which was in use from 1903 to 1910, was used by St. Paul Saints Minor league team and as a frequent home of a significant all Black team, the St. Paul Gophers (also called the St. Paul Colored Gophers).

The Saints were an all-white team, as were the others in what was called 'organized baseball,' because of a racial barrier that existed until the 1940s. Some integrated teams existed at various levels outside the professional ranks, although mostly the game was completely segregated. Even before the formal Negro Leagues were formed, many all-Black professional teams existed, sometimes playing against white teams, both amateur and professional.

The Pillbox in its final years was one of the local homes for the St. Paul Colored Gophers, who played a series of games against the Saints in 1907. Both teams recruited outside players, including a couple of Minneapolis Millers to play with the Saints. The Gophers benefited from the presence of Andrew 'Rube' Foster, the manager of the Chicago Leland Giants as well as one of the best Black pitchers in the country (and the man who would organize the Negro National League in 1920). Foster was back with the Colored Gophers in 1908 and pitched a no-hitter over a team from Hibbing August 28.

The following year, the Gophers matched up with the Leland Giants in what was billed as the 'world's colored championship.' Rube Foster was back with his regular team, the Giants, but he broke his leg prior to the games in St. Paul, and the Chicago pitching duties fell to others. The Colored Gophers had

Bobby Marshall, one of Minnesota's most remarkable athletes. A multi-sports star at Central High School in Minneapolis, Marshall became an All-America football player at the University of Minnesota. The Gophers beat the Leland Giants in the series, a victory that established their reputation as one of the best Black teams in the Midwest. The Colored Gophers continued playing at the Pillbox through 1910, when the ballpark was abandoned, hastening the demise of the team.

Through the years, the ballpark had found many uses beyond baseball, from speed skating in the winter to professional wrestling in the summer. The Pillbox site is now occupied by a laboratory building for the Minnesota Departments of Health and Agriculture on the north side of Interstates 94 and 35E, a one mile stretch of freeway known as Spaghetti Junction.



Figure 1. Downtown Ball Park, St. Paul. No Date. Minnesota Historical Society.

Staff Acceptance of Application

On December 18, 2024, CAAPB staff received an application from Stew Thornley, of the Halsey Hall Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research, to add a plaque commemorating the site of the historic Downtown Base Ball Park -- "the pillbox" in Saint Paul.

CAAPB staff reviewed the application per Minnesota Rules 2400.2703, Subpart 3, Item A, and deemed it to be incomplete. The applicant was advised of the determination via memo dated December 30, 2024, which also included additional information on what was missing in the application. The applicant resubmitted the addition request on January 2, 2025, and after a second review, CAAPB staff found the submission to be complete on January 15, 2025.

Staff Review and Findings

According to the rules, once CAAPB determines the application to be complete, Board staff must review and analyze whether the application for new commemorative artwork meets the conditions in *M.R.*

2400.2703, Subpart 2 ("Conditions for adding a new artwork"), and prepare a written report with these findings.

Subp. 2. Conditions for adding new artwork. The board must consider displaying new commemorative artwork in the Capitol area if the artwork meets all the following conditions:

- A. there has been documented public support of the artwork;
- B. the artwork has lasting statewide significance for Minnesotans;
- C. the artwork is respectful of the diversity of Minnesotans;
- D. viewing the artwork provides a rich experience to broaden the understanding of Minnesota's shared history, heritage, and culture;

Upon review, CAAPB staff concluded that the addition request meets all the conditions in *Minnesota Rules 2400.2703, Subpart 2*.

Staff analysis (condition A): The applicant asserts statewide support for markers by naming commemorative markers for the Metropolitan Stadium at the Mall of America, Lexington Park Ballpark in St. Paul and Nicollet Park in Minneapolis as examples. The applicant also cited The Society for American Baseball Research as a staunch supporter of nationwide commemorative markers through the organization's Baseball Landmarks Research Committee.

Staff analysis (condition B): The applicant cites the artwork's statewide significance, cites the sport's perennial presence in Minnesota's social and recreational history, illustrating how baseball was embraced in the area as early as 1857, before Minnesotan achieved statehood. The applicant further asserts the central role of Saint Paul in the state's baseball history and the impact of the game on the Twin Cities' historic rivalry.

 Additional Staff Note: There is established anecdotal popularity of exhibits installed at Target Field in Minneapolis documenting the importance of professional, amateur, and local levels of baseball in communities all over Minnesota.

Staff analysis (condition C): The application showcases intent to celebrate Minnesota's diversity, throughout highlighting the diverse history of the sport in the state and by identifying all Black players and teams that were associated with the particular park to be commemorated.

Staff analysis (condition D): Although the application doesn't explicitly expound on how the artwork would broaden the understanding of Minnesota's shared history, heritage, and culture, the application puts a spotlight on evolution of Minnesota's baseball history before and after racial segregation and restores underrepresented ballplayers in this history.

Considering the above analysis, CAAPB staff determined **the addition request met the conditions in** *M. R. 2400.2703, Subpart 2.* Following this determination, CAAPB staff sought and received the Board's affirmation for a public comment period and the hosting of one public hearing to gather input on whether the application meets the conditions in *M. R. 2400.2703, Subpart 2.* CAAPB staff presented this determination to the Board on March 24, 2025.

That said, staff identified the need to corroborate certain historical facts presented in the application at this stage and engaged an independent historical consultant to these ends. The research findings are described below. The full report is provided as an attachment to this memo.

A Summary of Public Comments

With the Board's affirmation, a 35-day public comment period was opened from March 31 to May 5, 2025. The public hearing was held on May 15, 2025.

CAAPB staff received a total of 16 public comments submitted during the public comment period and the public hearing on May 15th. Staff analyzed only 13 of the 16 comments—three of the comments were submitted twice—both in-person at the hearing and via email. Of the 13 relevant comments: four (30.8 percent) affirmed that the application meets of all the conditions *in M.R.2400.2703., Subpart 2;* eight comments (61.5 percent) supported request to commemorate the Pillbox Ball Park on the State Capitol Grounds; and one comment (7.7 percent) opposed the request to commemorate the Pillbox Ball Park on the state Capitol grounds. The single negative comment did not make a statement on whether or not the commemorative work under review meets the conditions in *Subpart 2*.

Historical Background Report on Site of Baseball Park: Pigeon Consulting

Before presenting application to the Board for an action after the public comment period, CAAPB staff engaged Pigeon Consulting, a historic preservation consulting firm, to conduct a background study on the baseball park and its former site for fact-checking purposes.

Staff received the report in June 2025. Upon reviewing the report, the CAAPB staff found no significant factual errors regarding the application as it was submitted by Stew Thornley on January 2, 2025. Staff, however, did identify some ambiguities surrounding less significant historical facts, which may need further corroboration later, if the application advances to the design stage. The report from Pigeon Consulting, however, did raise concerns regarding language used to refer to the park: although the application did not explicitly state the Downtown Baseball Park was named "the pillbox," the historical report urged further disambiguation, as "pillbox" was a colloquialism for small, urban baseball parks during the early 20th century.

More substantial differences between the report written by Pigeon Consulting and application concerned historical narrative: The independent report placed greater emphasis on the historical evolution of the site, highlighting how a large-scale bakery came to occupy the site in 1910 after the ballpark was demolished; by contrast, the application sought to only commemorate the ballpark.

The CAAPB staff met with Pigeon Consulting on July 24, 2025, to discuss the report's findings in more detail. Although Pigeon Consulting did not offer a formal opinion or recommendation in this meeting, Pigeon Consulting did reemphasize the idea that the bakery was as important to the site's history as the ballpark from a historic preservation perspective. Specifically, Pigeon Consulting highlighted the bakery's importance to local labor history and its relation to larger patterns of immigration to and urban development of the State, a feature of the site's history they saw absent from the application.

This disjuncture between the narrative offered in the report and application spoke to adjacent conversations CAAPB staff and Advisors had earlier in the review process regarding other facets of the ballpark's history missing from the application important to understanding Minnesota's urban history, such as: displacement and demolition associated with the (1) construction of the interstate system and

(2) the destruction of old Central Park and (3) what preceded the ballpark on the site. These omissions take on heightened importance given the former park's location in the current boundaries of the Capitol Area.

A Summary of Public Comments

With the Board's affirmation, a 35-day public comment period was opened from March 31 to May 5, 2025. The public hearing was held on May 15, 2025.

CAAPB staff received a total of 16 public comments submitted during the public comment period and the public hearing on May 15th. Staff analyzed only 13 of the 16 comments—three of the comments were submitted twice—both in-person at the hearing and via email. Of the 13 relevant comments: four (30.8 percent) affirmed that the application meets of all the conditions *in M.R.2400.2703.*, *Subpart 2*; eight comments (61.5 percent) supported request to commemorate the Pillbox Ball Park on the State Capitol Grounds; and one comment (7.7 percent) opposed the request to commemorate the Pillbox Ball Park on the state Capitol grounds. The single negative comment did not make a statement on whether or not the commemorative work under review meets the conditions in *Subpart 2*.

Next Steps

With the successful conclusion of, and reporting on, public comments on the application to add a new commemorative work honoring the former Downtown Baseball Park – "the pillbox" to the Capitol grounds, CAAPB staff are seeking the Board's affirmation that the application for addition meets the criteria in M. R. 2400.2703, Subpart 2. By voting in the affirmative, the Board would approve the application's advancement to the next stage of review: site-selection.

That said, staff would like to highlight that even if site selection is approved, the Board may choose at any point in the review process to not advance the application further.

Site Selection

Site selection focuses on locating a suitable space on the Capitol grounds for a proposed commemorative work addition.

The site selection process adheres to the procedure described in *M. R. 2400.2703, Subpart 3, Items F-H* and generally follows these steps:

Once an application is approved by the Board to proceed to site selection, the CAAPB staff begin research to prepare for analyzing possible sites for a new commemorative work. This research is keyed towards developing

- (1) a list of candidate sites for review and
- (2) a set of weighted criteria by which to analyze said locations.
- ¹ Both the application and independent report note that the Capitol building was being erected during the ballpark's first years of operation.

Next, CAAPB Staff and Advisors, in consultation with the Applicant, select a shortlist of sites from this research to be analyzed according to the developed weighted criteria. The Department of Administration is required to review and comment on this analysis at this stage.

Using these findings, CAAPB staff, in consultation with Advisors, recommend one site for approval to the Board. The recommendation is submitted to the CAAP Board in the form of a letter of resolution from Executive Secretary.

The site ultimately proposed to the Board must abide by the "Criteria for determining location of new artwork" described in *Subpart 4* of the Rules:

Subpart 4. Criteria for determining location of new artwork. The board must use the following criteria to evaluate the proposed location for a commemorative artwork in the Capitol area:

- A. The site of the proposed location must be visible to people nearby and accessible to all members of the public.
- B. The scale of the artwork must fit in the artwork's location, providing familiarity to the viewer while not being overpowering. The artwork's size must not detract from the Capitol. The board must consider the artwork's visual and spatial relationships to the artwork's surroundings.
- C. The use of the site must not interfere with any existing artwork.
- D. The use of the site must maintain and protect existing open space and the space's public use.
- E. The location must also follow all applicable zoning, environmental, code, and public safety rules and regulations.
- F. The artwork must fit within the thematic organization of the Capitol grounds and comply with the design objectives of the Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota Capitol Area, which is incorporated by reference into subpart 3, item J. The board must consider the site's relationship to other artwork and the Capitol.

Suggested Board Resolutions

The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board ("Board") authorizes its staff to move forward in the CAAPB's Commemorative Works Rules process regarding the application to add a new commemorative artwork to the Capitol Grounds – the Downtown Baseball Park (previously referred to as "The Pillbox Plaque") submitted by Stew Thornley on January 2, 2025.

The Board specifically affirms:

- The application, as received, meets the criteria in *M. R. 2400.2703, Subpart 2* ("Conditions for adding new artwork") and may advance to further stages of review.

The Board authorizes the Executive Secretary to:

- Notify the Department of Administration of the affirmative vote and application's progress within 14 days;
- Undertake a site selection study with the applicant and CAAPB architectural advisers with review and comment by the Department of Administration.

The Board wishes to make clear that approval of these intermediate steps in the Rules process does not communicate approval or disapproval of any portion of the current proposal by the applicant and that approval of these steps does not equate to agreement or judgement as to the veracity of any claim tor assertation within the received application.

Attachments

Attachment A: Application as submitted by Stew Thornley.

Attachment B: Complete listing of public comments collected during the comment period (3/31-5/5/2025) and the public hearing (5/15/2025).

Attachment C: Historical report on the history of the baseball park and the historic significance of its location in the Capitol Area produced by Pigeon Consulting.

Attachment D: Graphic representation of rules process for adding a new commemorative work to the Capitol grounds.

Application Information Part I - Applicant Contact Information

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Part 2 – Subject of the Artwork

What is the subject of the proposed commemorative artwork? (Please describe.)

A commemorative marker to note the site of a historic baseball park, which was used from 1903 to 1910 by the St. Paul Saints minor-league team and as a frequent home of a significant all-Black team, the St. Paul Gophers (also called the St. Paul Colored Gophers). The Downtown Base Ball Park was also known as The Pillbox because of its small size. The ballpark was on the northwest corner of 12th and Robert, on the site now occupied by the laboratory building for the Minnesota departments of Health and Agriculture. The stands faced the capitol and in its early years, people got to enjoy baseball while also watching the construction of the capitol rotunda.

Around the turn of the 20th century, baseball parks were usually placed in core parts of the cities and, by design or not, became part of the urban core. The shapes and sizes of the structure were dictated by the land available and limited to the confines of a city block. Much later the developers, more often public entities, had the clout to have areas widened and streets reconfigured, something that was the case with the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in the 1980s. However, private interests were behind the ballparks more than 100 years ago and had to deal with existing restrictions vis a vis location and site constraints.

Access to public transportation was a key in where they were sited. For example, in Minneapolis the minor-league team (known as the Millers) played in a small ballpark a block north of Hennepin Avenue in downtown. During the 1896 season, the land on which the park stood had been sold and they were given 30 days to find a new home. A location along Kenwood Boulevard, across Hennepin Avenue from Loring Park, was considered the favorite. The city council, however, refused to vacate certain streets in the Kenwood area, and in late May, after the streetcar company announced it could better service a park near Lake Street, the decision was made to locate the field at 31st Street and Nicollet Avenue. The ground was quickly graded, bleachers, grandstands, and fences hastily erected, and within three weeks the field was ready for baseball.

The Minneapolis experience also exemplifies the political machinations involved as well as the simplicity of the ballparks, wooden structures that could be erected quickly. St. Paul dealt with these characteristics in finding homes for its minor-league teams, along with other challenges. In the 1880s and 1890s, the team played in two locations on the West Side Flats, the area across the Mississippi River to the south of downtown. The area was prone to flooding and the ballparks were sometimes unavailable because they were under water.

In the mid-1890s a new team owned by Charles Comiskey (one that Comiskey later moved to Chicago and that still exists as the White Sox) began with Comiskey building a small ballpark near University Avenue and Dale Street. Here the challenge was the ability to play on Sundays. Churches in the area objected to such entertainment on the Sabbath. Comiskey responded by getting a new ballpark built on the southwest corner of University Avenue and Lexington Parkway.

In many ways, Lexington Base Ball Park (which now has a commemorative plaque on the site) was a departure from existing characteristics for ballparks, here as well as around the country. It was on a spacious site outside the core area. While it was well served by public transportation, it was approximately three miles from downtown St. Paul, which was then considered a sizable distance.

By 1902 St. Paul's team was in a new league, under different ownership, and the operators desired a closer location. George Lennon, the team president, was being pressured by other league owners to move the Saints because of low attendance, which was blamed on the distance from downtown to Lexington Park. Lennon refused to move, but, as a compromise, he agreed to build a new ballpark in or near downtown.

His original plan for a ballpark to the southeast of Central Park and within view of the under-construction state capitol, was shelved when the board of aldermen rejected Lennon's request to build a frame structure within the city's fire limits.

Lennon pursued other options, including property off Rice Street between University and Como avenues, to the northwest of the capitol as well as an return to the West Side, to the east of the approach for the Wabasha Street Bridge. Nothing worked. Property owners in the Rice and Como area objected to the vacating of sections of streets. A railway company had a claim on the property at the base of the Wabasha Bridge. A local official suggested another site, on Harriet Island in the Mississippi River between downtown and the West Side, but the timing wasn't ideal – the island was underwater.

The Saints were back at Lexington Park for their 1903 home opener on May 1, not where they wanted to be but at least still in St. Paul. The good news for local fans got even better within a week when the board of aldermen amended the ordinance regulating the erection of frame structures within the fire district. The action opened the way for a new ballpark. Construction began almost immediately, and barely two months later, a new ballpark opened on the corner of 12th and Minnesota streets. With home plate in the southeast corner, fans in the grandstand watched games while also observing the construction of the state capitol's rotunda, which was completed in 1905.

Officially the Downtown Ball Park, it was more commonly referred to as the Pillbox because of its small size. Researcher Jim Hinman said the distances from home plate were about 210 feet down the right-field line and 280 down the left-field line, adding, "Grandstand and bleachers were protected from balls by netting, essentially caging the fans in. A fire during a game would have been disastrous. . . . The size of the lot forced an unusual style of play and numerous ground rules, and necessitated stands that were extremely close to the field. Home plate was so close to the grandstand that it could barely be seen from many seats."

"The 'pill-box' was not a thing of beauty," according to an article by the Junior Pioneer Association of Ramsey County. "The right fielder played with his back against the fence, and was only a few feet behind the second baseman even then. A 3-bagger was practically unknown, and would only result from a ball taking a freak bounce off a fence post or thru some other accident. There were plenty of 2-base hits due to special ground rules; balls hit over the right and left field fences counted for two bases, and home runs were scored only over a limited area of the center field fence. . . . The papers often noted the players being 'ankle deep in the mire' in bad weather, and sand being sprinkled on the baselines to provide better footing."

As with other ballparks of the period, the Pillbox was constructed quickly, and a sellout crowd of 4,500 was on hand for the first game July 21, 1903. More fans watched from the roofs of adjacent buildings, and the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* reported, "Roof parties in the vicinity of the ball park promise to be very popular."

The Pillbox worked for the team, at least Monday through Saturday. The board of aldermen had approved the new ballpark with a pledge from Lennon for no Sunday games to placate nearby churches. The Saints went back to Lexington Park on Sundays, although a problem arose in 1907 when the Saints were outbid by

an amateur team to play at Lexington Park on Sundays. The Saints were able to get permission to play a Sunday game at the downtown park. The Saints saw it as an experiment to allay the fears of neighbors that Sunday baseball was too disruptive. For the game fans were asked to refrain from "undue shouting" to reduce noise, and the crowd was described as "orderly" for that Sunday game. Nevertheless, the Central Methodist Episcopal Church, across the street from the left-field corner of the Pillbox, claimed that the noise interfered with their afternoon service and sought an injunction to prevent further Sunday games. It was clear to the Saints that they would not win over their neighbors. They were eventually able to regain their Sunday lease at Lexington Park and in 1910 decided to abandon the Pillbox and play all their games at Lexington.

The Saints made the move did this despite a 1909 amendment to the state statute on Sabbath breaking that would have allowed Sunday games at the Pillbox. The team decided to maintain relations with the nearby churches by not playing on Sunday and finally resolved most of the issues facing then with the permanent move to Lexington Park, determining by this time that the distance from St. Paul was no longer as onerous as it had once been.

The Saints were all-white teams, as were the others in what was called "organized baseball," because of a racial barrier that existed until the 1940s. Some integrated teams existed at various levels outside the professional ranks, although mostly the game was completely segregated. Even before the formal Negro Leagues were formed, many all-black professional teams existed, sometimes playing against white teams, both amateur and professional.

The Pillbox in its final years was one of the local homes of a St. Paul team called the Colored Gophers, which played a series of games against the Saints in 1907. Both teams recruited outside players, including a couple of Minneapolis Millers to play with the Saints. The Gophers benefited from the presence of Andrew "Rube" Foster, the manager of the Chicago Leland Giants as well as one of the best black pitchers in the country (and the man who would organize the Negro National League in 1920). Foster was back with the Colored Gophers in 1908 and pitched a no-hitter over a team from Hibbing August 28.

The following year, the Gophers matched up with the Leland Giants in what was billed as the "world's colored championship." Rube Foster was back with his regular team, the Giants, but he broke his leg prior to the games in St. Paul, and the Chicago pitching duties fell to others. The Colored Gophers had Bobby Marshall, one of Minnesota's most remarkable athletes. A multi-sports star at Central High School in Minneapolis, Marshall became an All-America football player at the University of Minnesota. The Gophers beat the Leland Giants in the series, a victory that established their reputation as one of the best black teams in the Midwest.

The Colored Gophers continued playing at the Pillbox through 1910, when the ballpark was abandoned, hastening the demise of the team.

Through the years, the ballpark had found many uses beyond baseball, from speed skating in the winter to professional wrestling in the summer. The Pillbox site is now occupied by a laboratory building for the Minnesota Departments of Health and Agriculture on the north side of Interstates 94 and 35E, a one-mile stretch of freeway known as Spaghetti Junction.

Part 3 – Design Concept

What is the general concept for design of the proposed commemorative artwork? (Please describe.)

A plaque that tells the highlights of the ballpark and its significance with options for where and how it will be installed. The plaque could be placed in a concrete footstone in front of the building and visible to people on the plaza. It could be closer to the entry to the light-rail station.

Part 4 – Conditions and Criteria

How does the proposed artwork meet the Conditions and Criteria for the Addition of New Artwork? Please answer the following questions as fully as possible and attach the answers to the application form. Supporting materials for the answers, such as reports, data, or articles, may be included or cited with a URL link.

1. How does the proposed commemorative artwork introduce a new element of the state's diverse history and people to the Capitol grounds?

Many notable athletes played at the Downtown Base Ball Park, including Andrew "Rube" Foster, the eventual founder of the Negro Leagues and a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame, and Bobby Marshall, one of Minnesota's most remarkable all-around athletes. Other local athletes who played at The Pillbox include slugger Billy Williams, who played multiple sports at Mechanic Arts High School in St. Paul and was a member of many integrated teams in the region, sometimes as the only Black player on the squad. Williams also served as an aide to 14 Minnesota governors between 1905 and 1957; and Walter Ball, a pitcher who grew up in St. Paul and played for years on both all-Black and integrated teams.

Though the Pillbox existed only eight years, it represents much about sports and their place within society and cities at the time. As noted above, ballparks more than 100 years ago were part of the urban fabric in cities of all sizes. A shift in ballpark design and citing took place after World War II. No longer was public transportation a major factor in the location. Older parks were in parts of cities that had become congested, and the lack of highway access and parking was seen as a drawback. The trend became to get away from the core parts of the city and into open areas that could have copious on-site parking. In Minnesota's case in its drive to get major-league baseball in the 1950s, it even meant going to the suburbs with Metropolitan Stadium being built in Bloomington.

Baseball remained as the primary tenant in stadiums (the term more commonly used than ballpark by this time) with others sports – primarily professional football – being able to play there with gridirons wedged in. However, the configurations were designed for baseball, and football was treated as a second-class tenant. With pro football's stature rising through the 1950s and with public participation in stadiums growing, multipurpose stadiums became common to accommodate baseball and football on an even basis. While they were functional, the stadiums abandoned the ambiance associated with baseball parks and became generic as opposed to the unique characteristics that had once exemplified ballparks.

By the 1990s, both sports had risen in significance to a degree that public entities built separate facilities for each sport. With it came a trend for baseball to return to the core part of the city. The opening of Oriole Park at Camden Yards in Baltimore is a prime example and is the model for the "retro parks," ones that are distinct from one another and that have features that distinguish one ballpark for another (in Baltimore's case, using the B & O warehouse beyond the right-field fence as a design feature). The location of this ballpark is credited with revitalizing the harbor area.

Closer to home, CHS Field in St. Paul has had a positive impact on the vibrancy of Lowertown. The Twins had moved to one edge of downtown into a domed stadium seen as unfriendly for baseball in 1982 and eventually went to the other side of downtown with a retro park that is considered one of the best in the major leagues. Public transportation is again significant at Target Field although the existing parking ramps, built as part of Interstate 394 construction in the 1980s, solve the parking challenges that had been a drawback for inner-city ballparks after World War II.

Target Field also harkens back to a time when stadiums had site constraints; it is between two elevated streets, I-394 and the parking ramps, and the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center. Unlike many other postwar sports facilities, the designers of Target Field did not have the luxury of expanding property boundaries.

On the other hand, most sports facilities today deviate from ballparks of a century ago with public entities building them rather than having them funded privately.

The Pillbox, in so many ways, represents the commonality at the time and the vast differences from now in the ballpark itself and also in the way it co-existed with the city and its surroundings.

2. How does the commemorative artwork activity impact the historic, architectural, and artistic integrity of the Capitol building and grounds?

The ballpark being commemorated is historic in a number of ways, from exemplifying early baseball in the area and where it was played as well as the aspects of Black players and teams, excluded from the mainstream leagues, having a place to play.

3. Has there has been documented and broad-based public support of the commemorative artwork activity?

There are other markers to note the site of other baseball stadiums in the area, including one to commemorate Metropolitan Stadium at the Mall of America. The project leader on this has also instigated two other plaques for historic ballparks. One is for Lexington Park, used by the minor-league Saints and also by an all-Black team at other times, in St. Paul. Another is for Nicollet Park, home of the minor-league Minneapolis Millers. (That plaque, which was on the site of a Wells Fargo Bank at 31st and Nicollet, is now being stored by Wells Fargo after its bank on that location burned down in 2020.)

Beyond markers for sports stadiums and arenas, the Twins Cities and entire state have many markers telling the history of various aspects of Minnesota's past.

Beyond Minnesota, markers for many types of landmarks are common, including for ballparks. The Society for American Baseball Research has a Baseball Landmarks Committee that documents commemorative displays and that encourages and facilitates such markers.

4. Does the subject of the artwork have lasting statewide historic significance for Minnesotans?

Yes. The history of baseball and particularly Black baseball in Minnesota and elsewhere remains largely a hidden history. A marker helps call attention to it.

Baseball existed here before Minnesota became a state with the first recognized organized team established in 1857 in Nininger City, a planned community at a steamboat landing just upstream from Hastings. Nininger City is closely associated with one of the most colorful pioneers in Minnesota history, Ignatius Donnelly, who purchased land and built a house in Nininger City with the expectation that the village would thrive. Some sources indicate that Donnelly was behind the formation of the base ball team, although no definitive evidence of such a connection exists., but it was clear that the team was part of an effort at civic promotion as the newly platted community competed with other nominal towns to establish an identity and attract settlers and commerce.

From the simple origins of the Nininger Base Ball Club, the game began taking hold in other parts of Minnesota as it achieved statehood in 1858, with the capital city of St. Paul taking a central role. One of the first organized teams in the city played on a common area close to the current CHS Field. Open fields were the norm for base ball then (when it was spelled with two words). In the 1860s grounds around the fields were constructed in large part to provide a means of charging admission and keeping out non-paying viewers. [The non-payers still got looks from adjacent rooftops, as noted earlier with the Pillbox, to nearby

hills and trees and through knotholes in the fences, the latter being associated with the ballpark built by Charles Comiskey near University and Dale in the mid-1890s.]

The burgeoning rivalry between St. Paul and Minneapolis was buttressed by the city's baseball teams, and the growth of the game taking root in communities throughout Minnesota. A statewide competition was held each year to determine a Minnesota champion.

Race could be an issue, and controversy raged in the 1870s when a team from Winona had a Black player and other teams refused to play against him. This player, W. W. Fisher, was from Chicago, and some made an issue of his out-of-town status. This all mixed in with the rise of professionalism, which meant a demise of teams mainly stocked with local players.

Minnesota began having teams in official minor leagues in the 1880s, including Stillwater, which included Bud Foster on its roster. Foster has been recognized as the first Black player in the minor leagues and in 2022 was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Minnesota never had a team in what are recognized as the official Negro Leagues (seven such leagues between 1920 and 1948 are now recognized as major leagues), but it had a number of all-Black teams as well as some integrated non-professional teams in periods extending into the Jim Crow era.

In 1948 Roy Campanella of the St. Paul Saints integrated the American Association (the minor league in which the Saints and Minneapolis Millers played). The Millers integrated the following year with Ray Dandridge, a star for many years in the Negro Leagues and the Mexican League. Dandridge never did play in the white major leagues although he was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1987 and also served as a mentor to Willie Mays, who played for the Millers in 1951.

The tradition of baseball in Minnesota is rich. It continues with major- and minor-league baseball in the Twins Cities, and it has a number of teams in the summer collegiate Northwoods League as well as the many town teams with Minnesota recognized as having the strongest tradition of townball in the nation.

The Pillbox represents much of the grand heritage of baseball in Minnesota and its place in society.

5. Is the artwork respectful of the diversity of Minnesotans?

The purpose of the artwork is to acknowledge and respect the diversity of Minnesotans, as we recognize that diverse history of baseball in the state, even before the integration of the sport as a whole.

We will be aware of the implications of using the word "colored" with the name of the team and the name of the 1909 series. I will leave this to others with greater understanding of the issue to have input on the use of the word.

6. Does viewing the artwork provide a rich experience to broaden the understanding of Minnesota's shared history, heritage, and culture?

We hope that the artwork offers a lens into a time when we were further than we are now from acknowledging all Minnesotans as truly equal, paying homage to those who nonetheless would not be denied from enjoying their chosen pursuits while serving as positive examples to others.

7. If the subject of the artwork is a specific person...

The artwork is not about a specific person.

Part 5 – Funding

Is funding available to pay for the proposed addition and any related site work around it? (Please describe the expected funding sources and fundraising strategy.)

Funding is available through a grant from the Society for American Baseball Research and/or from contributions from individual members.

A COMPLETE LISTING OF COMMENTS SUBMITTED DURING THE MARCH 31 TO MAY 5, 2025, PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND MAY 15, 2025, PUBLIC HEARING, CONDUCTED BY CAPITOL AREA ARCHITECTURAL AND PLANNING BOARD (CAAPB) STAFF FOR THE APPLICATION TO ADD A NEW COMMEMORATIVE WORK: THE PILLBOX.

Comments were submitted to provide input on whether conditions have been met for the CAAPB to review an application to add a new Commemorative Work at the State Capitol Grounds: The Pillbox Ballpark.

Comment no.	Date	Comment	Mode of Submission
1	4/18/2025	I strongly and enthusiastically support this request. I have read the rules and regulations and feel this meets all requirements	Email
2	4/18/2025	As a resident of St Paul and a baseball fan, I would like to express my support for placing commemorative work to remember an historic venue and those that made St Paul such a baseball city. Thanks	Email
3	4/18/2025	I am writing to express my support for commemorating the Pillbox ballpark on the MN State Capitol campus. I believe that the proposed commemorative plaque will have lasting statewide significance for all Minnesotans, respects the diversity of Minnesota, and is key to all Minnesotans understanding of our shared history, heritage, and culture.	Email
		I hope the board recognizes the importance of memorializing the hidden history of black baseball in Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration,	
4	4/18/2025	I just read an article on the Minnesota Public Radio website about the proposed sign commemorating the Pillbox Stadium. Not especially a baseball fan, I nevertheless found myself admiring the history of "The Black Gophers." What an amazing story, well worth learning about more than a century after what must have been such exciting baseball games.	Email

		My experience, as a St Paul resident of 40+ years, is that Minnesota is much too quick to tear down historic buildings and replace them with soulless structures with no meaning. Here's a chance to pay tribute to a really happy piece of history without even constructing a new building! I, for one, anticipate that this artwork will provide "a rich experience to broaden the understanding of Minnesota's shared history, heritage, and culture."	
5	4/21/2025	I am writing to you today to give my comment about the Pillbox Baseball Park plaque. I support the plaque. I believe that we should be able to see the hidden history of Black Minnesotans. I think a plaque is a perfect way to signify the former location. Thank you.	Email
6	4/21/2025	To the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, please consider this email in support of the proposed historical marker for the Pill Box, also known as the Downtown Baseball Park. As a Minnesota resident, and member of the local chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR), I am writing to express my support for the placing of a historic marker on the Capitol campus to commerate the site of the Pill Box Ballpark. It is my opinion that venues such as the Pill Box played an important role in the development of the city of St. Paul as they provided much needed recreational and entertainment spaces in a rapidly growing Victorian city during the late 19th century. As a community gathering place, the park contributed to the growth, stability, and popularity of the professional St. Paul Saints and the St. Paul Colored Gophers baseball clubs, and was also used as an ice skating rink during the winter months, all this at a time when greater leisure time activities were becoming more available to St. Paul's population. In the contemporary urban environment where extant historic places are becoming fewer and fewer, we can, at least, try to honor those that have been lost. It is my hope that you will approve this request.	Email
7	4/24/2025	I am in favor of placing a commemorative plaque or marker to show the spot of the Pillbox baseball park. All of the former and historic ballparks in the Metro area all have markers. This little-known ballpark should not be overlooked. Interest in the history of baseball remains strong and there is interest among all ages. The marker will be small but will tell a big and important story.	Email

8	4/29/2025	Livet wanted write in and voice my support for the Billhov commonwerstive work	Email
0	4/23/2023	I just wanted write in and voice my support for the Pillbox commemorative work near the state capitol.	EIIIdii
9	5/2/2025	Baseball has a long history in Minnesota, and it's worth commemorating	Email
9	3/2/2023	the stadiums Minnesotans played at. Before Metro Stadium was built,	Liliali
		there were a large number of smaller stadiums that were used by various	
		teams, and I do not believe that heritage should be lost.	
		teams, and i do not believe that heritage should be lost.	
		The plaque would not only be respectful of Minnesotan diversity, it	
		would emphasize it. The St. Paul Gophers played at the Pillbox, and the	
		history of black baseball is frequently glossed over. I consider it	
		more important to commemorate stadiums where black teams played than	
		stadiums used only by whites, for that reason. Just viewing the plaque	
		would give Minnesotans a view of Minnesota's history that is not widely	
		known, and broaden their knowledge of Minnesota's history and heritage.	
		It is for those reasons that I think the plaque would be a worthwhile	
		addition to the state.	
10	5/3/2025	Thank so very much, in advance, for supporting the installation of a memorial	Email
	3,3,2323	commemorating the site of what was known as The Pillbox baseball field & stadium.	Zinan
		Baseball has such a long, deeply ingrained history in the Twin Cities and national	
		sports culture. As you know. This Memorial will contribute to informing folks of local	
		sports history for generations to come.	
11	5/5/2025	After reading through the application submitted for the Pillbox Plaque and the four	Email
		conditions (listed below) for adding new artwork in the capitol area, I am confident	
		that the application has met these four requirements.	
		A. there has been documented public support of the artwork;	
		B. the artwork has lasting statewide significance for Minnesotans;	
		C. the artwork is respectful of the diversity of Minnesotans;	
		D. viewing the artwork provides a rich experience to broaden the understanding of	
		Minnesota's shared history, heritage, and culture;"	
			1

American Baseball Research) chapter and formally at the March meeting of the Capital Area Architecture and Planning Board. The subject of the plaque has been discussed at various chapter meetings (Board of Directors, Research Committe, Spring Chapter meeting) where it has been enthusiastically supported. Also, at the March CAAPB meeting (where you and I met briefly in the building lobby), support for the plaque was very evident.

There is no doubt that the plaque will have a lasting significance for Minnesotans. Baseball in its various current formats within the state (major league, minor league, town ball, American Legion ball, Little Leagues, various local youth baseball leagues) has broad appeal across the state. The history of the game in the state is revered as evident by the historical displays at Target Field, the museum at CHS Field and the plaques commemorating the minor league ballparks of the St. Paul Saints and the Minneapolis Millers. The Pillbox Plaque will be a significant addition to commemorate the history of baseball in Minnesota.

The plaque will further highlight the diversity of the early years of baseball in Minnesota. It will add to the history of baseball within the state that while segregation existed in many forms including baseball, this didn't prevent Black players from embracing the game to the best of their ability. The plaque will in its own way, keep alive the early history of baseball as played by people, both Black and white.

The plaque will be a permanent and significant marker as to this part of Minnesota history. Baseball was and is a game for all, regardless of the race, culture or heritage of its participants. It will provide a significant notification that baseball had in its early years, a universal appeal across various racial and ethnic boundaries. I'm confident that we'll all be able to take pride in this significant addition to the history of this state that we all call home.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions of comments. I plan on attending the public hearing on May 15 and hope to see you there.

12	5/5/2025	I am honored to serve as the President of the Halsey Hall Chapter of the Society of American Baseball Research. There are 197 members of the national association who identify the Halsey Hall Chapter as their primary chapter, and we have been honored over the past two years as the only two-time MVP chapter of all chapters in the national Society of American Baseball Research to receive this recently created award. Although this supporting submission is my own personal statement, I can state that this proposal has over-whelming support from the Chapter's Board and membership. In offering my personal endorsement of the Pillbox proposal, I reviewed Minnesota Administrative Rules2400.2703 - Standards for Commemorative Artwork. In particular, I concentrated on the following four requirements: "A. there has been documented public support of the artwork; B. the artwork has lasting statewide significance for Minnesotans; C. the artwork is respectful of the diversity of Minnesotans; D. viewing the artwork provides a rich experience to broaden the understanding of Minnesota's shared history, heritage, and culture" The Pillbox served for nearly a decade as the primary home baseball park of the St. Paul Saints, a legendary minor league team and long-time rivals of the Minneapolis Millers. The Pillbox also hosted numerous contests for the St. Paul Gophers, an all-African American team, in an era of segregated baseball. Even during this period of segregation, the Gophers did participate in integrated exhibition games. Furthermore, Andrew "Rube" Foster, Negro League pioneer and member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame (class of1981) pitched for the Gophers. These factors support both of the middle two requirements listed above. Baseball has a long history as sport's National Pastime. In Minnesota, where	Letter via Email
		segregation, the Gophers did participate in integrated exhibition games. Furthermore, Andrew "Rube" Foster, Negro League pioneer and member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame (class of1981) pitched for the Gophers. These factors support both of the middle two requirements listed above.	
		statewide tournament for over 100 years, the game has "lasting statewide	

.3	5/14/2025	I believe the Pillbox should be memorialized with a monumental work of art.	Email
		BUT!	
		The State Capitol Mall is NOT the place for it. Unless you'd like to create a memorial for Lexington Park. And Nicollet Park. And all the other great ballparks in the history of Minnesota Baseball (Many).	
		I do not think the Pillbox fits the mall memorial criteria.	
14	5/15/2025	It's Dave Lande and I am a member of the Halsey Hall chapter, Sabr chapter along with Stewart Thornley and I sent, Tina sent you an e-mail a couple weeks ago outlining the reasons why I believe this plaque should be supported and eventually installed.	In person
		There is 4 criteria in there as outlined by the state requirements and I believe the application that Stu put together find all four of those.	
		And I wrote the e-mail also in support of what Stew had written, and the fact that it's my opinion and believes that the application does meet all the all four requirements.	
		It's obviously of interest anybody interested in the history of baseball which Saber chapter is Saber is a long, long-established organization of about 50 years supporting baseball in all of its various many forms in the United States.	
		So it has support from the local Sabr chapter.	
		Also, it's the does support the diversity requirements as outlined in the application in terms of this is the ballpark that is used by at the time by the segregated teams, both black and white and they often played each other.	

		It does add to the history of Saint Paul and the history of baseball in Minnesota and in Saint Paul. So again, I won't go into a lot of detail as outlined in my e-mail I sent you, but I I believe that this is being a real good step to go forward and memorialize that history of baseball in Saint Paul.	
15	4/15/2025	Hi, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I'm the current president of the Halsey Hall chapter of the Society of American Baseball Research. And Dave mentioned the 50-year history. The organization nationally has a little over 7500 members. The Halsey Hall chapter is we think the strongest of all and noted by comments that I sent in my letter to Tina that we've been the only chapter twice recognized with the Most Valuable Player award that was recently established by the National Society of American Baseball Research. I just wanted to add a couple of things with respect to Part C, with respect to the diversity of this proposal to Minnesotans. I think it gives a very good opportunity to have some artwork that explains a little bit about the segregated nature of baseball. Unfortunately, it's part of its history, but the fact that the pillbox was a ballpark used by both African Americans and Caucasian Americans playing baseball creates an opportunity to present to the public a little bit of an educational chance to understand how that was at the time. And the progress has been made in the future. And there were a couple of very important African Americans, Rube Foster that was mentioned and Marshall and other early baseball, football hockey player in history here in the Twin Cities. The other thing I kind of wanted to mention was that with respect to statewide significance is that Minnesota has a 100 plus year history of town ball that relates to both the large urban communities and some of the really smaller towns throughout the state.	Online

	1		
		And this 100-year history of town ball that still exists today played by citizens of each of these communities across the state, I think points to really a very strong statewide history of playing baseball and interest in baseball that really brought everybody from those communities into playing the game.	
		And that was an entertainment value to the citizens of all of those smaller communities as well as of the largest cities like Saint Paul and Duluth and Minneapolis.	
		So thank you for the opportunity to kind of address this proposal and to say that it has a strong support of the other two members that are obviously in the room from the Halsey Hall chapter, but from the board and the general membership which is close to 200 here in the Twin Cities.	
16	5/15/2025	I'm also with Sabr Twin Cities Halsey Hall chapter.	Online
		I would just mention to you should be directed to the e-mail that I had sent I believe last month in support of this here though. And I think what I had stressed in there is that this is a Victorian, late Victorian entertainment center of the Twin Cities. And, you know, it's not extinct at all though.	
		And I think that we need to give recognition to those entertainment facilities that are long gone, that served the thousands, if not 10s of thousands of, you know, Minnesotans that attended events, not only attended events there, but remember this was also used as an ice skating facility in, in the.	
	1		





DOWNTOWN BASE BALL PARK

Research Report

Prepared for the Capital Area Architectural and Planning Board

June 2025

Revised July 2025



651-340-5665



www.pigeonconsulting.com

RESEARCH REPORT ON THE HISTORY AND LOCATION OF THE DOWNTOWN BASEBALL PARK

Saint Paul, Minnesota

Prepared For:

Capital Area Architectural and Planning Board Freeman Building 625 Robert Street North Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Prepared By:

Pigeon Consulting 2395 University Avenue West, Suite 206 Saint Paul, Minnesota 55114

June 2025

Revised July 2025

Cover Image: "Downtown Ball Park," 1903. Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

In December of 2024 the Capital Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB) received an application to add New Commemorative Works at the State Capital Grounds to honor the history of the Downtown Baseball Park, a ballpark that was one of the ballparks used by the St. Paul Saints and the St. Paul Colored Gophers between 1903 and 1910. As part of the CAAPB's application review process, a "verification of [the] historical facts stated in the application" is required. To complete the verification, the CAAPB hired Pigeon Consulting, a historic consulting firm located in Saint Paul, Minnesota, to prepare this report.

HISTORY OF THE DOWNTOWN BASEBALL PARK

In 2015, when the St. Paul Saints moved to CHS Field, Tad Vezner wrote an article for the *Pioneer* Press that looked back at "St. Paul ballparks through history." In the article Vezner notes that "since the 1850s, St. Paul's team has had...a half-dozen ballparks."1 One of those ballparks, alternatively known as the "St. Paul Base Ball Park," "the Downtown Ball Park," the "Downtown Baseball Park," and "the pillbox park" was located at the site now occupied by a laboratory building that serves the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

The park was bounded by Summit Avenue (now East

Columbus Avenue), Twelfth Street, Minnesota Street, and Robert Street. The park was used by

the St. Paul Saints between 1903 and 1908 and the St. Paul Colored Gophers from their founding in 1907 until the land was sold in 1910.

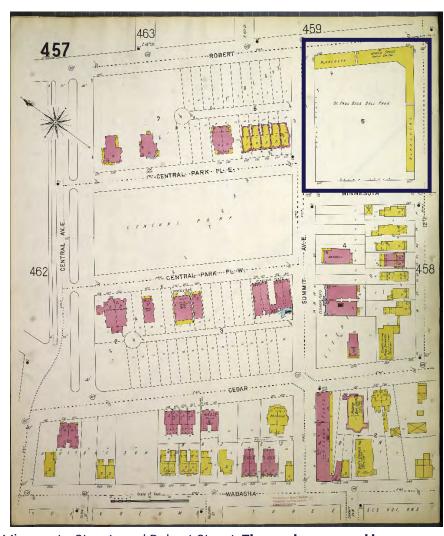


Figure 1. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1903. The Downtown Baseball Park is outlined at the top of the map. Map courtesy of the University of Minnesota.

¹ Tad Vezner, "A look at St. Paul ballparks through history," *Pioneer Press*, May 16, 2015. https://web.archive.org/web/20170422125311/https://www.twincities.com/2015/05/16/a-look-at-st-paul-ballparks-through-history/

The St. Paul Saints and the Search for a Ballpark

The history of early baseball teams can be challenging to trace – teams change names, change owners, and change cities. The first iteration of the team known as the St. Paul Saints was founded in 1894 in South Dakota as the Sioux City Cornhuskers.² The team was part of the Western League, a minor league baseball league, and in 1895 it moved to St. Paul and was renamed the "St. Paul Saints."

The team's owner, Charles Comiskey, constructed a small baseball park at the "southwest corner of Dale and University" so that the Saints could have a permanent home. The park, called St. Albans Field, could hold 1,500 spectators.³ During the winter, the park was used as a skating rink (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Ice skating at St. Alban's Field, undated. Courtesy of the St. Paul Pioneer Press.

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² There have been three iterations of the team known as the "St. Paul Saints" –a team that played from 1894 to 1899 before moving to Chicago and becoming the Chicago White Sox; a minor league team that existed from 1901 to 1960 and which played at the Downtown Baseball Park and the Lexington Athletic Park; and the current St. Paul Saints, a Triple–A affiliate of the Minnesota Twins, which was founded in 1993.

³ Vezner, "A look at St. Paul ballparks through history."

Comiskey quickly commissioned a new, much larger, park at the southwest corner of Lexington and University Avenues. The new ballpark, called the Lexington Athletic Park, or Lexington Park, opened on April 30, 1897.4 In late 1899 the "Western League" became the "American League" and gained major league status and at the start of the 1900 season Comiskey took his team to Chicago, where it became one of the charter franchises in the American League under the name the "Chicago White Stockings," now the Chicago White Sox.5 Comiskey retained ownership of the Lexington Athletic Park. With Comiskey's move to Chicago, St. Paul was left without a baseball franchise.

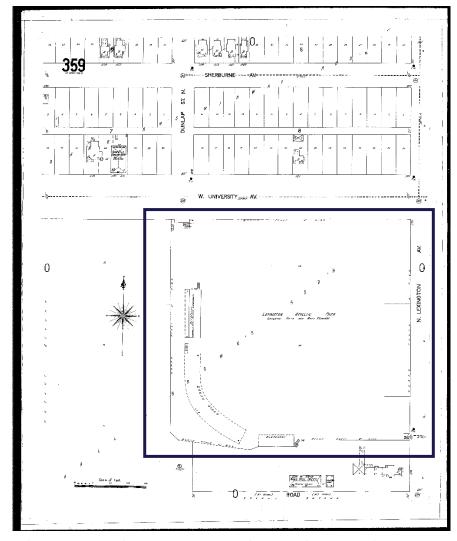


Figure 3. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the Lexington Athletic Park, 1903. Courtesy of Hennepin County Library.

In 1900 George Lennon, a St. Paul businessman, traveled to

Chicago with the hopes of securing the right to a franchise for St. Paul. Lennon controlled the Lexington Athletic Park under a lease agreement with Comiskey and had hoped that this would secure him the right to a franchise in the minor league American Association.

According to an article in *The Saint Paul Globe*, Lennon left Chicago with the franchise question unresolved. The article stated, "It was reported that Lennon had asked too much in

⁴ Dave Riehle, "Say it ain't so, Charlie!," Saint Paul Historical, https://saintpaulhistorical.com/items/show/179

⁵ Chicago White Sox, "All-time Owners," https://www.mlb.com/whitesox/history/owners

the way of concessions and was turned down. It is regarded as certain, however, that Lennon will have a team in St. Paul."⁶

Lennon did secure the right to a franchise and re-established a team called the St. Paul Saints in 1901. The Saints played at the Lexington Athletic Park for their first two seasons. However, Lennon wanted to build a new baseball park closer to the central business district and spent a year looking for a site. Lennon felt that Lexington Park "which was four miles away from the central city...[was] so far out that businessman could not attend the weekday games." Lexington Park was served by the Twin City Rapid Transit Company's streetcar – but Lennon argued that the distance was great enough that he was losing money holding games at Lexington Park.

Lennon was also facing pressure from other American Association teams. According to Dennis Pajot's Baseball's Heartland War, 1902–1903: The Western League and American Association Vie for Turf, Players and Profits, "after the 1902 playing season, the other American Association clubs had decided Lennon must secure more accessible grounds than Lexington Park or transfer his club." Lennon received a letter from club president T.J. Hickey informing him that "attendance in your city the past season was unsatisfactory to members of this association" and that "by a unanimous vote it was decided you must either build a park closer to the city of St. Paul or move your club to another city." 10

Articles in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* from 1902 tracked Lennon's attempts to secure land and political support for a downtown baseball park. Lennon proposed constructing the park a "block just west of Central park." Business leaders were initially in favor of Lennon's proposal – likely believing that a downtown park would keep businessman in the central business district for games while drawing new customers who came downtown to watch the Saints play. While business leaders were in favor of the park, local residents and religious leaders were not. "Ministers and other interested parties believed that Sunday ball was to be played

⁶ "Lennon's Chicago Trip," The Saint Paul Globe, Dec. 30, 1900, 11.

⁷ Dennis Pajot, Baseball's Heartland War, 1902-1903: The Western League and American Association Vie for Turf, Players and Profits (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2011), 117.

⁸ Pajot, Baseball's Heartland War, 117.

⁹ Ibid, 118; "St. Paul May Lose Baseball Team Despite Protest of George Lennon," *The Saint Paul Globe*, November 25, 1902

¹⁰ "St. Paul May Lose Baseball Team Despite Protest of George Lennon," *The Saint Paul Globe*, November 25, 1902.

¹¹ "No Down Town Park: George Lennon Withdraws His Application for One Near Central Park, *"The Saint Paul Globe,* February 7, 1902.

¹² Various articles in the St. Paul Pioneer Press, December 1902, on file at the Minnesota Historical Society.

at the downtown park [and] that a number of saloon men had rented buildings near the proposed site..."¹³ Lennon proposed a compromise – weekday games would be played downtown, and Sunday games would be played at Lexington Park.¹⁴

In December of 1902 the Committee on Streets of the Board of Alderman of the City of St. Paul turned down Lennon's proposal for a downtown park. As a result, the American Association announced that the St. Paul club would be transferred to Chicago. However, in February of 1903, Lennon announced that he had "secured an option on a downtown site in St. Paul where his team would play." The new site was near Rice Street and Como Avenue and, once again, Lennon's optimism about the likelihood of a ballpark being approved was misplaced as neighboring property owners objected to the park. The 1903 season opened at Lexington Park while Lennon continued to search for a downtown site.

Lennon finally secured a site in 1903. The City's common council approved an ordinance for the construction of a baseball park near "Robert, Minnesota, 12th and 13th streets."

Construction was slated to start in June and be completed by July 7th. Once again, neighbors objected to the construction of a baseball park and filed an injunction claiming that the "players and spectators will, at frequent intervals, indulge in loud and deafening shouts, cheering, rings of bells, blowing of horns, whistling, catcalls, and other noises, which will disturb the plaintiffs and their families and seriously injure their health." This time a judge denied the injunction and Lennon was allowed to proceed with the park that was a block away from Central Park, as Lennon had originally proposed in 1902 (Figure 4).

Upon opening on July 20, 1903, the Downtown Base Ball Park (Figure 5) was the weekday home of the St. Paul Saints. In 1907 it also became the weekday home to the St. Paul Colored Gophers.

¹³ Pajot, Baseball's Heartland War, 117.

¹⁴ Ibid, 118.

¹⁵lbid, 125.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid, 126.

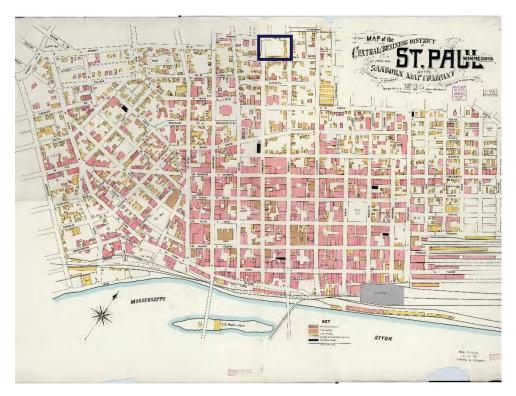


Figure 4. Map of the Central Business District of St. Paul, 1904. The Downtown Baseball Park is outlined at the top of the map. Map courtesy of the University of Minnesota.

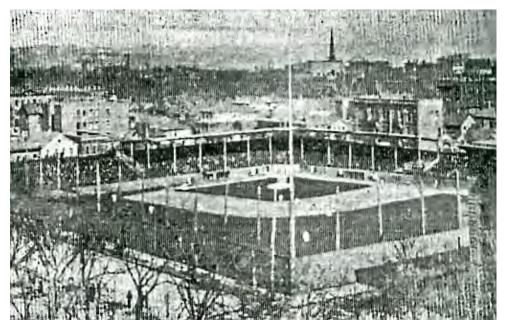


Figure 5. An undated photograph of the Downtown Baseball Park.

Courtesy of the St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The St. Paul Colored Gophers

The St. Paul Colored Gophers were organized in 1907 by Phil "Daddy" Reid and John J. Hirschfield, with Reid serving as the team's manager. In *They Played for the Love of the Game: Untold Stories of Black Baseball in Minnesota*, historian Frank M. White writes that Reid and Hirschfield set out to "bring in players who had a 'national reputation' – at least within the world of black baseball," With the "intentions on building the best ball club that money could buy." ¹⁹

Within a decade of its formation in 1857, the National Association of Base Ball Players "ban[ned] any club which may be composed of one or more colored persons," effectively segregating organized baseball for the next 80 years.²⁰

According to White, in the early decades of the twentieth century "more African Americans were seeking to play baseball and to start teams in Minnesota," with nine teams organized in the Twin Cites between 1905 and 1916.²¹

On May 4, 1907, the "St. Paul Gophers...[made] their first appearance on the St. Paul diamond at the downtown park." In their first year, the St. Paul Colored Gophers played 81 games – and won 75 of them.

Reid and Hirschfield set out to build "the best ball club that money could buy" and in 1909 they proved that they had, when the St. Paul Colored Gophers beat Chicago's Leland Giants in "the five game series for the world's championship," ²² which was held at the Downtown Baseball Park in St. Paul. Reid led the Gophers until 1910, when the team disbanded. A new team, the Twin Cities Gophers, launched in Minneapolis the following year. ²³

¹⁸ Frank M. White, *They Played for the Love of the Game: Untold Stories of Black Baseball in Minnesota* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2016), Loc 507, Kindle.

¹⁹ Todd Peterson as quoted in White, *They Played for the Love of the Game*, Loc 505, Kindle.

²⁰ For more on the history of black baseball, see Kyle McNary, Black Baseball: A History of African-Americans & the National Game (London: PRC, 2003); Todd Peterson, Early Black Baseball in Minnesota: The St. Paul Gophers, Minneapolis Keystones and other Barnstorming Teams of the Deadball Era (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2010); Todd Peterson, Ed. The Negro Leagues Were Major Leagues: Historians Reappraise Black Baseball (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2019); Frank M. White, They Played for the Love of the Game: Untold Stories of Black Baseball in Minnesota (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2016); Sol White, Sol White's History of Colored Base Ball, with Other Documents on the Early Black Game, 1886–1936 (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995);

²¹ Frank M. White, *They Played for the Love of the Game*, Loc 487-489, Kindle.

²² "Big Base Ball Battle," The Appeal July 3, 1909

²³ The New York Age, April 13, 1911.

Bandbox, Cigarbox, and Pillbox Parks

Small baseball parks were often colloquially referred to as "bandboxes," "cigar boxes," and "pillboxes" to emphasize their diminutive size – as was the case for the "little old bandbox grounds in the rear of the West hotel...when organized baseball really got its first start in Minneapolis" and the "little bandbox park" in Toledo, Ohio.²⁴ The small parks fit on tight urban sites, but they were not without challenges for the players. When a new baseball park opened in Sioux City, lowa in April of 1910, an article in *The Minneapolis Journal* noted

Sioux City yesterday introduced the tourists to another pillbox park...The park is unlike the St. Paul pillbox in that the diamond is laid out differently and longer hits can be made in it. The right and left fielders, though, need to be expert billiard players or they are in trouble every time the ball is hit.²⁵

The small scale of these parks made hitting homeruns difficult, there was "little room for catching pop-ups in foul territory...[and] right fielders...routinely played with their backs to the fence." ²⁶ A 1910 newspaper article about the sale of St. Paul's downtown park stated "the march of time brings many changes, and the pillbox park had long outlived its usefulness. It was amply large to hold the crowds that St. Paul usually turned out to ballgames, but it was too small for the playing of a real game of baseball." ²⁷

For these reasons, the park may not have been popular with players and coaches. After two players had been thrown out at first base, Saints coach Mike Kelley "remarked that he wished to Moses that the ball park would burn down and that he'd give anybody \$50 to touch it off." Later that night one of his players, who the article relaying the story describes as "pifflicated" (intoxicated), called him and offered to burn the park down – first for \$50, then for \$25, and finally for free to show Kelley that "I'm y'r friend." The next morning Kelley had to tell the team that he "didn't want the park burned down as any token of personal esteem."

²⁴ Smith B. Hall, "Far Cry, Declares a Veteran Fan, From the Old West Hotel Bandbox Park to the New Nicollet Steel and Concrete Plant With a Seating Capacity for 15,000 People," *The Minneapolis Journal*, May 5, 1912; "Toledo's Troubles," *The Minneapolis Journal*, June 21, 1915; "Diamond Dope," *The Lincoln Evening News*, August 11, 1910; "Back on the Map," *The Minneapolis Journal*, March 3, 1912.

²⁵ "Another Pillbox," *The Minneapolis Journal*, April 11, 1910.

²⁶ Larry Millett, Lost Twin Cities, (Saint Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1992), 220.

²⁷ "Entirely Appropriate," *The Minneapolis Journal*, November 6, 1910.

²⁸ J.J. Ritchie, "The Sport Periscope," *The Minneapolis Journal*, November 30, 1915.

 $^{^{29}\}mbox{J.J.}$ Ritchie, "The Sport Periscope," The Minneapolis Journal, November 30, 1915.

³⁰ Ibid.

The St. Paul Saints and the St. Paul Colored Gophers played teams from Minnesota, the Midwest, and beyond. The Downtown Baseball Park hosted teams from Minneapolis, Chaska, Hibbing, Eau Claire, Sioux City, Chicago, and New York, among others.

Much like its predecessors, the Downtown Baseball Park was used for activities other than baseball, most notably as a speedskating rink during the winter months.



Figure 6. Championship speed skating races at downtown ballpark rink, 1910. Photograph courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

The Saints returned to Lexington Park full-time following a fire in the grandstand at the Downtown Baseball Park in October of 1908. In 1909 Comiskey sold Lexington to a consortium that included George Lennon, and in 1910 Lennon sold the Downtown Baseball Park to the St. Paul Bread Company.

The St. Paul Bread Company

When Lennon sold the downtown park site in 1910, an article in *The Minneapolis Journal* announced the sale with a clever play on words:

It was entirely appropriate that George E. Lennon should sell that old pillbox park at St. Paul for a bakery site. There used to be a lot of buns in the stand every time a visiting team trotted into the park and started to play.³¹

The park was sold to the St. Paul Bread Company, which constructed a large terracotta clad factory to produce and distribute its "Purity Bread." The factory stood on the site until the early 1990s, when the present-day laboratory building was constructed.³²



NEW PLANT OF ST. PAUL BREAD COMPANY

Figure 7. "New Plant of St. Paul Bread Company," from Heny Castle's History of St. Paul and Vicinity, 1912.

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³¹ "Entirely Appropriate," *The Minneapolis Journal*, November 6, 1910.

³² Millett, Lost Twin Cities, 221.

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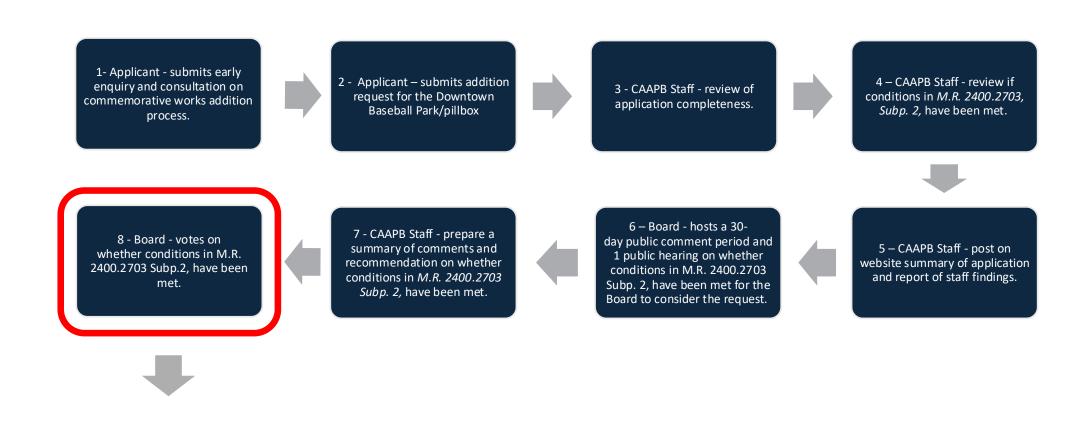
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Commemorative Works Addition Process – Downtown Baseball Park (1 of 3)



Commemorative Works Addition Process – Downtown Baseball Park (2 of 3)



qualification process to select a

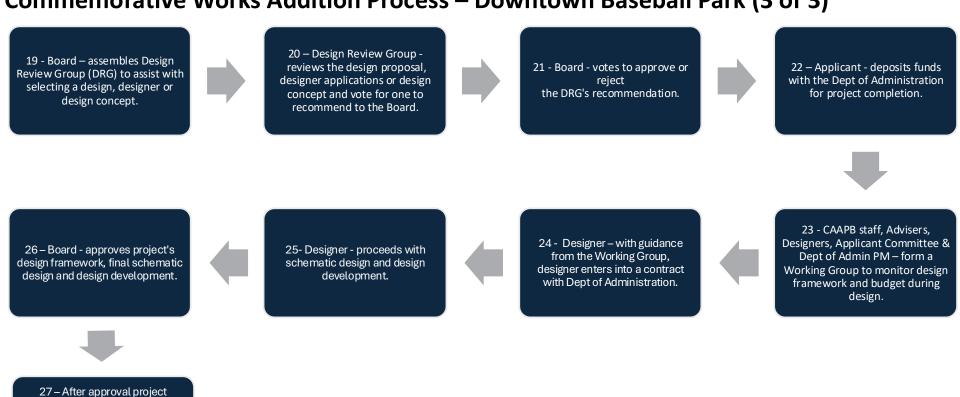
designer or design concept.

proposal's alignment with the

Comp. Plan.

Commemorative Works Addition Process – Downtown Baseball Park (3 of 3)

proceeds with construction documents and bidding under Dept of Admin. Board Exec. Secretary authorized to review construction documents for consistency.





Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

Freeman Building 625 Robert Street North Saint Paul, MN 55155 651-757-1500 https://mn.gov/caapb/

Date: October 3, 2025

To: Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board members

From: Ella Coon, Planner Fellow, Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB)

CC: Erik Cedarleaf Dahl, Executive Secretary, CAAPB

Peter Musty, Principal Planner & Zoning Administrator, CAAPB

RE: AGENDA ITEM #6 – Application to Propose a New Commemorative Work:

Emergency Medical Services Line of Duty Death Memorial (EMS LODD)

Emergency Medical Services Line of Duty Death Memorial (EMS LODD)

History and Description from the Application by Adam S. Harvey, President & Founder of MN State EMS LODD Memorial Foundation.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel dedicate their lives to saving others, often at great personal risk. Yet, their sacrifices are frequently overlooked. The Minnesota State EMS Line of Duty Death (LODD) Memorial foundation seeks to honor these brave individuals with a permanent memorial on the Minnesota Capitol grounds. This memorial will serve as a tribute to EMS professionals who have lost their lives in service, fostering public appreciation and providing a space for reflection and remembrance.

The Minnesota State EMS LODD Memorial foundation introduces several new and unique elements to the Capitol grounds that are currently absent from existing memorials:

First, while the Capitol grounds currently honor fallen police officers and firefighters through their respective memorials, there is no recognition of EMS personnel who have died in service. This memorial completes the representation of Minnesota's emergency response triad, offering a comprehensive tribute to all first responders who protect our communities.

Second, this memorial uniquely represents the intersection of emergency response and healthcare, reflecting Minnesota's distinctive role in advancing pre-hospital medical care. This aspect of public service is not currently represented in any Capitol ground memorial.

Third, the memorial will be the first to specifically incorporate tribal medical service representation through the integration of the 11 tribal seals, acknowledging the sovereign nations' contributions to emergency medical care within Minnesota's borders.

Minnesota's evolution as a leader in emergency medical services represents a unique legacy of innovation and excellence in pre-hospital care. The state's journey in emergency medical services tells a story of continuous advancement and dedication to saving lives.

1960s - Foundation Years: During this pivotal decade, Minnesota established itself as a pioneer in emergency medical care. In 1966, Minnesota became one of the first states to develop organized ambulance services following the National Highway Traffic Safety Act. This early adoption demonstrated our state's commitment to public safety. By 1969, the University of Minnesota had established one of the nation's first paramedic training programs, setting a standard for professional emergency medical care that would influence the entire country.

1970s - Pioneering Period: The 1970s marked a period of remarkable achievement in Minnesota's EMS history. In 1970, Minnesota hosted the first National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) Paramedic Examinations, establishing nationwide certification standards that continue to influence EMS education today. The state further demonstrated its leadership in 1973 by implementing the first statewide trauma system, creating a coordinated approach to emergency care that would save countless lives. In 1977, the creation of the Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (EMSRB), now known as the Office of EMS, established a framework for oversight and continuous improvement of emergency medical services.

1980s-Present - Innovation Era: Minnesota's commitment to excellence in emergency medical services continued to grow through the modern era. The development of the Minnesota Mobile Emergency Care System in 1985 brought advanced medical care to remote areas of our state. In 1991, the implementation of the first statewide EMS communications network enhanced coordination and response capabilities. The state led the way in developing protocols for rapid heart attack response in 2001, setting new standards for cardiac care. More recent innovations include the implementation of community paramedicine programs in 2015 and the creation of pioneering COVID-19 mobile response units in 2020.

Staff Acceptance of Application

On January 9, 2025, CAAPB staff received an application from Adam S. Harvey, President & Founder of EMS LODD Memorial Foundation, to add a new commemoration on the Capitol grounds for emergency medical services personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty.

CAAPB staff reviewed the application per Minnesota Rules 2400.2703, Subpart 3, Item A, and deemed it to be incomplete. The applicant was advised of the determination via memo on January 16, 2025, which included additional information on what was missing in the application. The applicant resubmitted the addition request on February 19, 2025, and after a second review, CAAPB staff found the submission to be complete on March 7, 2025.

Staff Review and Findings

According to the rules, once CAAPB determines the application to be complete, Board staff must review and analyze whether the application for new commemorative artwork meets all the conditions in M.R.

Subp. 2. Conditions for adding new artwork. The board must consider displaying new commemorative artwork in the Capitol area if the artwork meets the following conditions:

- A. there has been documented public support of the artwork;
- B. the artwork has lasting statewide significance for Minnesotans;
- C. the artwork is respectful of the diversity of Minnesotans;
- D. viewing the artwork provides a rich experience to broaden the understanding of Minnesota's shared history, heritage, and culture; and

Staff analysis (condition A): There is documented evidence of public support for the commemorative work. The application states that the memorial has garnered significant support from various stakeholders across Minnesota and secured endorsements which demonstrate broad-based community backing for the project, including: a letter of support from the Office of EMS (formerly EMSRB) - received January 2025; letters from families of fallen EMS personnel; and endorsements from EMS agencies statewide and organizations, including 137 signatures from Arrowhead EMS Association. The applicant also provided a list of letters of support from approximately 15 -16 from organizations, including the Minnesota Office of EMS, more than 200 from EMS personnel, and letters from a family member of a deceased EMS worker.

Staff Analysis (condition B): The application has positioned the proposal with a statewide perspective, pointing out the state's achievements and their impact on national EMS services, as well as the broad reach of EMS services within the state.

The applicant describes Minnesota's journey in emergency medical services and its pioneering role within field in the 1960s and 70s, with Minnesota: (1) being one of the first states to develop organized ambulance services following the National Highway Traffic Safety Act; (2) hosting the first National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) Paramedic Examinations, which established nationwide certification standards; and (3) coordinating the first statewide trauma system, creating a coordinated approach to emergency care.

The applicant furthermore highlights the contributions from Tribal EMS services including: the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community integration of modern emergency medicine and community-based care and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe's lead in rural emergency response. Finally, the applicant also mentions the statewide reach of EMS services including both metro and rural areas and contributions from the diverse EMS workforce.

Staff Analysis (condition C): The applicant describes the historically diverse backgrounds of the EMS workforce, including examples of past and current gender and ethnic diversity. The application describing the diversity within the EMS workforce in Minnesota, including mentions of its first female director, first Hmong ENT and the introduction of certification in multiple languages. The applicant also proposes to include the 11 Tribal seals, if determined to be within the design guidelines.

Staff Analysis (condition D): The applicant highlights the memorial gap that exists on the Capitol mall regarding Minnesota's emergency response commemoration since only the Police and Firefighters are

commemorated. The applicant argues that the inclusion of the EMS Memorial would complete the emergency response triad and therefore broaden the understanding of Minnesota's history, heritage and culture, in particular representing Minnesota's distinctive role in advancing pre-hospital medical care.

CAAPB staff determined that the request meets all the conditions in M. R. 2400.2703, Subpart 2.

Following this determination, CAAPB staff sought and received the Board's affirmation for a public comment period and the hosting of one public hearing to gather input on whether the application meets the conditions in *M. R. 2400.2703*. CAAPB staff presented this determination to the Board on May 23, 2025.

Summary of Public Comments

With the Board's affirmation, a public comment period was opened from June 9 to July 10, 2025; staff also cohosted a public hearing for the addition request on July 16, 2025. Overall, CAAPB staff received 25 total comments during the public hearing and public comment period (10 comments during the public comment period and 15 at the public hearing) of which 24 were deemed eligible for consideration. All comments expressed approval for adding an artwork commemorating EMS LODD to the Capitol Mall.

The dominant theme emerging from the comments centered on the need for an EMS memorial to honor the "third branch of public safety" (in addition to firefighters and police officers), currently absent on the Capitol Mall. Building on this theme, commenters highlighted how such a memorial would make Minnesota a leader in this space, given the general lack of permanent memorials honoring EMS workers nationally.

Some of the comments also addressed the application's satisfaction of "Conditions for adding new artwork" (*M. R. 2400.2703, Subpart 2*). Five of the eligible written comments (50 percent) included a determination that the application met one or more of the criteria for addition under these rules. Additionally, at the public hearing, one commenter (the applicant) explicitly described the application's fulfillment of all four criteria in *Subpart 2*, and many attendees addressed at least one of the four inadvertently, with: six of spoken comments (40 percent) noting the commemorative work's statewide significance; two (13.33 percent) citing the monument's attention to diversity (in particular the commemoration of Tribal EMS workers); and one spoken comment (6.66 percent) highlighting how the work would prove educational to visitors of the Capitol Mall, by shedding light on an underappreciated aspect of Minnesota's shared history, heritage, and culture.

It should be noted that the overwhelming majority of the comments (87.5 percent) submitted during the public comment period and at the public hearing came from current and former EMS workers.

¹ One person who provided a statement at the hearing also submitted a written comment to the CAAPB, to the same ends, during the public comment period.

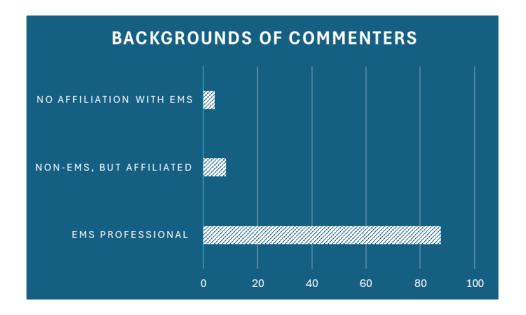


Figure 1. Graphic representation of commenters' backgrounds (percentage of total).

A smaller set of comments (8.3 percent) came from people working close to EMS personnel (e.g., people working in healthcare and supportive services). Only one commenter (4.2 percent) had no affiliation or personal experience with the profession or EMS workers.

Next Steps

With the successful conclusion of, and reporting on, public comments on the application to add a new commemorative work honoring EMS LODD to the Capitol Mall, CAAPB staff are seeking the Board's affirmation that the application for addition meets the criteria *in M. R. 2400.2703*, *Subpart 2*. By voting in the affirmative, the Board would approve the application's advancement to the next stage of review: site-selection.

That said, staff would like to highlight that even if site selection is approved, the Board may choose at any point in the review process to not advance the application further.

Site Selection

Site selection focuses on locating a suitable space on the Capitol grounds for a proposed commemorative work addition.

The site selection process adheres to the procedure described in M. R. 2400.2703, Subpart 3, Items F-H and generally follows these steps:

Once an application is approved by the Board to proceed to site selection, the CAAPB staff begin research to prepare for analyzing possible sites for a new commemorative work. This research is keyed towards developing

- (1) a list of candidate sites for review and
- (2) a set of weighted criteria by which to analyze said locations.

Next, CAAPB Staff and Advisors, in consultation with the Applicant, select a shortlist of sites from this research to be analyzed according to the developed weighted criteria. The Department of Administration is required to review and comment on this analysis at this stage.

Using these findings, CAAPB staff, in consultation with Advisors, recommend one site for approval to the Board. The recommendation is submitted to the CAAP Board in the form of a letter of resolution from Executive Secretary.

The site ultimately proposed to the Board must abide by the "Criteria for determining location of new artwork" described in *Subpart 4* of the Rules:

Subpart 4. Criteria for determining location of new artwork. The board must use the following criteria to evaluate the proposed location for a commemorative artwork in the Capitol area:

- A. The site of the proposed location must be visible to people nearby and accessible to all members of the public.
- B. The scale of the artwork must fit in the artwork's location, providing familiarity to the viewer while not being overpowering. The artwork's size must not detract from the Capitol. The board must consider the artwork's visual and spatial relationships to the artwork's surroundings.
- C. The use of the site must not interfere with any existing artwork.
- D. The use of the site must maintain and protect existing open space and the space's public use.
- E. The location must also follow all applicable zoning, environmental, code, and public safety rules and regulations.
- F. The artwork must fit within the thematic organization of the Capitol grounds and comply with the design objectives of the Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota Capitol Area, which is incorporated by reference into subpart 3, item J. The board must consider the site's relationship to other artwork and the Capitol.

Suggested Board Resolution

The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board ("Board") authorizes its staff to move forward in the CAAPB's Commemorative Works Rules process regarding the application to add a new commemorative artwork to the Capitol Grounds – Emergency Medical Services Line of Duty Death Memorial (EMS LODD), submitted by Adam S. Harvey, President & Founder of MN State EMS LODD Memorial Foundation.

The Board specifically affirms:

- The application, as received, meets the criteria described in *M. R. 2400.2703, Subpart 2* ("Conditions for adding new artwork") and may advance to further stages of review.

The Board authorizes the Executive Secretary to:

- Notify the Department of Administration of the affirmative vote and application's progress within 14 days;
- Undertake a site selection study with the applicant and CAAPB architectural advisers with review and comment by the Department of Administration.

The Board wishes to make clear that approval of these intermediate steps in the Rules process does not communicate approval or disapproval of any portion of the current proposal by the applicant and that approval of these steps does not equate to agreement or judgement as to the veracity of any claim tor assertation within the received application.

Attachments

Attachment A: The full application as submitted by Adam S. Harvey.

Attachment B: A complete listing of public comments gathered during the comment period (6/9-7/10/2025) and public hearing (7/16/2025).

Attachment C: A graphic representation of rules process for adding a new commemorative work to the Capitol grounds.

Minnesota State EMS Line of Duty Death Memorial Proposal Version 3

Applicant Information

Adam S. Harvey B.A, NREMT-Paramedic MN State EMS LODD Memorial Foundation - President & Founder mnemsfoundation@gmail.com (C) 651-247-3755 https://www.mnemsmemorial.com

Executive Summary

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel dedicate their lives to saving others, often at great personal risk. Yet, their sacrifices are frequently overlooked. The Minnesota State EMS Line of Duty Death (LODD) Memorial foundation seeks to honor these brave individuals with a permanent memorial on the Minnesota Capitol grounds. This memorial will serve as a tribute to EMS professionals who have lost their lives in service, fostering public appreciation and providing a space for reflection and remembrance.

Introduction of New Elements to Capitol Grounds

The Minnesota State EMS LODD Memorial foundation introduces several new and unique elements to the Capitol grounds that are currently absent from existing memorials:

First, while the Capitol grounds currently honor fallen police officers and firefighters through their respective memorials, there is no recognition of EMS personnel who have died in service. This memorial completes the representation of Minnesota's emergency response triad, offering a comprehensive tribute to all first responders who protect our communities.

Second, this memorial uniquely represents the intersection of emergency response and healthcare, reflecting Minnesota's distinctive role in advancing pre-hospital medical care. This aspect of public service is not currently represented in any Capitol ground memorial.

Third, the memorial will be the first to specifically incorporate tribal medical service representation through the integration of the 11 tribal seals, acknowledging the sovereign nations' contributions to emergency medical care within Minnesota's borders.

Memorial Design and Minnesota Materials

The memorial design concept incorporates materials that represent Minnesota's diverse geological and geographical heritage while honoring our state's emergency medical service providers. It is important to note that this design concept is preliminary and subject to modifications as it progresses through various State committees.

Proposed Materials: The memorial will showcase Minnesota's rich geological heritage through carefully selected native materials:

- Superior Jacobsville red sandstone will form the primary memorial walls, connecting the monument to northern Minnesota's mining tradition
- Mankato or Rochester limestone will create the courtyard space, incorporating the same distinctive stone used in the State Capitol and representing southern Minnesota's geological heritage
- Central Minnesota granite will hold the names of our fallen EMS personnel, providing a lasting and dignified surface for remembrance

Design Elements: The proposed memorial concept includes several symbolic elements that represent the spirit and service of EMS:

- An etched outline of Minnesota with the state seal at its center, representing the statewide reach of emergency medical services
- A white line of light or marble that winds through the design, symbolizing the medical role of EMS and the path of service these providers follow
- Names of fallen EMS personnel carefully carved into granite, surrounded by a reflective courtyard that provides space for remembrance
- Integration of all 11 Tribal Nation seals, honoring the diverse communities served by EMS and recognizing their contributions to emergency medical care

Natural Elements: The landscape design incorporates Minnesota's native flora:

• The Norway Pine (Pinus resinosa), our state tree, will provide year-round presence and natural screening

- Little Bluestem and other native prairie grasses will surround the memorial, representing Minnesota's prairie heritage
- Wild Columbine and Black-Eyed Susan plantings will provide seasonal color while requiring minimal maintenance

Memorial Impact and Integration

The proposed memorial concept has been carefully designed to complement and enhance the Capitol grounds while respecting its historic character:

Physical Integration:

- Location to be selected to create visual harmony with existing first responder memorials and other surrounding artwork
- Materials chosen to complement the Capitol's architectural palette
- Sight lines preserved to maintain views of the Capitol building
- Existing pathways incorporated into memorial access

Visitor Experience: The memorial design facilitates meaningful interaction through:

- Circular pathway design allowing 360-degree viewing
- Bench seating positioned for quiet reflection
- Information panels providing context about EMS service
- Universal design principles ensuring accessibility for all visitors
- MN EMS Honor Guard plans to hold Annual service during Minnesota EMS Week at the memorial

Historical Preservation: The memorial's placement and design have been carefully considered to:

- Preserve existing heritage trees and landscaping
- Maintain the visual hierarchy of the Capitol grounds
- Use construction methods that protect underlying infrastructure

- Incorporate sustainable materials requiring minimal maintenance
- Respect the original Cass Gilbert design principles for the Capitol grounds

Important Note: The concept artwork and design elements presented here represent the proposed memorial design, which is subject to potential radical changes as it progresses through the various State committees and approval processes. Final material selections, dimensions, and design elements will be refined through collaboration with the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board and other relevant state entities.

Historical and Cultural Significance

Minnesota's evolution as a leader in emergency medical services represents a unique legacy of innovation and excellence in pre-hospital care. Our state's journey in emergency medical services tells a story of continuous advancement and dedication to saving lives.

1960s - Foundation Years: During this pivotal decade, Minnesota established itself as a pioneer in emergency medical care. In 1966, Minnesota became one of the first states to develop organized ambulance services following the National Highway Traffic Safety Act. This early adoption demonstrated our state's commitment to public safety. By 1969, the University of Minnesota had established one of the nation's first paramedic training programs, setting a standard for professional emergency medical care that would influence the entire country.

1970s - Pioneering Period: The 1970s marked a period of remarkable achievement in Minnesota's EMS history. In 1970, Minnesota hosted the first National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) Paramedic Examinations, establishing nationwide certification standards that continue to influence EMS education today. The state further demonstrated its leadership in 1973 by implementing the first statewide trauma system, creating a coordinated approach to emergency care that would save countless lives. In 1977, the creation of the Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (EMSRB), now known as the Office of EMS, established a framework for oversight and continuous improvement of emergency medical services.

1980s-Present - Innovation Era: Minnesota's commitment to excellence in emergency medical services continued to grow through the modern era. The development of the Minnesota Mobile Emergency Care System in 1985 brought advanced medical care to remote areas of our state. In 1991, the implementation of the first statewide EMS communications network enhanced coordination and response capabilities. The state led the way in developing protocols for rapid heart attack response in 2001, setting new standards for cardiac care. More recent innovations include the implementation of community paramedicine programs in 2015 and the creation of pioneering COVID-19 mobile response units in 2020.

Indigenous Recognition and Tribal EMS Services

Several Tribal Nations within Minnesota's borders operate their own EMS services, demonstrating their commitment to emergency medical care for both tribal and non-tribal communities:

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community operates a licensed ambulance service that began operations in 1977, providing advanced life support services to both tribal and non-tribal members across the southern metro region. Their service exemplifies the integration of modern emergency medicine with community-based care.

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe operates Leech Lake EMS, covering over 864,158 acres of tribal land and serving both tribal and non-tribal members throughout their service area. This vast coverage area presents unique challenges in rural emergency response, which they meet with dedication and professionalism.

The Red Lake Nation operates an EMS service that provides vital emergency care to their community, while the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has first responders working with EMS agencies, demonstrating the collaborative nature of emergency medical response in Minnesota.

Diversity in Minnesota EMS

Minnesota's EMS system continues to evolve to reflect and serve our diverse communities. This evolution is marked by significant milestones and ongoing initiatives that strengthen our emergency medical services through inclusion and representation.

Historical Milestones: The journey toward a more diverse EMS workforce began with pioneers like Sarah Thompson, who became Minnesota's first female EMS director in 1975. This breakthrough was followed by other significant achievements, including the graduation of the first Hmong EMT from the Hennepin Technical College program in 1980. By 1995, Minnesota EMS had begun offering certification testing in multiple languages, removing barriers to entry for non-native English speakers. The launch of the Metro Region EMS Diversity Initiative in 2010 marked a concentrated effort to increase recruitment from underserved communities.

Current Initiatives: Today, Minnesota's commitment to diversity in EMS continues through several important programs. Language accessibility programs provide multilingual emergency medical dispatch services in the Twin Cities metro area, ensuring effective communication during emergencies. Rural EMS recruitment programs focus on building local emergency response capacity, recognizing the unique needs of different communities. Collaborative programs with community organizations work to increase diversity in EMS employment, while cultural competency training programs help providers better serve Minnesota's diverse population.

Inclusion Criteria and Memorial Recognition

The memorial will honor the diverse array of emergency medical providers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. This recognition reflects the evolving nature of emergency medical response and the various roles essential to providing pre-hospital care.

Primary EMS Providers: These professionals form the foundation of pre-hospital emergency care and will constitute the majority of those honored:

- Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs)
- Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)
- Paramedics

Specialized Care Providers: The memorial also recognizes specialized medical professionals who died while actively providing pre-hospital or emergency transport care, including but not limited to:

- Critical Care Transport Team Members
 - Physicians providing scene response
 - Flight Nurses
 - o Critical Care Paramedics
 - Respiratory Therapists
- ECMO Specialists involved in emergency transport
- Emergency Care Nurses participating in pre-hospital response
- Other medical professionals directly involved in emergency medical response or critical care transport

Qualification Process: To be honored on the memorial, individuals must have:

- Been actively engaged in providing direct patient care under the EMS umbrella
- Lost their life while performing emergency medical service duties
- Been responding to a 911 emergency or conducting an interfacility transport at the time of their death

Each name on the memorial represents an individual who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving others. Their stories will be preserved and shared through the memorial's documentation, ensuring future generations understand the depth of their commitment to saving lives.

Public Support

The memorial has garnered significant support from various stakeholders across Minnesota. We have secured endorsements that demonstrate broad-based community backing for this important project:

- Letter of support from the Office of EMS (formerly EMSRB) received January 2025
- Letters from families of fallen EMS personnel (attached in appendix)
- Endorsements from EMS agencies statewide and organizations

Next Steps

- 1. **501(c)(3) Filing:** The foundation has filed for its nonprofit status, with approval anticipated by early 2025. This status will enable us to accept tax-deductible donations and apply for specific grants available to nonprofit organizations.
- 2. **Funding Plans:** Our comprehensive funding strategy includes focused marketing and high-level donor targeting campaigns planned for 2025. We are also exploring potential fundraising events and partnerships with organizations that share our commitment to honoring EMS personnel.
- 3. **Public Input Summary:** We continue to gather and organize public comments and survivor testimonials, ensuring that the voices of those most affected by EMS line of duty deaths are heard and incorporated into the memorial's development.
- 4. Legislative Support: We maintain active engagement with key legislators, including ongoing discussions with Senator Seeberger, Representative Huot, Representative Backer, and Senator Lang, who have shown strong interest in supporting this initiative.
- 5. **CAAPB Collaboration:** Our team remains committed to working closely with CAAPB staff to refine the memorial's proposal and navigate the application process successfully.

Conclusion

The Minnesota State EMS LODD Memorial Foundation represents a vital addition to the Capitol grounds, completing the recognition of all emergency response branches while introducing new elements that enhance both the physical space and our shared understanding of Minnesota's medical service heritage. This memorial will stand as a testament to those who gave their lives serving others and inspire future generations to continue this noble tradition of service.

The memorial's design, with its carefully chosen Minnesota materials and thoughtful integration into the Capitol grounds, will create a space for remembrance that honors our fallen EMS personnel while enhancing the visitor experience for all Minnesotans. Through this memorial, we acknowledge the sacrifices of those who have given their lives in service to others and create a lasting tribute to their dedication and courage.

A COMPLETE LISTING OF COMMENTS SUBMITTED DURING THE JUNE 9 TO JULY 10, 2025, PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND JULY 16, 2025, PUBLIC HEARING, CONDUCTED BY CAPITOL AREA ARCHITECTURAL AND PLANNING BOARD (CAAPB) STAFF FOR THE APPLICATION TO ADD A NEW COMMEMORATIVE WORK: THE EMS MEMORIAL

COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE JUNE 9 TO JULY 10, 2025, PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD			
Comment no.	Date	Comment	Mode of Submission
1	6/18/2025, 9:36am	I am writing to express my strong support for the application to add the Emergency Medical Service Line of Duty Death (EMS LODD) Memorial to the Minnesota State Capitol Grounds.	Letter via email
		EMS professionals serve on the front lines of Minnesota's healthcare and public safety systems. They often work in high-risk, high stress environments with limited recognition. Too often, EMS is often lost in the shadow of the more familiar parts of public safety professionals. Police, Fire, and other first responders is a common phrase used by the media and even public officials. This memorial would finally provide a permanent and meaningful tribute to the men and women in EMS who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities.	
		The addition of this memorial would - Complete the triad of Capitol grounds recognition alongside law enforcement and firefighters memorials; - Honor a critical, often overlooked public service profession; - Include representation for tribal EMS and rural communities; - Educate the public about the role of EMS in Minnesota's history and health system.	
		I believe this project fully meets the criteria outlined in Minnesota Rules 2400.2703. Subpart 2, and urge the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board to approve the application. Thank you for your consideration and for providing an opportunity for public input.	

2	06/18/2025, 10:36am	I am writing to express my strong support for the application to add the Emergency Medical Services Line of Duty Death (EMS LODD) Memorial to the Minnesota State Capitol Grounds.	Email (different sender)
		EMS professionals serve on the front lines of Minnesota's healthcare and public safety systems. They often work in high-risk, high-stress environments with limited recognition. This memorial would finally provide a permanent and meaningful tribute to the men and women in EMS who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities.	
		The addition of this memorial would: - Complete the triad of Capitol grounds recognition alongside law enforcement and firefighter memorials; - Honor a critical, often overlooked public service profession; - Include representation for tribal EMS and rural communities; - Educate the public about the role of EMS in Minnesota's history and health system.	
		I believe this project fully meets the criteria outlined in Minnesota Rules 2400.2703, Subpart 2, and urge the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board to approve the application.	
		Thank you for your consideration and for providing an opportunity for public input.	
3	6/18/2025, 11:13am	I am writing to express my strong support for the application to add the Emergency Medical Services Line of Duty Death (EMS LODD) Memorial to the Minnesota State Capitol Grounds.	Email
		EMS professionals serve on the front lines of Minnesota's healthcare and public safety systems. They often work in high-risk, high-stress environments with limited recognition. This memorial would finally provide a permanent and meaningful tribute to the men and women in EMS who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities.	

		The addition of this memorial would: - Complete the triad of Capitol grounds recognition alongside law enforcement and firefighter memorials; - Honor a critical, often overlooked public service profession; - Include representation for tribal EMS and rural communities; - Educate the public about the role of EMS in Minnesota's history and health system. I believe this project fully meets the criteria outlined in Minnesota Rules 2400.2703, Subpart 2, and urge the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board to approve the application. Thank you for your consideration and for providing an opportunity for public input.	
4	6/18/2025, 5:29pm	The Ellendale Volunteer Ambulance Service is certainly in favor of a state memorial.	Email
5	06/19/2025, 2:32pm	I am writing to express my strong support for the application to add the Emergency Medical Services Line of Duty Death (EMS LODD) Memorial to the Minnesota State Capitol Grounds. EMS professionals serve on the front lines of Minnesota's healthcare and public safety systems. They often work in high-risk, high-stress environments with limited recognition. This memorial would finally provide a permanent and meaningful tribute to the men and women in EMS who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities. The addition of this memorial would: - Complete the triad of Capitol grounds recognition alongside law enforcement and firefighter memorials; - Honor a critical, often overlooked public service profession; - Include representation for tribal EMS and rural communities; - Educate the public about the role of EMS in Minnesota's history and health system.	Letter via email

		I believe this project fully meets the criteria outlined in Minnesota Rules 2400.2703, Subpart 2, and urge the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board to approve the application. Thank you for your consideration and for providing an opportunity for public input.	
6	6/22/2025, 6:12pm	I am writing to express my strong support for the application to add the Emergency Medical Services Line of Duty Death (EMS LODD) Memorial to the Minnesota State Capitol Grounds. EMS professionals serve on the front lines of Minnesota's healthcare and public safety systems. They often work in high-risk, high-stress environments with limited recognition. I have personally found that EMS is often thought of as a community's "best kept secret", but I have always taught my students that our goal is to become "the best thing to happen to someone on their worst day". This career is a sacred duty, completed by many with little to no financial compensation; the demands can be significant and require a level of dedication that is exemplary. Ultimately, members of EMS do it out of a compassion for one's fellow man/woman/ child. This memorial would finally provide a permanent and meaningful tribute to the men and women in EMS who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities. The addition of this memorial would: - Complete the triad of Capitol grounds recognition alongside law enforcement and firefighter memorials; - Honor a critical, often overlooked public service profession; - Include representation for tribal EMS and rural communities; - Educate the public about the role of EMS in Minnesota's history and health system.	Letter via email
		I believe this project fully meets the criteria outlined in Minnesota Rules 2400.2703, Subpart 2, and urge the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board to approve the application.	
		Thank you for your consideration and for providing an opportunity for public input.	
7	6/26/2025, 1:58pm	With the future creation of the EMS memorial those us who are Tribal EMS on the 11 federally recognized tribes would be included in this memorial. To have our Tribal logos or symbols would be greatly appreciated	Email

8	06/28/2025, 8:06am	I support the EMS LODD Memorial. Having said this, EMS has long struggled to have a separate identity from the fire service. If a firefighter/paramedic or EMT dies in the line of duty, I would request that they not be put on both memorials. In my opinion, they should go on either the fire memorial or the EMS memorial, but not both. I can conceive of situations where there would be attempts made to put a name on more than one memorial.	Email
9	07/01/2025, 9:05am	I am a Minnesota resident and paramedic. I urge you to support the application to add an EMS Line of Duty Dead (LODD) Memorial to Minnesota's Capitol Grounds. Our work in EMS is often overlooked, as evidenced by the existence of (very deserved) memorials on the Capitol Grounds for law enforcement and firefighters, yet none for EMS professionals. I have personally lost friends and coworkers over my years of service, including Marina Challen and Karl Meek, and it would bring great peace to myself and my colleagues to have a dedicated physical space in Minnesota to honor their sacrifices. I believe this proposed Memorial meets the criteria in Minnesota Rules 2400.2703, Subpart 2, and I request you approve the application. Thank you for your consideration.	Email (Also presented a comment #1 at the public hearing)
10	07/06/2025, 2:47pm	"On behalf of the Hennepin County Association of Paramedics and EMTs (HCAPE), I am writing to express our full and unwavering support for the Minnesota EMS Line of Duty Death (LODD) Memorial Foundation's application to establish a permanent memorial on the Minnesota State Capitol grounds. This memorial seeks to honor the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) professionals who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities. At Hennepin EMS, we know this sacrifice all too well. Our agency has lost four of our own in the line of duty: Dale Eidsvig, Nelson Schaefer, Jim Blanchard, and Ryan Sorek. These names represent more than individuals, they represent the profound cost of public service, the toll of caring for others in moments of crisis, and the	Letter

legacy that defines our profession. A memorial at the capitol grounds would ensure that their stories, and honorees from across the state, are never forgotten.

Establishing this memorial is not only a fitting tribute to the fallen providers, but also a necessary step in ensuring their sacrifice is never forgotten. It will offer families, coworkers, friends, and the public a place for reflection, remembrance, and healing. Moreover, it will serve as an enduring testament to the essential role EMS plays in Minnesota's public health and safety infrastructure.

We respectfully urge the CAAPB to approve and advance the Minnesota EMS LODD Memorial Foundation's application and help bring this long-overdue vision to life. We are proud to stand behind this effort and thank you for your consideration."

1	07/16/2025	I am currently a paramedic working with M Health Fairview. We serve the northern half of Dakota County as well as M Health Fairview hospitals throughout the Greater Metro Area.	In-person
		I have never been to a hearing like this before. But there's good reason that this is my first, because I strongly support the addition of an EMS memorial to the Minnesota Capitol grounds. I am happy to be here, in what is, for my schedule, the middle of the night.	
		We've already discussed the material and the need for a memorial honoring the third branch of public safety, in addition to the existing memorials we have on the Capitol grounds for law enforcement and firefighters. So, I wanted to convey a personal anecdote instead. When paramedic firefighter Adam Finseth and his colleagues were murdered, there was a temporary memorial set up at Burnsville City Hall. I had the chance to go view the memorial after my shift one morning. It was so incredible to see the outpouring of support from the community as well as to have a physical space to mourn the loss. Having the personal space to do so, in the state of Minnesota, would be greatly appreciated. They're not—memorials are not just for the dead, but also for the living.	
		Additionally, the focus the memorial has on honoring all forms of EMS in the state, specifically tribal EMS, has inspired me to want to learn more about those forms of EMS. Despite working in EMS in Minnesota for the past six years, I had never considered the important role tribal EMS has in our state's EMS system. This memorial would help educate [me] and many other people in our state on this specific issue.	
		In light of all of this, I request the Board approve the application the add the EMS memorial to the Capitol Grounds. Thank you.	
2	07/16/2025	I am the ambulance director for the West Concord Fire and Ambulance in West Concord, Minnesota. I am also a member of the EMS Honor Guard here in the state of Minnesota.	Virtual

		Today, I'd like to briefly comment on the memorial and the need for the recognition of the fallen brothers and sisters in EMS. Right now, the bulk of our Honor Guard is actually in Washington, DC attending the National Memorial Service. We in EMS at this point still do not have a national EMS memorial for our fallen around the country. It would be amazing for Minnesota to step forward and lead the charge to show respect [for the] sacrifice of not only the fallen EMS member but of the family that has lost that member. It would give an opportunity for us to be [honored] on the same level as our fellow public safety members and law enforcement, who have had memorials for many years. EMS is often overlooked because we are not great self-supporters. We do not go out in our brash about what we do. It's just what we do. This would give an opportunity for us to show the respect and the honor for those who have done the self-less job and lost their lives doing so. I appreciate that the state is taking the effort to look at this, and I hope this goes	
		forward in the future.	
3	07/16/2025	I am the Fire Chief in Saint Paul, the capital city. I want to publicly state that I am in support of the EMS memorial and to echo some of the statements that were already made. Oftentimes, people view us as a fire department, but we are also one of the largest EMS departments in the state of Minnesota, responding to nearly 70,000 calls a year, the majority of those EMS, in nature. I think it's extremely important that we call out the work that the EMS personnel do each and every day. They choose this profession. They choose to serve. They choose to do things for other people. They choose people over themselves. To have a	In-person
		memorial that recognizes those services would be just an incredible thing the state of Minnesota could do. As mentioned, to be a leader nationwide to have this memorial would really send a	
		message [about how] we feel about EMS providers. Again, I'm in support of this. Thank you.	

4	07/16/2025	I'm the president of St. Paul Fire Local 21's Honor Guard. I have the distinct honor of doing that for the last, probably, fifteen years. I've probably planned the last eight-to-ten of our land of duty deaths. I've had the distinct honor of being very deeply involved with the Burnsville tragedy and running the memorial service for that—for the Honor Guard side of it—as well as the tragedy that just unfolded with the Hortman family. It should also be noted that this tragedy that occurred with our legislative staff in the last few weeks, or a month ago, those were covered by private ambulance services, unlike full-time agencies such as ours. St. Paul has one the largest assets in the metro, in the capital city, as our chief just said. It's a very distinct position to have a spot for people to go and have that mourning, or that closure, [that] we have here at the state capitol grounds for firefighters. We have it for the police departments, as well as the law enforcement. We have a national memorial as well. We also have our international, out in Colorado Springs. We need to bring this a step forward. We need to honor these people. I also work at Alina as a paramedic as well. The private services cover a big majority of the state, so we need to do something to step up and honor those people. Thank you.	In-person
5	07/16/2025	I am the retired deputy chief of operations for Hennepin EMS and currently the chief of ambulance service for the University of Minnesota EMS. I was also a charter member of the Minnesota EMS Honor Guard, which was created after the September 11 attacks, in order to help remember and honor fallen EMS providers. Again, as many of my colleagues have pointed out, our partners in law enforcement and first service already had positions like that, and we did not, [] including fixed memorials here at the state Capitol and in Washington DC. The national EMS memorial is currently loaded into vehicles and carried around to different places. It is that small and that temporary. So, for Minnesota to take the step and to recognize that some of the people who are giving all to their fellow people—here in the state—are not firefighters, are not law enforcement officers.	Virtual

		And as was pointed out, [these people] don't necessarily work for a government agency, such as a city or a county [agency], but rather for a hospital system or a private service but deliver those same needed resources. I support, 100 percent, having a place where we can honor our fallen EMTs and paramedics and further [think] it [is] very, very important that we include our tribal members, who get kind of woefully put off to the side too often. Having a memorial that recognizes not only our public and private EMS, but our tribal EMS is important. Thank you.	
6	07/16/2025	I represent Rosemount and Apple Valley. But I am also a former EMT. I worked in the industry for 30 years. There are about five of us in the legislature, who are former EMS people. This project is so important to us. It rises us above the level of other states that have not done this yet. It's time that we recognize this. You're hearing the difference between private and public. When you're on a scene, you don't care who's private, who's public. You're there to help. These people have dedicated their lives to—and their families, and their birthday parties, and the things that they've missed. This is the minimal the state can help them do. I have no qualms about saying—many of us who have worked in this space will be out helping them fundraise for this project. We'll see what legislators can do for this project. But, really, now is the time. And I think the Commission here really has to make a stand and say, let's make sure they have the space to do this. Thank you for the time.	In-person
7	07/16/2025	I am the president of the Saint Paul firefighters' Local 21. I represent nearly 500 firefighters, paramedics, EMTs, for the City of Saint Paul. What I would say is that, we're very fortunate, as firefighters, to have our own memorial on the Capitol grounds. But that carves out nearly several thousand of EMS providers, who go to work every day not knowing whether they're going to come home at the end of the day. So, the least we can do, is honor them with a same, or similar, memorial to	In-person

		recognize their sacrifice and give them the save dignity—or level of dignity—that we provide for our firefighters and police officers. Because we're all on the same team. We're all on the same public safety team. I would also like to publicly commend Adam [Harvey] for taking the lead on the project and pushing everything forward. We're very, very, very happy to support them in full on this project. So, thank you.	
8	07/16/2025	I'm a 35-year medic at Lakeview EMS in Stillwater. I'm currently at Region's EMS [and] also the founder of the Hero Invitation Hockey Tournament, and, on that, [on] a critical incident stress management team for debriefings after critical incidents. I just did a national EMS memorial bike ride to honor the fallen form Eagan, Minnesota to Chicago. When we got to Chicago, I was completely disappointed that our end point was a firefighter memorial site, because they also don't have one for EMS. Thank you, Adam [Harvey] for setting this forth. I think it would probably be one of the best things that [will] happened on the Capitol grounds in the near future. I think it's completely necessary [and] a great place for people to go to respect those that have fallen in this line of work. Even just to use it as an end route for a big event, like we did, would be amazing as well. Thanks for doing this, Adam.	In-person
9	07/16/2025	I have the deep privilege of being a chaplain for a line of health EMS. In that role, I get to accompany our first responders, as they do what they do. I get to do ridealongs, and I get to see them show up to people's homes with compassion and competency and deep, deep pride in the privileged work they do. I know that the public doesn't get to see that. They get to hear stories, and they get to kind of get a sense. They don't get to hear what they [EMS personnel] hear, see what they see, smell what they smell, and see the grace with which they show up each and every day, not knowing what call they are going to be [answering], what calls are going to be dangerous, what calls are going to heart-wrenching and painful. They do it out of service for the community. And this is the least the community can do to provide that service and that gratitude back. So, I whole-heartedly, on behalf of my	In-person

		colleagues, support this initiative. I support the work that Adam [Harvey] is doing to support our EMS colleagues, and firefighters, and police in this endeavor.	
10	07/16/2025	I'm a registered nurse in an emergency department in Edina. I just wanted to recognize that paramedics and EMTs are some of the most important people in emergency services. They help ensure the medical safety of both patients and emergency responders. Their dedication to their job, despite the constant risk of potential dangers, should be recognized. They're part of the team that enters homes or environments that are unpredictable and unsafe. I have seen, first-hand, paramedics be in great danger due to unwell patients. So, I appreciate all the work that they put in, and I think their services are very, very similar to those of firefighters and police. I think it would be really honorable to honor them alongside them at the Capitol.	Virtual
11	07/16/2025	I am [] in Minnesota, currently serving as the chief EMS for Welia Health, up in Emmet County. I work for federal teams as well as another local agency here in the state. Then I am the captain of the Minnesota EMS Honor Guard. So, I've had the sad privilege of planning multiple line of duty death funerals and [of] serving in those as well. First of all, I am here to express my full support for the creation of a EMS memorial on the Minnesota state Capitol grounds and [to] ask that this Board support that decision—and help move that forward. Secondly, I want to thank everyone that's online and behind me [gestures] for coming here and showing up. This started off as a random project, six years ago. Two years ago, [we] walked down here to try and convince Senator [] to assist us with this, which kind of led us on to this whole project. So, I'll just talk a little bit about the subparts here, so we tap on those. So, subpart 2a—public support. Very clearly, as we can see behind me and before me, I have the backing of multiple organizations, individuals, and communities from across Minnesota. We have submitted numerous letters of support from EMS agencies, civic leaders, associations, unions, as well as individuals and family members and random citizens, showing that this [memorial] should be there.	In-person (Applicant)

The memorial also includes the tribal shield of all 11 nations, as permanent feature. As far as I am aware, none of the memorials have anything to do with any of the tribal contributions. It diversifies a little bit of that.

Moving on to subpart 2b—lasting statewide significance. The EMS professionals that respond in every community—urban, rural, and tribal—they answer calls day and night, often in dangerous conditions and frequently without any kind of recognition.

We don't seek recognition. We're there to do a job. This memorial honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice, while also cementing EMS as an essential component of Minnesota's past public safety history.

Subpart 2, section c—respect for Minnesota's diversity. The EMS workforce reflects the diversity of Minnesota itself. To rural volunteers to the urban medics, from tribal EMS to multilingual first responders, this memorial honors a wide range of individuals who serve with courage and compassion. Its design emphasizes representation, inclusion, and equity. It's rooted in broad inclusive statements, because anyone can be an EMS. We want to make sure they're covered.

Lastly, subpart 2, section d—educational and cultural value. This memorial will be more than a tribute. It will be a tool for public education on the Capitol grounds. It will be visited by school groups, residents, and tourists.

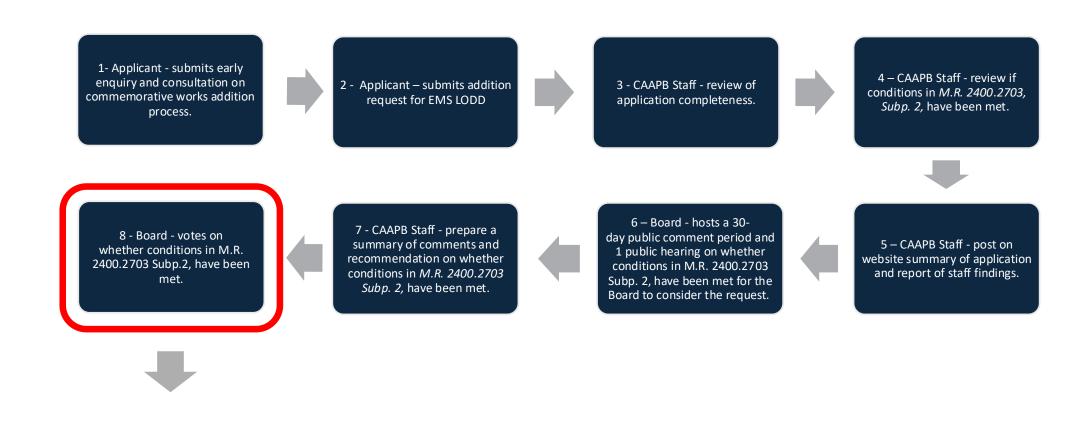
The Minnesota EMS Honor Guard, which would be here in force today, is actually in Washington DC for the National Memorial Service. I can see [] online, right now, who is the Commander of the Minnesota EMS Honor Guard, along with [], as the training officer. They would be here to support, probably with the intentions of telling us, how, if there was a memorial here, we would be doing the annual service here in Minnesota to honor Minnesota responders.

This will also help teach the public about EMS's vital role, sacrifices made by those who serve, and expand the historical narrative currently represented on the mall where EMS is notably absent. The Capitol Mall currently honors our police officers

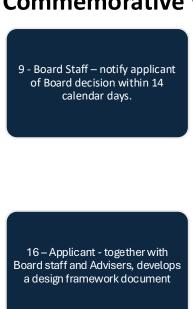
		and firefighter brothers and sisters, as it should, but lacks the place of recognition for EMS professionals who gave their lives in the line of service to serve others. This proposal does not for more. It asks for parity, for equal honor, for those who have served and died in uniform. We believe that this project meets all the conditions required under Minnesota rule 2400.2703, subpart 2. I respectfully urge the Board to move forward with this proposal and to continue [on to] site selection and detailed design review. We're here to honor the sacrifice and to support the legacy. Thank you for your time.	
12	07/16/2025	I'm a firefighter EMT for Saint Paul Fire Department. I think that having a memorial like this is very important for, not just the state of Minnesota, but everything. Even working as a firefighter EMT, we're dual staffed. Like 80 percent of our calls, I'm on an ambulance. I'm helping people. I'm helping all kinds of people working here in the City of Saint Paul. Doesn't matter what language you speak; if you're rich, poor. I've had the opportunity to help all kinds of people, from all walks of life. I think having a memorial like this for EMS is just really important to shine a light on—obviously honor the honor the people who have died doing this—honestly to shine a light and help bring it forward for the people who are currently working to make things better. I grew up here in Minnesota. I'm from Rochester, home of the Mayo Clinic. I'm currently a paramedic student at Region's Hospital. Minnesota has a very robust healthcare system.	In-person
		I think having a memorial like this—[even] if there is not national, nothing like this on a national level—I [can't] think of a better place to lead the way [] to get EMS to get the recognition that it really deserves. So, I think it's a very important thing to do.	
13	07/16/2025	I'm the state Rep. for central and western Duluth, up here. I'm also a firefighter for the city, going on 20 years. We serve every day with the men and women of the male ambulance service up here. It's past time to recognize those folks for the sacrifices they make; and, to some of the comments, making sure the public knows what these folks do and the sacrifices they make, so it can't easily be forgotten, when somebody does make the ultimate sacrifice. So, I'm happy to support this [in]	Virtual

		my capacity as a union member, as firefighter, and as a state legislator. And I'm excited to move forward with it. Thank you.	
14	07/16/2025	I am the commander of the Minnesota EMS Honor Guard. Today though, I am speaking as a Board member for the National EMS Memorial Service. One thing that we hear as Board members—[from] the volunteers and the Honor Guards that come out from across the nation to honor those EMS providers that have sacrificed on the line of duty—is [that] the family members want a place to be able to grieve. We have, unfortunately, within the last few years, in the state of Minnesota, have experienced loss of EMS providers. One thing that resonates through every line of duty death is that we hear from the families: please don't forget the sacrifice we made. It isn't just the families. It's the EMS services they work for. It's the communities they serve. So, in closing, being respectful of everyone's time, I—on behalf of the national	Virtual
		service—we would fully support having a state memorial on the Capitol grounds. Thank you for your time.	
15	07/16/2025	I can't believe there are not public—we owe—the public owes you guys a tremendous amount of thanks. Again, fantastic. I can't believe that there isn't a spiritual home in times. A memorial would be that home. We need to do it. Absolutely, we need to do it. Otherwise, it's just a case of buildings and vehicles. The unseen heart, the camaraderie, that all these guys share. We need to give them a memorial, and the public needs to see it. It's a place where we can focus. It just needs to happen. Thank you.	In-person

Commemorative Works Addition Process – EMS LODD (1 of 3)



Commemorative Works Addition Process – EMS LODD (2 of 3)





10 – If Board accepts the addition request for further review, CAAPB and Architectural Advisers conduct site selection study with applicant.



11 - Dept of Admin – review and comment on proposed sites for the commemorative artwork.



12 - CAAPB staff and Advisers – recommend a site for the proposed artwork to the full Board based on criteria in M.R.2400.2703, Subp.4.





15 – Applicant – if Board accepts the addition request and location, the applicant raises money or pay for the cost of completing the design process.



14 - Board – notifies applicant in writing of the Board's site selection decision within 14 calendar days.



13 - Board – meets to determine whether the proposed site meets all the criteria in *Subp.4*. After public hearing, Board votes on the location of the artwork.



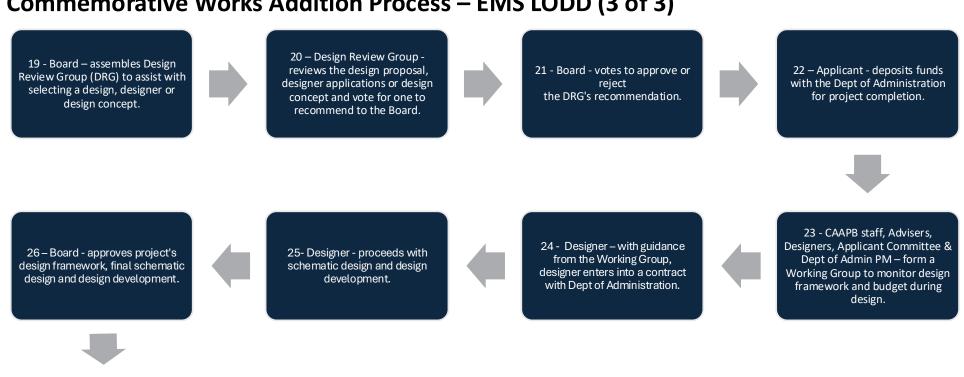
17 - Board - if the request is seeking to use public funds, Board must provide testimony to the legislature addressing the proposal's alignment with the Comp. Plan.



18 – Board - initiates either an open solicitation for design proposals or request for qualification process to select a designer or design concept.

Commemorative Works Addition Process – EMS LODD (3 of 3)

27 – After approval project proceeds with construction documents and bidding under Dept of Admin. Board Exec. Secretary authorized to review construction documents for consistency.





Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board



625 Robert Street North Saint Paul, MN 55155 651-757-1500

https://mn.gov/caapb/

Date: October 3, 2025

To: Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board From: Erik Cedarleaf Dahl, Executive Secretary, CAAPB

RE: AGENDA ITEM #7 – Capitol Mall Design Framework Implementation – Phase

1 Update and Recommendation for Additional Tree Planting in the Upper

Mall

Background

In May 2025, the Board approved Phase 1 of the Capitol Mall Design Framework (CMDF), which included schematic designs for ADA/Universal Design sidewalks in the Upper Mall. This action represented an important first step toward implementing the CMDF's vision of creating a more inclusive, accessible, and welcoming Capitol Mall.

Since that approval, all trees planted in the Upper Mall have been consistent with the schematic designs and planting layouts endorsed by the Board. These plantings support the CMDF's policy guidance to expand tree canopy, improve visitor comfort, and enhance ecological resilience, while also respecting the historic context of the Capitol Mall.

Current Issue

In summer 2025, the Department of Administration, working in collaboration with arborists and reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), developed a 20-tree planting plan for the Upper Mall. Of these:

- 12 trees have already been planted in alignment with the approved sidewalk design and have been verified to have no impacts to the viewsheds of the Capitol.
- **8 additional trees remain unplanted**, as their proposed locations conflict with the previously approved Phase 1 sidewalk alignment.

While these 8 trees do not conform to the original sidewalk schematic, they would provide important canopy expansion benefits consistent with CMDF planting strategies. SHPO has reviewed the full 20-tree plan and determined that no adverse effect to viewsheds of the Capitol would result from these plantings.

Analysis

- **CMDF Policy Alignment:** The CMDF directs us to increase tree canopy, enhance visitor comfort, and support a sustainable, climate-adapted landscape while preserving viewsheds and ensuring safety.
- Accessibility Commitment: The Board's approval of ADA/Universal Design sidewalks remains a central
 component of the CMDF. While the original Phase 1 schematic proposed a specific alignment, ADA and
 universal accessibility goals can be achieved through alternate means and future project phases across
 the Mall and broader Capitol Area.

• **Balance of Objectives:** Approving these 8 trees allows us to achieve canopy and environmental goals now, while continuing to advance accessibility improvements in parallel (see attached design).

Recommendation

I recommend that the Board:

- 1. **Approve planting of the 8 additional trees** in the Upper Mall as soon as feasible, consistent with the Department of Administration's 20-tree plan and SHPO review.
- 2. Affirm the CMDF's dual commitment to both tree canopy expansion and ADA/Universal Design.
- 3. Acknowledge flexibility in implementation of both, 1. and 2.; that universal accessibility and tree canopy expansion need not be mutually exclusive, and that alternative alignments and design strategies beyond those detailed in previously approved schematics for the Upper Mall may be brought forward that seek to balance ADA/universal accessibility goals with expansion of canopy.

Next Steps

- Upon Board approval, Administration staff will proceed with planting the 8 trees as soon as feasible.
- Staff will return to the Board later with updates on subsequent Phase 1 implementation, including an additional tree planting strategy throughout the Capitol Mall.

Suggested Board Resolution

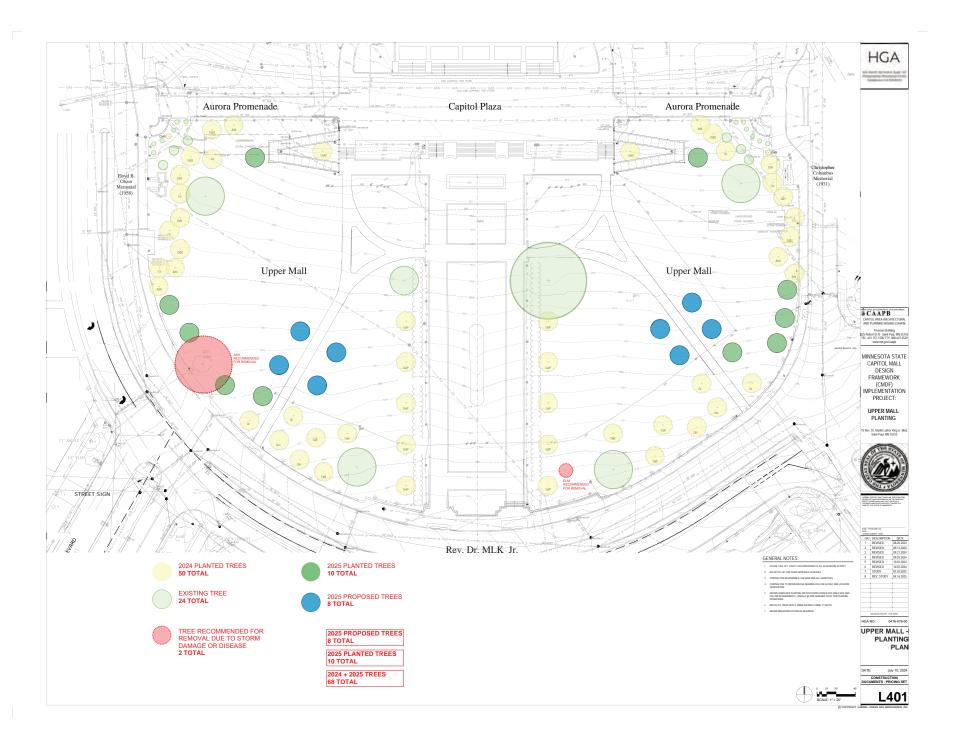
The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board ("Board") authorizes the planting of eight (8) additional trees in the Upper Mall as part of the Capitol Mall Design Framework (CMDF) Phase 1 CMDF Implementation Project, part of a larger twenty-tree plan developed by the Department of Administration based on previously approved schematics. The Board appreciates the State Historic Preservation Office determinations that the planting plan will have **no adverse impacts** on the visibility to and from the south (front) façade of the Capitol building. The Board authorizes the Executive Secretary to coordinate with the Department of Administration to proceed with planting these eight trees as soon as practical. The Board also affirms:

- support for expansion of tree canopy across the Mall, campus, and Capitol Area to enhance human comfort, ecological resilience, and beauty, while seeking to preserve views of historic resources and ensuring public safety;
- 2. commitment to investing in the expansion of ADA/Universal Design, including to the circulation paths and programmable spaces of the Upper Mall;
- 3. flexibility in the implementation of both 1. and 2.; that universal accessibility and tree canopy expansion need not be mutually exclusive, and that alternative alignments and design strategies beyond those detailed in previously approved schematics for the Upper Mall may be brought forward that seek to balance ADA/universal accessibility goals with expansion of canopy.

The Board also asserts that approval of this resolution is limited to the planting of the eight additional trees in the Upper Mall that deviate from previously approved schematics. In its future decisions, the Board maintains full commitment to both **tree canopy expansion** and **universal accessibility** as complementary goals of the Capitol Mall Design Framework.

Attachment

Attachment A: CMDF Upper Mall Tree Study_2025 09 19





Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

625 Robert Street North Saint Paul, MN 55155 651-757-1500

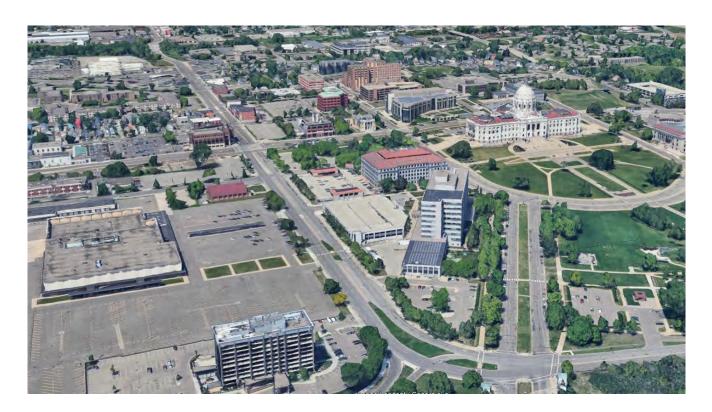
https://mn.gov/caapb/

Date: October 3, 2025

To: Members of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB)

From: Peter Musty, Principal Planner & Zoning Administrator, CAAPB

RE: AGENDA ITEM #8 - Rice Street Redesign: Overview and Engagement Plan



Memo and Board Meeting Preview

This memo summarizes the community process to date leading to a midpoint design for reconstruction of Rice Street. Please see attachments below for early design, layout, community engagement, and alternatives considered.

At the October 3rd Board Meeting, we will also see a short presentation by Haila Maze, project manager for lead consultant Bolton & Menk. Both the attached information and the presentation will focus on the following:

- summary of community engagement activities in 2025
- alternative designs considered in 2025

Background

A major initiative of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol Area, (profiled in Chapter (Principle) 4) was to transform the "Capitol Rice Corridor" (includes portion of Como, Rice, 12th Street across interstate to St. Peter).



The project was enabled by a \$25 million provision from the 2023 MN State Legislature, appropriated to Department of Transportation (but just for Rice Street itself – **the length shown in green above**) to include collaborative work with City of Saint Paul, Ramsey County, Metropolitan Council, State of Minnesota, and the CAAPB. The project must include implementation of a multi-modal (mobility) hub at University and Rice. (Legislation details can be found in <u>June 2023 Board Memo</u>.) Appropriation is available until June of 2029.

Public Works and Planning staff from Ramsey County, MnDOT, City of Saint Paul, and CAAPB are partnering to conduct design and implementation. There have been regular meetings of the Project Management team over the course of 2025. CAAPB Staff (Musty) is



attending all meetings twice a month and is providing interdisciplinary team policy, studies, and community surveys, and is summarizing recent studies that embody CAAPB priorities in our Comp Plan, stormwater management, urban design, public realm safety, CMDF, mobility, and integration with the Sears site.

Project webpage: https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/roads-transportation/future-road-projects/future-road-p

During spring and summer 2025, staff began vetting alternatives, with an alternative developed based on open house feedback, surveys and street and traffic engineering studies. Project leads and designers, including the interagency staff team (County, City, and CAAPB), are now seeking to initiate review of the 30% design.

Emerging Design

As shown in the attached design summary, the new design for Rice Street features several best practices supported by the County, City public works, and also follows policy of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol as outlined in the attached Staff Evaluation:

- "One lane of traffic in each direction with a two-way left turn lane in the center
- Two-way bikeway with a separate sidewalk from John Ireland Boulevard to University Avenue
- Shared use path from University Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue, Two-way bikeway with a separate sidewalk from University Avenue to John Ireland Boulevard
- Medians at Charles Avenue to provide pedestrians with a refuge island to only cross one direction of traffic at a time, and south of Fuller Avenue to keep drivers from driving around stopped buses
- Boulevard spaces to allow for trees and greening"

Additionally,

- safer intersections to cross Rice Street and slower 'design speed' on Rice
- increased tree canopy
- stormwater best practices
- space for parking north of University Avenue
- better snow storage
- accessible design best practices
- improved lighting and safety features
- four-lane to three-lane conversion (narrower curb to curb dimensions and narrower crossings, while retaining traffic and increasing transit volumes)



Engagement Activity: 2024, 2025 and Upcoming

Full documentation of input of engagement activities, takeaways and concepts considered are available via:

- October 3, 2025, Board Meeting Presentation summary of continuing engagement activities will be presented.
- Attachment C: Concept Screening Report with Community Engagement Takeaways
 https://mn.gov/caapb/assets/ltem%208%2C%20Att.%20C%20-%20Concept%20Screening%20Report%20with%20Community%20Engagement%20Takeaways_tcm1087-706996.pdf
- **Project Webpage** https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/roads-transportation/future-road-projects/future-road-construction-projects/rice-street-capitol-area-reconstruction

Phase 1 Engagement snapshot (August – December 2024):

- 100 door hanger invitations distributed
- In-person open house: 18 attendees
- Project website
- Community stakeholder group newsletters
- Open house postcard
- Email and text subscription list
- Social media posts, CAAPB webpage and GovDelivery Notices

Phase 2 Engagement Snapshot (January – August 2025):

- The purpose of this phase of engagement was to gather feedback on three design concepts for Rice Street:
 - o Concept 1: Two-way bicycle track on west side, sidewalk on east side
 - o Concept 2: Shared-use path on west side, sidewalk on east side
 - Concept 3: Hybrid option two-way bicycle track south of University Ave, shared-use path north
 of Univ.
- Survey (open from June 3 to July 13): 72 responses
- Online comment map: 30 comments
- Virtual open house: 11 attendees
- In-person open house: 20 attendees
- Nine community pop ups: 303 attendees
- Meetings with Good Neighbor Group, Capitol Heights Block Club

Ongoing/Upcoming Engagement: 30% Corridor Design Review and University & Rice Design

Design Presentations/Reviews State of Minnesota w Leadership (Executive Secretary will convene)

- CAAPB Members
- Legislators
- Mayor (offered, w City Staff)
- Commissioners' Offices (Transportation, Administration, Public Safety, Veterans)

CAAPB Staff and Partner Reviews

- Advisory Committee Special Meetings (w Minnesota Historical Society)
 Topical Reviews with Partners:
- Capitol Region Watershed District
- Minnesota Council on Disability

- Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, Deaf Blind, and Hard of Hearing
- Capitol Security
- Department of Administration Consultations (RECS, Events, Grounds, OES, SHPO)
- Good Neighbor Group/Rice Street Businesses and Capitol Heights Block Club
- Adjacent Major Private Properties (University and Rice) Former Sears, League of MN Cities, Saint Paul City School, Good Neighbor Center, (411 Rice), Capitol Ridge, apartment buildings, others

Design Team Community Open Houses (x2)

• Virtual and In-person options

Advisory Committee (Advisors) Reviews

Advisor Joe Favour has been present at several project management team meetings. Haila Maze visited the Advisors in early 2025. Then on September 10, 2025, project team lead street designer Cody Christiansen presented the 30% design to the full Advisory Committee. Several of the issues flagged by staff and advisors that CAAPB has asked to be addressed include:

- ✓ full intersection to former Sears site at the new Central
- ✓ review must be conducted with Good Neighbor Center for new street design (narrowing of street and improved crossing, site access) at Aurora and Rice
- ✓ continued collaboration between Administration CAAPB and Rice Street team on design of mobility hub amenities and green spaces at University and Rice
- ✓ Collaborate with other important stakeholders.

CAAPB Advisory Committee Member Joe Favour shared the following:

"The design alternative recommended by the Rice Street design team will be a significant improvement for the Rice Street corridor within the Capitol Area. The improvements planned for pedestrian, bicycle, and multimodal transit connectivity will pay dividends far beyond the monetary investment in the physical upgrades. The design emerging from the engagement to date integrates meaningful improvements without disrupting the traffic flow or expanding the right of way. Overall the architectural/design advisors see this proposed alternative as an important investment in positive change." – CAAPB Advisor Joe Favour

The Design and Location of Three BRT Stations Have Not Changed

Three new Metro G-Line BRT Stations remain in the locations the Board previously approved, and the design of those stations remains as proposed and approved previously by the Board. They are located at Como and Rice, University and Rice, and New Central and Rice serving future redevelopment at former Sears (by Transportation Building where Central used to connect to Rice). Please see attached 30% design.

The Design of More Elements Will Be Coming Before the Board in Near Future

Three focus areas will come forward at a future meeting for consideration, including detail of the intersection of Rice and John Ireland, the open space design at University and Rice including mobility and welcoming amenities, and concepts for the triangle at Pennsylvania, Rice, and Como.

For Project Timeline and Updated Construction Start Date, see Project Webpage

Currently, the project is scheduled to move through final design stages, bidding and then construction by 2028.

CAAPB Staff Evaluation

Compliance With Statute 15B

Does the design process and design comply with requirements in MN Statute 15B CAPITOL AREA PLANNING AND PRESERVATION?

<u>Yes.</u> The street design and reconstruction project, located entirely within the Capitol Area boundary, triggers the need for compliance with several statutory requirements:

MN Statute 15B.08 CONSTRUCTION PROCESS, (Subd. 3) states that "No substantial change or improvement may be made to public lands or public buildings in the Capitol Area without the written approval of the board." Consideration for the 30% design helps to ensure the project is tracking toward final acceptance by the Board.

MN Statute 15B.10 COMPETITIONS, (Subd.1, (b)) states "A competition also may be used for plans for a proposed ...(3) street plan; ...(5) change to a public building, landscaping scheme, or street plan." The project satisfies the requirement by selection of Bolton & Menk team through a public competitive RFP process conducted by Ramsey County that included vetting and selecting applicants for their capacity, experience, means, and proposed scope. CAAPB staff participated in the selection committee with staff from other agencies.

MN Statute 15B.11 ADVISORY COMMITTEE, (Subd. 1. Advisory committee review) states..."The board must not approve a plan for a new public building under section 15B.10 or 15B.13 unless it first receives the comments and criticism of the advisory committee..." As documented in the staff memo, three Advisors have reviewed and recommend that the Board support forwarding the 30% design proposed as the preferred alternative.

MN Statute 15B.17 CAPITOL AREA PROPOSALS, (Subd. 1. *Proposals*) states..." (a) Before a state agency or other public body develops a budget proposal or plans for capital improvements within the Capitol Area to submit to the legislature and the governor, it must consult with the board." The legislative provision passed in 2023 legislative session creating the \$25 million project was developed in consultation with CAAPB staff prior to legislative approval, and it was considered by staff as satisfying implementation of a key policy of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan adopted by the Board in 2021 (See analysis below, in particular Chapters/Principles 4, 5 and 7).

Compliance With 2040 Comprehensive Plan



Does the design align with policy in the <u>2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol Area?</u>

<u>Yes.</u> CAAPB Staff can confirm that several major and supporting policies of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan will be implemented with this design. The policies addressed in the design are listed below - or a link is provided where policies are too numerous to list:

Chapter/Principle 1:

As Minnesota's seat of government and destination for thousands each year, the Capitol Area offers the highest quality experience to visitors.

1.16. Explore the establishment of a self-serve visitor station and/or kiosk(s) that could provide educational, historical, and directional information for visitors. The station/kiosk(s) should be sited as strategically as possible for visibility and accessibility, and should be designed to maximize the comfort, safety, and efficiency of nonmotorized travel.

- ✓ 1.28. Provide for multiple modes of transportation options, including transit, automobile, bicycle, personal scooter and walking.
- √ 1.30. Explore means of access to visitors unable to pay for transportation or parking to visit the Capitol
 Area.

Chapter/Principle 2:

The Capitol Building and Mall are central to the identity of Saint Paul and are a unifying focal point for the city, as Cass Gilbert once envisioned.

- 2.8. Provide connections to major State buildings, plazas and parking, for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles.
- 2.11. Focus attention on smaller connections and approaches to the west, north, and east in neighborhoods as specified in Chapters 4 and 5, and the Development Frameworks referenced in Chapter 7 of this plan.
 - ✓ 2.17. To the extent feasible, encourage elements (such as bus shelters, plazas, and seating) to be designed in a manner that enhances views and connections to the Capitol Campus.
 - ✓ 2.37. Design connecting streets and pathways as extensions of open spaces, reflecting a quality appropriate to the public realm at the State Capitol.
 - o b. Extend the natural and historic landscape established by Saint Paul's extensive parkways and boulevards to and through the Capitol Area.
- e. Delineate paths between pedestrians, and those on bikes, scooters, and other alternative modes of transportation.
 - ✓ 2.38. Utilize sustainable, human-scale plantings to enhance the landscape.
 - o d. Promote tree diversity as a risk management technique for limiting the impact of diseases, pests, and other problems associated with climate change.
 - o e. Encourage dense tree planting and continuous tree canopy along sidewalks to visually define approaches and to shade pedestrians.

Chapter/Principle 3:

The Capitol Area is a model for Minnesota, where best practices are expected in the planning, design, and development of public and private projects.

✓ Best practices should be considered during the earliest stages of design. 3.1. Public and private projects in the Capitol Area should consider the five holistic lenses healthy living, communities & families, placemaking & identity, economic vitality, and energy & environment in the earliest stages of planning and design.



The following designs implement or align with a significant proportion of principles and elements in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and would be too numerous to list in this analysis. Please follow the links to review.

Chapter/Principle 4

The entire Capitol Area provides an integrated, high quality, human scale public realm experience https://mn.gov/caapb/assets/Principle%204 tcm1087-484512.pdf

Chapter/Principle 5

The Capitol Area is an urban multi-modal district, seamlessly connected to destinations

https://mn.gov/caapb/assets/Principle%205 tcm1087-484513.pdf

Chapter/Principle 6

Land use diversity is encouraged throughout the Capitol Area

https://mn.gov/caapb/assets/Principle%206 tcm1087-484514.pdf

Chapter/Principle 7

In all parts of the Capitol Area, new development respects community, assets and context https://mn.gov/caapb/assets/Principle%207 tcm1087-484515.pdf

Chapter/Principle 7A: The Capitol Rice Development Framework

The Capitol Rice District is an Urban Village with Leif Erickson Park at its center

https://mn.gov/caapb/assets/Principle%207A tcm1087-484516.pdf

Next Steps

- 1) No formal Board action is necessary at this stage.
- 2) Now that the Board Members have received and reviewed the 30% schematic design and received and reviewed the community and engagement activities conducted by Ramsey County, the City of Saint Paul, and CAAPB, the Rice Street design team will continue engagement, technical reviews and continue development of the design. Additional updates will be brought to the Board.
- 3) To ensure continued alignment with the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, CAAPB's Statutory approval requirements in MN Statute 15B, and specific Rules in MN Rules 2400, the final design will be brought back before the Board during or after design development for approval prior to developing final construction documents.

Attachments

Attachment A: Staff Recommended Design (two-page PDF Flyer)

Attachment B: 30% Layout of Entire Corridor (one large PDF drawing)

Attachment C: Concept Screening Report w/Community Engagement Takeaways (27 pages, shows previously considered concepts)



- Overview

Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul are working in partnership with the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board to design and construct a community-driven vision for Rice Street near the Minnesota state capitol from John Ireland Boulevard to Pennsylvania Avenue. This project is also being coordinated with Metro Transit's METRO G Line project. The purpose of this project is to:

- · Improve pedestrian safety and access
- Improve bicycle safety and access
- Improve transit and multimodal operations
- Develop mobility hub around the Rice/University intersection
 Utilize partnerships and have a transparent process
- · Improve vehicle safety and operations
- Design for an enhanced and sustainable public realm
- · Design for existing and changing land uses





Engagement

Inclusive community engagement is very important to the success of the study. Input from the public will shape the project every step of the way.

Gather feedback on Rice Street Fall -winter 2024

Share potential designs Spring – summer 2025

Introduce recommended design Summer – fall 2025

Share construction timeline Fall - winter 2026

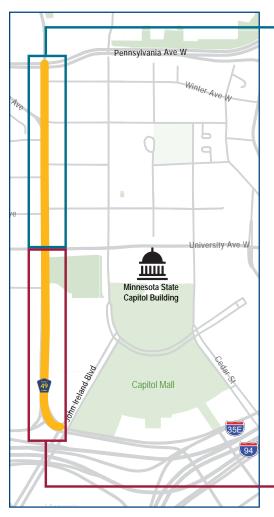
Construction start Anticipated start Spring 2027



Share your vision for the future of Rice Street!

ramseycounty.us/ CapitolRiceStreet

Recommended Design: Hybrid Bicycle & Pedestrian Features





North of University: Shared Use Path



South of University: Two-Way Cycle Track

Key Elements

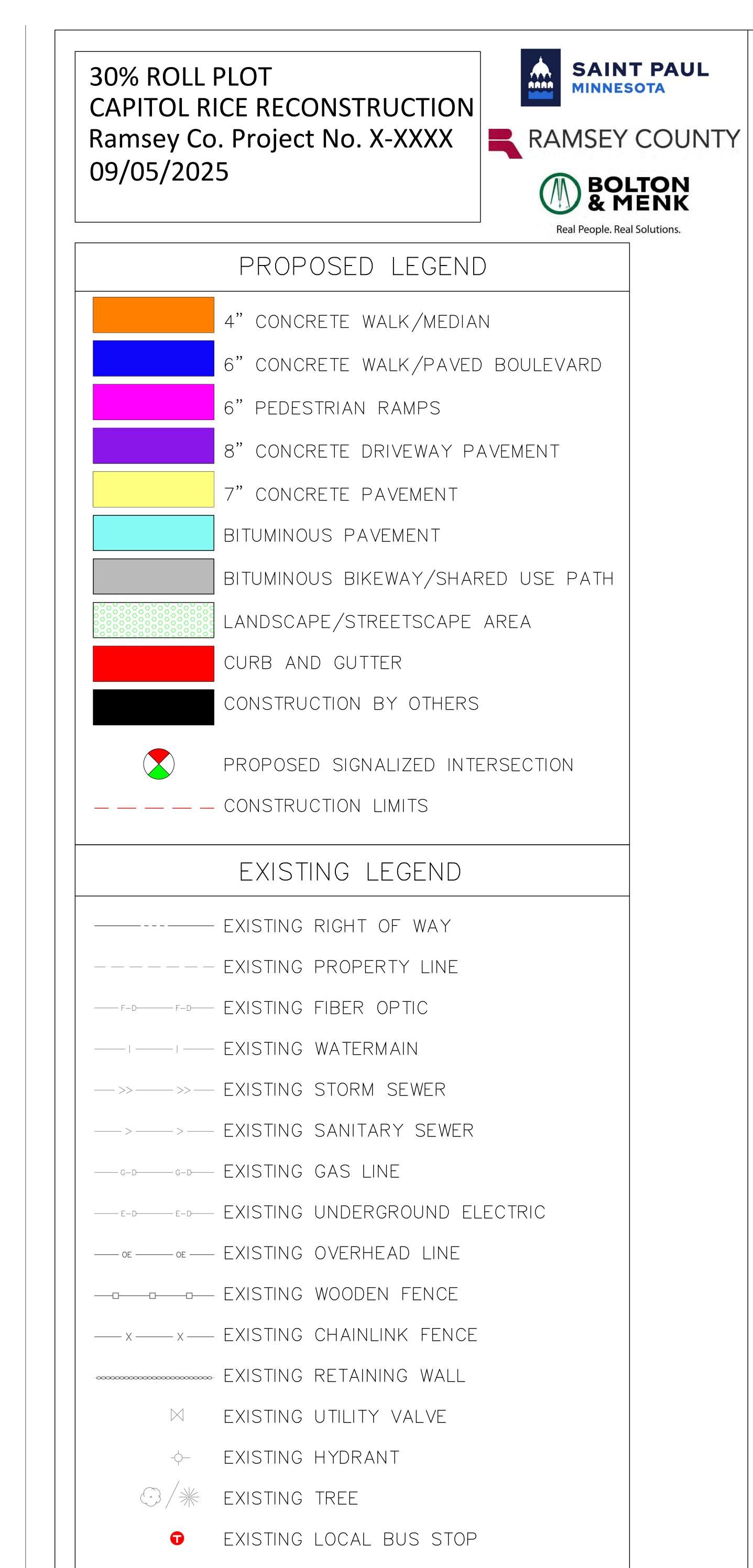
- One lane of traffic in each direction with a two-way left turn lane in the center
- Two-way bikeway with a separate sidewalk from John Ireland Boulevard to University Avenue
- Shared use path from University Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue, Two-way bikeway with a separate sidewalk from University Avenue to John Ireland Boulevard
- Medians at Charles Avenue to provide pedestrians with a refuge island to only cross one direction of traffic at a time, and south of Fuller Avenue to keep drivers from driving around stopped buses
- Boulevard spaces to allow for trees and greening

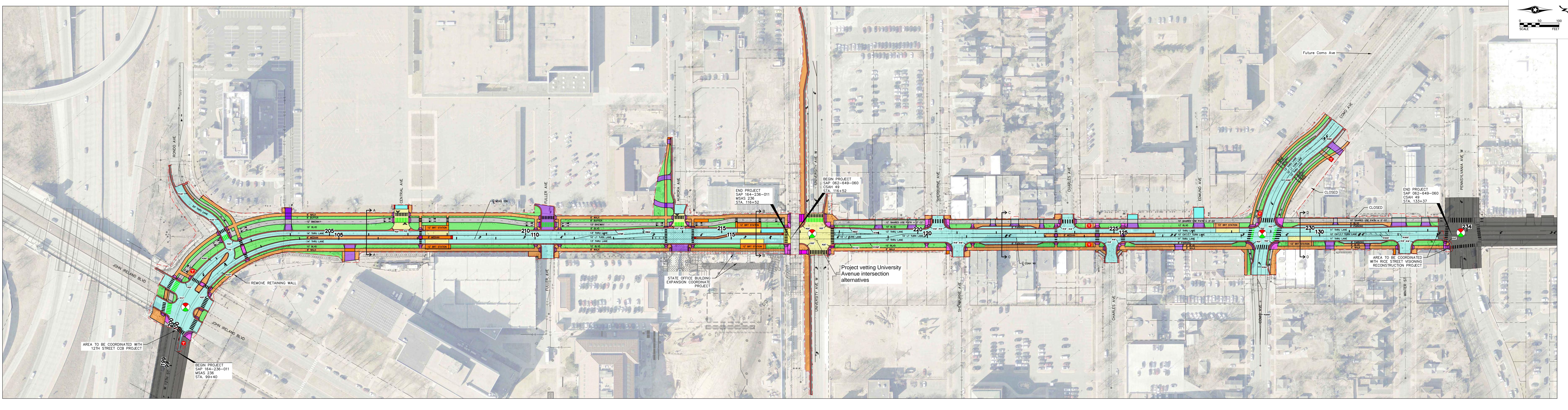
Community Priorities

- Improved bicyclist and pedestrian safety
- Design elements that help slow traffic
- Space for trees and greening
- Space for on-street parking north of University Avenue

City & County Considerations

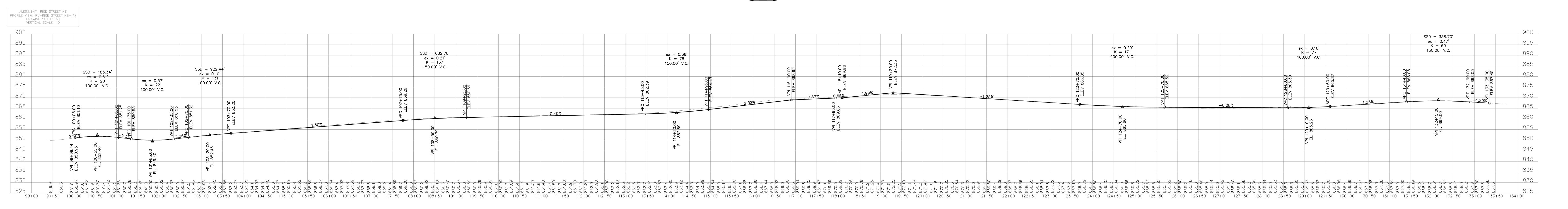
- Supports county's commitment to an all-abilities transportation network
- More pedestrian and bicycle-focused use of space, consistent with city and county street design policies
- More ability to accommodate snow storage, an important consideration for city maintenance purposes





CSAH 49 (RICE STREET) PROFILE

DIRECTION OF TRAVEL



DRAFT

Capitol Rice (CSAH 49) Reconstruction

Concept Screening Report

Ramsey County with City of Saint Paul and Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

September 8, 2025









PURPOSE

This memorandum aims to outline the concept evaluation process for the Capitol Rice (CSAH 49) Reconstruction project and document the results of the Concept Screening. A two-part concept evaluation process was undertaken to identify and evaluate Capitol Rice (CSAH 49) improvement concepts. The initial evaluation, called the Phase 1 Screening focused on dismissing concepts that did not meet the project's purpose, goals, and objectives. The remaining concepts were then moved forward into the Phase 2 evaluation that compared the benefits and trade-offs of each alternative in more detail.

The existing conditions, purpose and need framework, goals and objectives, public engagement, and traffic analysis which serve as the foundation for the concept screenings are documented in separate technical memorandums and therefore, will not be repeated here.

METHODS OF CONSIDERATION

PUBLIC AND AGENCY PARTICIPATION

Public and agency participation has guided the development of the improvement concepts and will be critical to the success and results of the Capitol Rice Reconstruction Project. Input from affected local agencies and the public will give credibility to key decisions made during the project. The following are summaries of the public outreach completed during the Phase 1 Engagement. Additional Phase 1 information can be found as part of the Phase 1 Engagement Summary. Phase 2 and Phase 3 engagement efforts are also planned as part of the project, which will occur in 2025.

Project Management Team (PMT)

The study is being led by the PMT, which is comprised of planning and engineering staff from Ramsey County, City of Saint Paul, Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, Metro Transit, MnDOT, Capital Region Watershed District, Bolton & Menk, Kimley Horn, Forecast Public Art and 4RM+ULA. The PMT meets monthly to manage and deliver the project to consider all public, stakeholder, and elected official input.

Phase I Engagement

From August to December 2024, the project team gathered feedback on the existing conditions of Rice Street between the John Ireland Boulevard and Pennsylvania Avenue near the Minnesota State Capitol. Members of the public were able to learn more about the project, share their feedback on the current condition of the roadway and find out how to stay involved throughout the process.

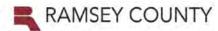
Engagement snapshot

- 100 door hanger invitations distributed
- In-person open house: 18 attendees
- Project website
- Community stakeholder group newsletters
- Open house postcard
- Email and text subscription list









Social media posts

Key takeaways:

Infrastructure priorities

- Roadway lighting was the top priority for vehicle infrastructure.
- Floating bus stops were the top priority for transit infrastructure.
- Separated bike lanes were the top priority for bicycle and pedestrian improvements.
- In terms of streetscaping features, people prioritized community development, art in pedestrian spaces, stormwater management, and wayfinding signage nearly equally.
- For neighborhood design, participants prioritized public eating places, tabled intersections, street prioritizing walking and biking.

Traffic and transportation improvements

- Slow down speed limits, make crosswalks safer, and improve bike lanes.
- Suggestion to create a two-way bike link to the North multi-use path and connect to the bike boulevard on Charles.
- Suggestion to add a left-turn lane from Pennsylvania to Como.
- Address confusing and awkward intersections, specifically at 12th and John Ireland and at Rondo and 12th.

Safety and security enhancements

- Add better lighting and street cameras.
- Address unsafe slip lane at Como and Rice due to fast vehicles and the damage in Rice Street.

Cleanliness and maintenance

- Increase frequency of trash pickup crews.
- Increase foot traffic and cleanliness to decrease crime and ensure businesses are successful.
- Improve parking and accessibility.

Community and business development

- Draw in more restaurants and stores.
- Add more public facilities (eating areas, greenspaces with benches, public restrooms).
- Develop a linear park between the Sears development and Rice.

Phase II Engagement

The purpose of this phase of engagement was to gather feedback on three design concepts for Rice Street:

- Concept 1: Two-way bicycle track on west side, sidewalk on east side
- Concept 2: Shared-use path on west side, sidewalk on east side
- Concept 3: Hybrid option two-way bicycle track south of University Ave, shared-use path north of University Ave

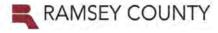
Engagement snapshot

- Survey (open from June 3 to July 13): 72 responses
- Online comment map: 30 comments









Virtual open house: 11 attendees

In-person open house: 20 attendees

Nine community pop ups: 303 attendees

Key takeaways

Concepts

- Concept 1: Bicycle Track received the highest overall scores, especially for ability to improve bicyclist safety and access.
- Concept 3: Hybrid Bicycle Features performed well in public space and pedestrian safety, but some found it potentially confusing given the transition.
- Concept 2: Shared Use Path ranked lowest overall, primarily due to concerns about bicyclepedestrian conflicts in a shared space.

Location-specific priorities

- North of University Avenue: Top priorities include a two-way bikeway, shared use path, and public space amenities.
- Mobility Hub at Rice & University: Participants prioritized trees and greenery, public art, and improved lighting.
- Rondo/Rice/John Ireland Intersection: Top comments include safety concerns at the intersection for all modes and a desire for public art and placemaking.

Safety and accessibility

- Strong calls for improved bike and pedestrian safety, including:
 - Dashed green stripes at intersection crossing locations
 - Raised crossings and refuge islands for pedestrian crossings
 - Dedicated bike lanes and better bikeway connectivity

Traffic and design feedback

- Suggestions for traffic calming: roundabouts, more painted crossings, and fewer driveway access points.
- Specific intersections (e.g., Rice and Como, Rice and Winter) drew mixed feedback on access restrictions and suggestions for roundabouts.

Transit

• Suggestions to align bus stops with pedestrian flows and design the street to prevent cars from passing stopped buses.

Business impacts

• Business owners expressed concerns about potential for on-street parking loss and roadway construction impacts.

Public space and greenery

- Strong support for including trees, seating, public art, and maintaining on-street parking.
- Concerns about potential for vegetation creating visibility issues at intersections.

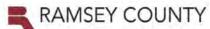
Community

Emphasis on considering the safety and livability of unhoused individuals during construction.









PHASE 1 EVALUATION & DISMISSED CONCEPTS

SCREENING & EVALUATION PROCESS

This section describes the steps to evaluate the full range of concepts developed for the Capitol Study Area along Rice Street (MSAS 236 south of University Avenue and CSAH 49 north of University Avenue). Due to inconsistent right-of-way and existing land uses within the study area, the Capitol Rice corridor was segmented into two sections. This was done to allow for the development and comparison of different concepts/typical sections that considered variable conditions (number of travel lanes, turn lanes, on- and off-street bicycle facilities, boulevard widths, etc.). The corridor segmentation is as follows:

- Segment 1 (A-A): John Ireland Boulevard to University Avenue
- Segment 2 (B-B): University Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue



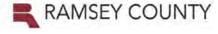
Figure 1: Capitol Rice Street Project Area Map

The evaluation process for each of the two corridor segments is based on the project goals, purpose, and needs developed by the PMT.









Project Goals

The Capitol Rice Street (MSAS 236, CSAH 49) Reconstruction project will seek to accomplish the following project goals:

- Improve pedestrian safety and access
- Improve bicycle safety and access
- Improve transit and multimodal operations
- Improve vehicle safety and operations
- Design an enhanced, sustainable public realm
- Design for existing and changing land uses
- Utilize partnerships and have a transparent process







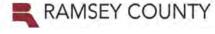


Table 1. Goals and Objectives

Pedestrian level of service Reduced crossing distance	
Reduced crossing distance	
1. Improve pedestrian safety and access Pedestrian level of traffic stress	
1. Improve pedestrian safety and access Improved visibility of pedestrians to drivers	
Reduced pedestrian-vehicle conflict points	
Connections to east-west pedestrian improvement	nents
Connections to existing and planned bike route	<u> </u>
2. Improve bicycle safety and access Designated or multi-use bicycle routes	
Bicycle level of traffic stress	
Multimodal access at transit facilities	
Improved transit service	
3. Improve transit and multimodal Incorporating METRO G Line BRT enhanced ser	vice
operations Accommodating staging efforts during LRT rout	te closure
Incorporating new mobility hub	
Reduced traffic speeds	
Reduced intersection crash rate and severity	
Reduced corridor crash rate and severity	
4. Improve vehicle safety and operations Maintenance of traffic operations along Rice St	reet
Access to Rice Street	
Intersection level of service	
Reduced vehicle to vehicle conflict points	
Improved street lighting	
Enhancements reflect area's unique history and	d character
5. Design an enhanced, sustainable public Provides opportunity for pedestrian amenities	
realm Provides space to accommodate street trees	
Incorporation of green infrastructure and corrid	dor greening
Plan for sustainable streetscape maintenance	
Supports mitigation plan for construction phase	e impacts
Updates to parking requirements and availabili	ty near
businesses	
6. Design for existing and changing land Supports business vitality along the corridor	
uses Ease of freight access and deliveries	
Aligns with identified growth and development	opportunities
and needs	
Managing private property impacts	
Health and active living support	
Workforce and business support	
Utilize partnerships and have a Cost/benefit analysis	
7. transparent process Constructability/long term maintenance	
Public support to carry forward	
Agency support to carry concept forward	







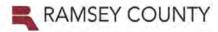


Table 2. Cross-Section Dimension Assumptions

Cross-Section Elements & Zones	Preferred Width (ft)	Minimum Width (ft)
Frontage	3	2
PAR	8	5
Sidewalk Buffer (between bikes and pedestrians)	6	2
Bike Lane (One Way)	6	5
Bike Lane (Two Way, Per Lane)	5	4
Street Buffer	6+	5.5
Parking Lane	8	8
Through Lane	11	11
BRT Station (exclusive of curb)	11.5	9.5
Sidepath	12	10

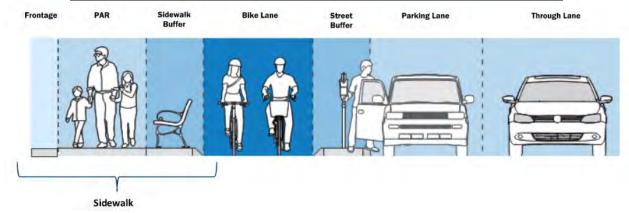


Figure 2: Separated Bike Lane Zones from the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities 5th Ed. combined with the MnDOT Facility Design Guide.

The common elements considered in each concept are shown in Figure 1 and described in Table 2. When considered, a sidepath replaces the PAR, sidewalk buffer, and bike lane. A 6 ft buffer is assumed to be the minimum width required for street trees. An even larger buffer can accommodate more pedestrian amenities and placemaking features. A 5.5 ft buffer is assumed to be the minimum width to accommodate street lights, utilities, and roadside signs.

Figure 2 depicts a street-level separated bike lane, but the bicycle facilities for Rice Street are assumed to be sidewalk-level.

CONCEPT ALTERNATIVES

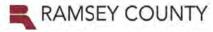
Table 3. Capitol Rice Street (MSAS 236, CSAH 49) Concept Alternatives

Section 1 (A-A) Alternatives		
No Build	a) Does not support goals	







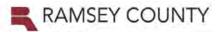


Α.	5 Vehicle Lanes, Sidepath on 1 Side, Sidewalk	a)	Supports Goal # 6
	on 1 Side	b)	Can support portions of Goals # 1, 2, 3, 4
		c)	Minimally supports Goal # 5
		d)	Does not support Goal # 7
В.	3 Vehicle Lanes & 1-way Separated Bike	a)	Supports Goal # 1, 3, 5
	Lanes/Sidewalks on Both Sides	b)	Can support portions of Goals # 2, 4, 6, 7
C.	3 Vehicle Lanes & 2-way Separated Bike Lane	a)	Supports Goal #1, 2, 3, 5,
	on One Side, Sidewalks on Both Sides	b)	Can support portions of Goals # 4, 6,
D.	3 Vehicle Lanes & Sidepaths on Both Sides	a)	Supports Goals # 3, 5,
		b)	Can support portions of Goals # 1, 2, 4, 6, 7
D2.	3 Vehicle Lane, Sidepath on 1 Side, Parking on	a)	Supports Goals # 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
1 Sid		b)	Can support portions of Goals # 1, 4
	Section 2 (F	3-B)	Alternatives
	•	a)	Does not support goals
	No Build	uj	Does not support yours
E.	3 Vehicle Lanes & 1-way Separated Bike	a)	Can support portions of Goals # 2, 4,
	Lanes/Sidewalks on Both Sides	b)	Minimally supports Goals # 1, 3,
		c)	Does not support Goal # 5, 6, 7,
F.	3 Vehicle Lanes & 1-way Separated Bike	a)	Can support portions of Goals # 1, 2, 4
	Lanes/Sidewalks on Both Sides, Parking on One Side	b)	Minimally supports Goals # 6, 3,
On		c)	Does not support Goals # 5, 7
G.	3 Vehicle Lanes & 2-way Separated Bike Lane	a)	Supports Goals # 1, 2, 3,
	on One Side, Sidewalks on Both Sides	b)	Can support portions of Goals # 4, 5, 7
		c)	Minimally supports Goal # 6
н.	3 Vehicle Lanes & 2-way Separated Bike Lane	a)	Supports Goals # 1, 2, 6,
	on One Side, Sidewalks on Both Sides, Parking	b)	Can support portions of Goals # 3, 4, 7
	on One Side	c)	Does not support Goal # 5
I.	3 Vehicle Lanes & Sidepaths on Both Sides	a)	Supports Goal # 5
		b)	Can support portions of Goals # 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
	3 Vehicle Lanes & Sidepaths on Both Sides,	a)	Can support portions of Goals # 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
	Parking on One Side	b)	Minimally supports Goal # 3
	3 Vehicle Lanes & Sidepath on 1 Side/Parking	a)	Can support portions of Goals # 1, 2, 3, 4
	on Both Sides	b)	Does not support Goals # 5, 6, 7
	2 Vehicle Lanes & Sidepaths/Parking on Both	a)	Supports Goal # 5
	Sides	b)	Can support portions of Goals # 1, 2, 3,
		c)	Minimally supports Goal # 6
		d)	Does not support Goals # 4, 7
	3 Vehicle Lanes & 2-way Separated Bike	a)	Can support portions of Goals # 1, 2, 3, 4
	Lane/Parking on Both Sides	b)	Minimally supports Goal # 5
		c)	Does not support Goals # 6, 7









N. 3 Vehicle Lanes & Sidepath on 1 Side, Parking	a) Supports Goals # 1, 3, 5, 6, 7
and Sidewalk on One Side	b) Can support portions of Goals # 2, 4

PHASE 1 EVALUATION & DISMISSED CONCEPTS

Based on technical analysis and input from the PMT, elected officials and the public, a Phase 1 screening was completed to identify fatal flaws and discuss concepts that do not meet the purpose and need framework. The Phase 1 screening generally dismissed concepts that did not meet safety and operations, mobility and access, community and agency framework, and financial responsibility goals. The table below identifies concepts from the Phase 1 Screening that are not recommended to be carried forward into the detailed Phase 2 evaluation.

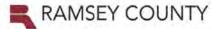
Table 4. Phase 1 Screening of Corridor Concepts

	Dismissed Concepts	Conflicting Goals		Reason Dismissed*
	No Build		a)	Does not support goals
A.	5 Vehicle Lanes & Sidepaths on Both Sides	5, 6, 7	a) b) c) d)	Does not provide enough space for trees Does not provide frontage to avoid impacts to adjacent properties and ensure constructability Large amount of impervious surface Does not meet goal 7 with agency support.
В.	3 Vehicle Lanes & 1-way Separated Bike Lanes/Sidewalks on Both Sides	2, 7	a) b)	Disconnected from planned adjacent cycling routes which include a sidepath on the west side 2 separated bike lanes require additional plowing by public works staff
D.	3 Vehicle Lanes & Sidepaths on Both Sides	2	a)	Bicycle access on the east side does not connect with the planned network.
			5	Section 2 (B-B) Alternatives
	No Build		a)	Does not support goals
E.	3 Vehicle Lanes & 1-way Separated Bike Lanes/Sidewalks on Both Sides	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7,	a) b) c) d) e)	Does not provide enough space for lighting, signage, or trees Unable to maintain PAR width between BRT stations and businesses Large amount of impervious surface Disconnected from planned adjacent cycling routes which include a sidepath on the west side 2 separated bike lanes require additional plowing by public works staff







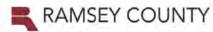


F.	3 Vehicle Lanes & 1-way Separated Bike	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7,	a)	Does not provide enough space for lighting, signage, or trees
	Lanes/Sidewalks on Both		b)	Large amount of impervious surface
	Sides, Parking on One Side		c)	Disconnected from planned adjacent cycling routes which include a sidepath on the west side
			d)	2 separated bike lanes require additional plowing by public works staff
н.	3 Vehicle Lanes & 2-way	2, 5, 6	a)	Large amounts of impervious surface
	Separated Bike Lane on One		b)	Minimum bike lane width
	Side, Sidewalks on Both Sides, Parking on One Side		e)	Limited frontage
ı.	3 Vehicle Lanes & Sidepaths on Both Sides	2, 6	a)	Bicycle and pedestrian LOS on a sidepath depends on projected user volumes.
	on both sides		b)	Bicycle access on the east side does not connect with the planned network.
			f)	Limited frontage.
J.	3 Vehicle Lanes & Sidepaths on Both Sides, Parking on One	2, 5, 6	a)	Bicycle and pedestrian LOS on a sidepath depends on projected user volumes.
	Side		b)	Bicycle access on the east side does not connect with the planned network.
			c)	Large amounts of impervious surface.
			g)	Limited frontage.
K.	3 Vehicle Lanes & Sidepaths/Parking on Both	5, 6, 7	a)	Bicycle and pedestrian LOS on a sidepath depends on projected user volumes.
	Sides		b)	Does not provide enough space for lighting, signage, or trees
			c)	Does not provide frontage to avoid impacts to adjacent properties and ensure constructability
			d)	Large amounts of impervious surface
L.	2 Vehicle Lanes & Sidepaths/Parking on Both	4, 6, 7	a)	Bicycle and pedestrian LOS on a sidepath depends on projected user volumes.
	Sides		b)	Turning movements are hindered without a central turn lane.
			c)	Congestion caused by more on-street parking and 2-lane segment likely to decrease access to local businesses.
M.	3 Vehicle Lanes & 2-way Separated Bike Lane/Parking	5, 6, 7	a)	Does not provide enough space for lighting, signage, or trees
	on Both Sides		b)	Does not provide frontage to avoid impacts to adjacent properties and ensure constructability
			c)	Bicycle and pedestrian LOS on a sidepath depends on projected user volumes.
			d)	Large amounts of impervious surface
		<u> </u>	/	. U:po va. va. 1400









PHASE 2 EVALUATION

The Phase 2 screening analysis was conducted from April 2025 through July 2025 for each remaining concept. Three concepts were progressed from the Phase 1 Screening and renamed for clarity and ease of communication.

- "Concept 1" (former Concepts C & G): 3-Lane, Sidewalks, Two-way Separated Bike Lane One Side, Boulevard, No Parking
- "Concept 2" (former Concepts D2 & N): 3-Lane, Sidewalk, Sidepath, Boulevard, Parking Bays
- "Concept 3" (former Concepts C & N): 3-Lane, Sidewalks, Two-Way Separated Bike Lane on One Side south of University Ave, Sidepath on One Side north of University Ave, Boulevard, Parking Bays north of University Ave

Concept visuals and details that were used for public engagement and general communication of concept details and differences are included in **Appendix B**.

To identify a final preferred concept, each remaining concept was screened against further technical analysis, minimum and preferred design standards, public engagement findings, alignment with project goals, and detailed feedback from the PMT. Additional as-needed stakeholder meetings were held to vet specific elements of each concept.

Based on findings from the Phase 2 Screening process, Concepts 1 and 2 were dismissed from consideration, as noted in **Table 5**.

Table 5 – Level 3 Screening Dismissed Concepts

Dismissed Concepts	Reason for Dismissal
Concept 1	a) Didn't allow for parking
3-Lane, Sidewalks, Two-way Separated Bike Lane One Side, Boulevard, No	 b) Minimal space for corridor greening/streetscape north of University Ave
Parking	 c) Limited space for corridor lighting, signing and amenities north of University Ave
Concept 2	a) Shared use space for pedestrians and bicyclists south of
3-Lane, Sidewalk, Sidepath, Boulevard, Parking Bays	University Ave likely to have reduced PLOS and BLOS due to the high pedestrian generators surrounding the corridor

During the July 2025 PMT meeting, attendees confirmed results from the Phase 2 Screening and selected Concept 3 to be the preferred concept, as noted in **Table 6**.







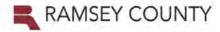


Table 6 - Preferred Concept

Preferred Concept	Reason
Concept 3	a) Prioritizes bike and pedestrian accessibility over cars
3-Lane, Sidewalks, Two-Way Separated	b) New dedicated bike accommodation
Bike Lane on One Side south of University Ave, Sidepath on One Side	c) Improved pedestrian access and crossings
north of University Ave, Boulevard, Parking Bays north of University Ave	 d) Provides opportunities for trees and stormwater management throughout the corridor
	e) The hybrid of bicycle facilities allows:
	 Dedicated bike facilities throughout the corridor, even in the more constrained right-of-way
	2) Better fit with accommodating future BRT facilities
	3) More able to include on-street parking



Figure 3: Rendering of Preferred Concept 3, John Ireland Boulevard to University Avenue







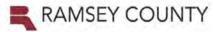


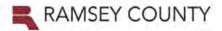


Figure 4: Rendering of Preferred Concept 3, University Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue









Appendix A – Phase 1 Screening Concepts



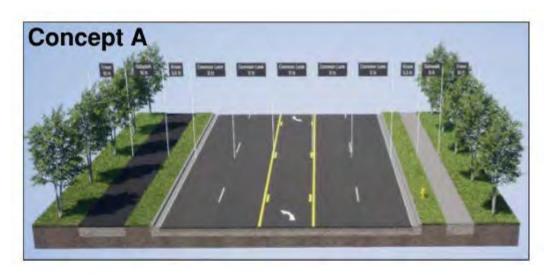


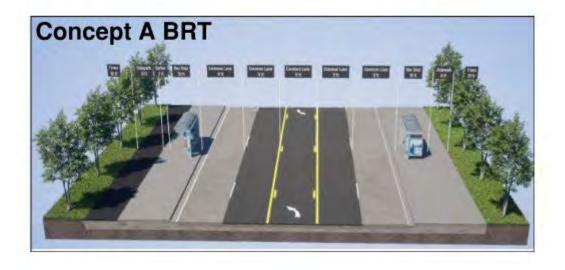




Concept A

5-Lane Roadway, Sidepath

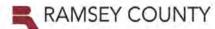












Concept B 3-Lane Roadway, One-way Separated Bike Lane

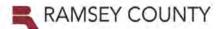












Concept C

3-Lane Roadway, Two-way Separated Bike Lane

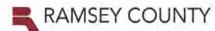






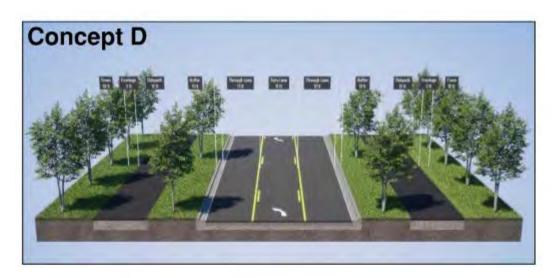






Concept D

3-Lane Roadway, Sidepath on Both Sides

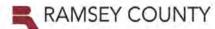












Concept D2

3-Lane Roadway, Sidepath

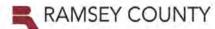






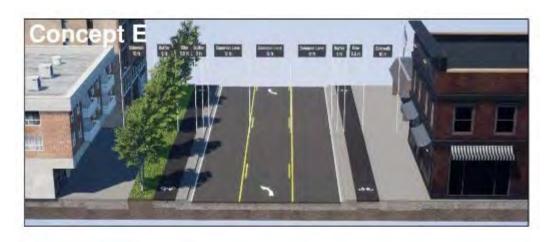






Concepts E & F

3-Lane Roadway, One-way Bike Lanes



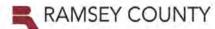












Concepts G & H

3-Lane Roadway, Two-way Separated Bike Lanes



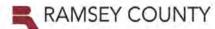












Concepts I & J

3-Lane Roadway, Sidepath on Both Sides



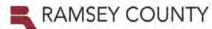






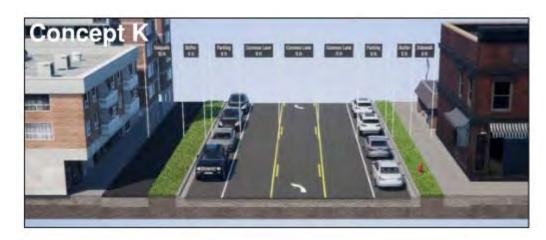






Concept K

3-Lane Roadway, Sidepath, Parking on Both Sides



Concept L

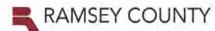
2-Lane Roadway, Sidepath and Parking on Both Sides





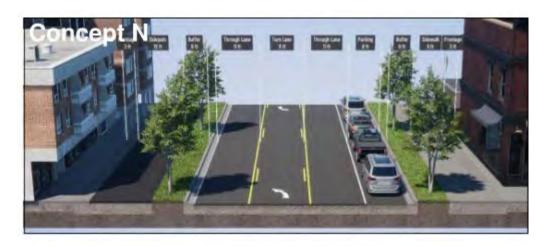






Concept N

3-Lane Roadway, Sidepath, Parking on One Side

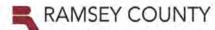












Appendix B – Phase 2 Screening Concepts









Concept 1: Bicycle track

- · 3-lane roadway, including left turn lanes
- · Two-way cycle track
- · Separate sidewalk space
- · Medians at Charles Avenue and south of Fuller Avenue
- . Boulevard spaces to allow for trees and greening

The medians at Charles Avenue and south of Fuller Avenue will keep drivers from darting around stopped buses. It also serves as a pedestrian refuge so people would only need to cross one lane of traffic at a time.

See the layout on the tables for a more detailed view of this concept.



Concept 2: Shared use path

- · 3-lane roadway, including left turn lanes
- · Shared use path on the west, sidewalk on the east
- · Medians at Charles Avenue and south of Fuller Avenue
- · Boulevard spaces to allow for trees and greening

The medians at Charles Ave and south of Fuller Avenue will keep drivers from darting around stopped buses. It also serves as a pedestrian refuge so people would only need to cross one lane of traffic at a time.

See the layout on the tables for a more detailed view of this concept.



Concept 3: Hybrid bicycle features

- · 3-lane roadway, including left turn lanes
- Two-way cycle track from John Ireland Boulevard to University Avenue
- · Shared use path from University Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue
- · Medians at Charles Avenue and south of Fuller Avenue
- · Boulevard spaces to allow for trees and greening

The medians at Charles Ave and south of Fuller Avenue will keep drivers from darting around stopped buses. It also serves as a pedestrian refuge so people would only need to cross one lane of traffic at a time.

See the layout on the tables for a more detailed view of this concept.

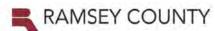














Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

Freeman Building
625 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55155
651-757-1500
https://mn.gov/caapb/

Date: October 3, 2025

To: Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board members

From: Ella Coon, Planner Fellow, Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB)

CC: Erik Cedarleaf Dahl, Executive Secretary, CAAPB

Peter Musty, Principal Planner & Zoning Administrator, CAAPB

RE: AGENDA ITEM #9 – USS Ward Gun: Application for Removal Complete

(September 2, 2025)

USS Ward Gun Removal Complete: September 2, 2025

The USS Ward Gun was removed from the Minnesota State Capitol Mall on September 2, 2025. This removal marked the **first approved removal** of a commemorative work from the Capitol Area and the first time the CAAP Board saw the new Minnesota Rules process guiding addition, removal, and modification of commemorative works—the *Standards for Commemorative Works (M. R. 2400.2703)*—to completion.

The USS Ward Gun will be restored and permanently installed at the new Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum near Camp Ripley, which is scheduled to open in late summer 2026. The gun—fired by a crew of the Minnesota Naval Reservists aboard a US Navy Destroyer off the coast of Hawaii—announced the US entry into the Second World War on December 7, 1941. The gun is the property of the US Navy. It was first installed on the State Capitol grounds in 1958, as a loan to the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, under the condition that the artifact would be properly maintained by the State.¹

Eligibility for Removal

The gun was deemed eligible for removal under M. R. 2400.2703, Subpart 4, which relates to the maintenance of existing commemorative works.

- Subp. 6. Conditions for modification or removal of an existing artwork. M. R. 2400.2704.
 - A. there has been sustained, broad-based, and documented public objection to the artwork;
 - B. the artwork conflicts with the guiding principles in subpart 1, item A;

¹ The crew petition to the Minnesota Veterans of Foreign Wars to take stewardship of the gun after the War's conclusion.

C. the artwork has faults in construction or requires maintenance such that the Department of Administration is unable to properly care for or store the artwork;

D. the site for the artwork is no longer safely accessible to the public or is due to be demolished; or

E. significant changes in the use, character, or design of the site require a re-evaluation of the relationship of the artwork to the site.

CAAPB Staff, working in consultation with MNHS and the Department of Administration consulting, established that although the gun had been previously maintained to a satisfactory level, there was a lack of dedicated funds for future maintenance. This assessment led Staff and Advisors to conclude the gun would likely degrade over time, given the item's location outdoors. Removal of the gun was then not only allowable under *Subpart 6, Item C* but also necessary from a conservation perspective.

Review Process

General Outline Steps

Removal of a commemorative work from the Capitol grounds proceeds through the following general steps:

- 1. Submission
- 2. Staff review for completeness (10 business days)
- 3. Staff analysis of application under M. R. 2400.2703, Subpart 6.
- 4. Board votes to open a 30-day public comment period on removal question
- 5. First public comment period & public hearing co-hosted by Staff on removal
- 6. Board votes to convene a Commemorative Artwork Review Committee (CARC)
- 7. CARC opens a 30-day public comment period & host a hearing on removal
- 8. CARC submits a recommendation to the Board
- 9. Board decides if another public comment period or public hearing is necessary
- 10. If an additional public hearing is not deemed necessary, the Board votes on request
- 11. If approved, the applicant provides funding for removal
- 12. Item is removed (with disposition coordinated by MNHS)

Note: A more detailed description of the review process is delineated in M. R. 2400.2703, Subpart 7.

Submission and Staff Acceptance

On August 18, 2024, CAAPB Staff received an application from Randal Dietrich, Executive Director of the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum (MMVM), for removal of the Commemorative Work USS Ward Gun (No. 3) from the Capitol Mall and relocation to new MMVM facilities.

Upon receipt of the application, CAAPB staff conducted a completeness check. The application was deemed complete, and the applicant was notified of this decision within the necessary 10-day window.

Staff Review

From there, Staff—in consultation with CAAPB Advisors, the Department of Administration, and affiliated personnel from the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS)—analyzed the application for removal vis-à-vis the conditions for removal described in *M.R. 2400.2703., Subpart 6.*

This analysis led CAAPB Staff to conclude the application for removal meets the conditions for removal under the rules, as described above.

Board Vote on Application's Advancement

The CAAP Board voted on September 24, 2024, to accept that the removal request meets *M.R.2400.2703., Subp.6., Item C* and authorized Staff to open a comment period and host one hearing to gather public input.

First Public Comment Period: Public Comments Summary

CAAPB staff received a total of 17 public comments during the first public comment period. Eight comments were submitted during this period (December 3, 2024 and January 7, 2025) and nine comments were submitted at the public hearing held on December 19, 2024. Of the 17 comments received, only 16 were deemed eligible for inclusion, because one person submitted a comment during both the public comment period and in-person at the hearing.

From a substantive standpoint, during the public comment period, of the eight comments submitted: over a third of the comments (37.5 percent or three comments) opposed moving the USS Ward Gun from the Capitol grounds; another 37.5 percent (three comments) raised questions about the removal process; 12.5 percent (one comment) supported the relocation of the USS Ward Gun to the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum; and a final 12.5 percent (one comment) affirmed that the removal would meet the conditions in *Minnesota Rules 2400.2703 Subpart 6., Item C.*

Regarding the December 19th public hearing, of the eight eligible comments, seven (87.5 percent) supported relocating the USS Ward Gun to the MMVM. Only one comment at the hearing (12.5 percent) opposed the gun's removal and relocation.

Overall, of the 16 eligible comments, eight (50 percent) supported removal, one (6.2 percent) affirmed relocation meets the criteria in the Rule, four (25 percent) opposed moving the gun, and three (18.75 percent) represented general queries to the CAAPB Staff regarding the removal process.

Board Vote on CARC

The Board approved, on March 24, 2025, a resolution to convene a Commemorative Artwork Review Committee (CARC) to further review the removal request as well as open a second public comment period and hold an additional public hearing.

The criteria relevant for evaluation at this stage are described in Subpart 9 of the Rules.

CARC Composition

The CARC assembled to review the removal application at this stage included the necessary stakeholders, as defined by the rules:

- 1. One Board member (Rep. Isaac Schultz)
- 2. One architectural advisor (Michael Bjornberg)
- 3. One person appointed by the commissioner of the Department of Administration (Kari Suchy, Facilities Director)
- 4. A representative of MNHS (Lindsey Rulon-Miller)
- 5. Two professionals appointed by the Board in the relevant fields (Dr. Kate Bean, Tom Braun)
- 6. Two members of the public appointed by the Board (Paul Mandell, Roger Brown)
- 7. Up to five additional committee members, as needed (Dave Bellefeuille, Greg Donofrio, Chad Roberts)
- 8. Board staff to oversee and support committee work (Erik Cedarleaf Dahl, Tina Chimuzu)

Second Public Comment Period: Public Comments Summary

Comments gathered during the second public comment period (March 31-May 5, 2025) overseen by CARC expressed overwhelming support for relocating the gun to the new MMVM, with 40 of 41 comments gathered (97.56 percent) expressing this opinion.

A public hearing was held at the Rondo Community Library on May 22, 2025, by the Commemorative Artwork Review Committee. No additional public comments were provided at the time.

Formal CARC Recommendation

Following the second public hearing and comment period, CARC submitted a formal recommendation to the Board.

This recommendation specified supported the application for removal and affirmed the idea that the application met the necessary criteria for removal (*Subpart 9* of the Rules).

CARC further recommended:

- The transfer of the gun to prominent interior placement in the new Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum in Fort Ripley, Minnesota;
- Removal of the stone sign with the engraved names of the Minnesota soldiers associated
 with the USS Ward (DD139) and the historic use of the gun at the very beginning of WWII,
 with disposition of the sign to be determined by the Minnesota Historical Society, (as
 required by Statute 15B);
- Demolition of the concrete bases of the stone sign and the gun and restoration of the site, as outlined in the report from the Department of Administration report dated January 27, 2025.

These recommendations—submitted to the Board via a Staff memo dated May 23, 2023—were affirmed by CARC at the public hearing on May 22, 2025.

Board Votes to Remove Ward Gun

The Board voted affirmatively on CARC's recommendations to remove the USS Ward Gun on June 3, 2025.

Removal ceremony: September 2, 2025

Timeline

Application Received from Randal Dietrich (MMVM): August 19, 2024

Review and Staff Acceptance: August 26, 2024

First Public Comment Period: December 3, 2024-January 7, 2025

First Public Hearing: December 19, 2024

First Board Vote: March 24, 2025

MN Department of Admin notified: March 25, 202

Commemorative Artwork Review Committee Formed: March 2025

Second Public Comment Hearing: March 31-May 5, 2025

Second Public Hearing: May 22, 2025

CARC Recommendation: May 22, 2025

CAAP Board Vote: June 3, 2025

Removal: September 2, 2025

Attachments

Attachment A: Approved application

Attachment B: Complete listing of public comments (first comment period and hearing)

Attachment C: Complete listing of public comments (second comment period and hearing)

Attachment D: USS Ward and VJ Day Commemoration Day proclamation

DATE: 16 August 2024

TO: Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board **RE:** Application for Removal of an Existing Artwork

PART 1 - CONTACT INFORMATION

Organization: Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum

Contact: Randal Dietrich

Email: rdietrich@mnmilitarymuseum.org

Phone: 320-616-6050 Address: Camp Ripley

15000 Highway 115 Little Falls, MN 56345

PART 2 - SUBJECT

USS Ward Number Three Gun

This large gun, from a World War I-era Navy Destroyer, fired on and sank an enemy vessel in the very early morning of December 7, 1941. The crew was comprised of Naval Reservists from Minnesota. After the war, the United States Navy agreed to loan the gun to the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs with the assurance that the state properly maintain it (please see supplemental materials, Part 2/Items A & B). The gun was installed on the State Capitol grounds in 1958. The gun is owned by the United States Navy.

In 2023, the Minnesota State Legislature allocated funds to the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs for the construction of a new 40,000 square foot Military and Veterans Museum on 32-acres at Camp Ripley (Just north of Little Falls). The new facility, to open in 2026, will replace a very modest museum at Camp Ripley that has served veterans and their families for more than 40 years.

This new facility, dedicated to veterans of all service branches, will be a more appropriate location for this military artifact.

The Museum's current collection includes extensive archives of the USS Ward and artifacts from the Minnesota veterans who served on-board (Part 2/Item C).

The Museum's commitment to Naval history is further evidenced by the recent acquisition, with the assistance of Governor Walz, of the sail and rudder of the USS Minneapolis-St Paul. The SSN-708 was a Los Angeles-Class nuclear submarine decommissioned in 2008.

The Navy approved this request and the Museum promptly dispatched four semi-trailers to Bremerton, Washington to retrieve these immense artifacts (Part 2/Item D). Extensive restoration is underway with work to be completed in time for the 2026 grand opening.

PART 3 – REMOVAL CONCEPT

As the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs is currently identified on the Navy's loan agreement, the Museum shared plans for the removal, restoration and relocation of the Ward gun with MDVA and has secured the department's endorsement (Part 3/Item A). MDVA has requested that the Navy draft a new loan agreement inserting Museum in place of MDVA.

In addition, representatives of the Museum (Part 3/Item B) and the Minnesota Navy League (Part 3/Item C) traveled to Washington D.C. to brief the United States Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) who is also in support of the plan.

The Museum has commissioned a local conservator to issue a report on the current condition of the gun (Page 1 of this report provided as Part 3/Item D).

The museum will remove, restore and relocate this artifact according to standards set by NHHC and prominently display it indoors at the new camp Ripley Museum for better long-term conservation and year-round interpretation (Part 3/Item E). As the centerpiece of the WWII exhibit gallery, visitors will be immersed in the sights and sounds that these Minnesota sailors would have encountered on December 7, 1941.

After the move, the former location of the gun will be seeded with grass (Part 3/Item F).

PART 4 - CONDITIONS AND CRITERIA

Generally, the new Military and Veterans Museum at Camp Ripley will be a more appropriate location for the USS Ward gun as it is a military artifact owned by the United States Navy. It is important to note that the story of the USS Ward and crew is featured on the first panel of the WWII Memorial (dedicated in 2007) just north of the Veterans Service Building on the State Capitol grounds (Part 4/Item A).

Current Museum board member and former MDVA Commissioner Larry Herke was in support of this plan and, prior to his retirement, had briefed the Governor's Office.

Further, this proposed move might align with the recent Capitol Mall Design Framework to a develop a process that will create a Capitol Mall that is *more welcoming for more Minnesotans*.

If approved, the removal could begin later this year.

PART 5 - FUNDING

In May 2024, The Legacy Committee of the Minnesota State Legislature provided \$275,000 "for a grant to the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum at Camp Ripley for the restoration, relocation, and interpretation of the USS Ward Number Three Gun and World War II display. Funding can also be used for site reclamation and improvements at the location of the removed work."

There was broad, bipartisan support for this bill with Representatives Lillie, Newton, and Schultz and others signed onto the bill in the House and Senators Mitchell, Hawj and Howe in the State Senate.

The Museum will cover any additional costs with private funds.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON WHETHER CONDITIONS IN MINNESOTA RULES 2400.2703 SUBPART 6 HAVE BEEN MET FOR THE CAAP BOARD TO REVIEW THE APPLICATION TO REMOVE THE USS WARD GUN FROM THE CAPITOL MALL

A. Comments received between December 3, 2024 – January 7, 2025, during the Public Comment period.

No	Date	Comment	Mode of
140			submission
1	12/2/2024	The Minnesota Military and Veterans Musuem is a much better venue one that the present one of it hidden in the shrubbery on the Capitol grounds. The USS Ward's deck gun fired the opening of the Pearl Harbor debacle. It is a very important artifact of Minnesota's military history and should be interpreted in a fitting way that will be done in the Minnesota Military Veterans Museum. Thank you.	Email
2	12/2/2024, 12/3/2024	I am writing to ask for clarification on the proposed removal. Is the overall plan to have the World War One Memorial, removed for repair and restoration then reinstalled? Or is it to remove the Memorial all together from the Capitol Mall? Also, the link contained in this latest update on the Memorial doesn't open to a web form for public comment. Will there be a web form, or is there a specific email address that people will need to submit their comments to regarding the Memorial? I didn't notice a solicitation being sent to request input on restoration. Was posted during this process, and could I see obtain a copy? We just had some World War Two pieces restored in NW/WC Minnesota, that would be similar to the gun from the USS Ward, so I am curious about how that process went for CAAPB. I'm sorry, I did not come across the Memos from the MMVM but was able to review them now. Thank you for directing me to them for more clarity. I do have one follow up question, as the USS Ward Gun serves as the state's WWI Memorial on the Capitol Mall, is there a tentative plan for a replacement WWI Memorial currently?	Email
3	12/2/2024	Keep the USS Ward Gun. Don't remove it. It is our history, whether you like it or not	Email
4	12/2/2024	It seems as though this is very much a part of Minnesota history and should stay here. Incidentally, about 20 years ago I noticed the footplate on the gun was loose. I reported it and saw that it was immediately repaired.	Email

5	12/4/2024	I am interested in the background of the removal discussions for the WW2 Navy cannon? can you send me info on	Email
		1. how cannon got there? it's ties to Minnesota and the petitioner to add it to Capitol area.?	
		2. identification of any other historical markers, signs, labels & art currently on in mall area . I assume you have a complete inventory.?	
		3. where this cannon will go if removed4. what plans your committee has to replace it? or leave space empty?	
		thank you.	
6	12/11/2024,	After reviewing all materials, I believe that the removal request meets the condition of M.R. 2400.2703 Subpart 6., Item C., "the artwork has faults in construction or requires maintenance such that the Department of Administration is unable to properly care for or store the artwork."	Email
		As a Minnesotan, I am glad this artifact will be relocated to the museum for restoration and display, and commend Randal Dietrich and his staff for their efforts.	
7	12/12/2024	I'm not against removing the Gun, under the conditions outlined. But there is nothing to indicate what will happen to Gun after removal. Will the Military Musium keep it? Will it be scrapped? I would like to see it saved in some way.	Email
8	12/19/2024	Hello CAAPB staff and advisory board, I would like to submit a public comment on the subject of the USS Ward deck-gun on display at the MN State Capital Mall.	Email
		As a fan of Minnesota history and of our veterans, I am grateful that Minnesota has had this unique artifact in connection to America's opening shots of WWII on public display, and the special relationship it has with Minnesota. I am proud that	
		Minnesotan's were the first to fire shots on the enemy in defense of our country in WWII, and that such history has always been easily publicly available without barriers.	
		Primary preference: If possible, I believe that the gun should stay on the MN State Capital Mall as an easily accessible, honored place to teach and preserve that important state history. As it is on the State Capital Mall, it is among other memorials and monuments to Minnesota history and Minnesota military history (such as the	
		nearby MN Medal of Honor Recipients memorial), and is easily visible from the road so that passersby may see it and either	

remember what happened, or be curious enough to pull over and visit it someday and learn more about this important history.

Alternative preferences:

If due to maintenance concerns, weather erosion from outdoor display, or climate change concerns, the Ward gun must be moved I have thought of the following options which are suitable for continued historic preservation and public display. All involve the deck gun being kept in Minnesota for memorial and historical purposes.

- A. The deck gun stays in it's current location, and the state can build a roofed structure around it with clear plexiglass style walls around it to protect it from further weather damage. If this is not ideal due to funding, may I recommend contacting the local Twin Cities Scouts of America Northern Star Council and seeing if any scouts would be interested in building such a structure as an Eagle Scout Project?
- B. The deck gun be moved to another indoor location still on the MN State Capital Mall, such as inside the MN State Capital itself, or inside the lobby of the MN Veterans Administration or Military-National Guard Administration buildings.
- C. The deck gun be moved to the nearby MN History Museum for permanent indoor display.
- D. The deck gun be moved to the Commemorative Air Force Twin Cities Chapter hanger museum at the South St. Paul Airport for permanent display; either always inside its hanger where they have a small but impressive WWII artifact museum, or displayed mostly indoors but occasionally outdoors on temporary basis during good weather for special events such as their early summer and early fall swing dances where the CAF display their aircraft and other artifacts outside their main hanger which is itself mostly turned into a dance hall with a live big-band, with the exception of the small WWII museum area in the back of the hanger.
- E. The deck gun be moved to the new, and currently under construction, Minnesota Military Museum located adjacent to the MN National Guard base Camp Ripley for permanent indoor display.
- F. The deck gun be moved to the Duluth Maritime History Museum of Canal Park adjacent to the lift bridge, as the gun is a unique piece of Minnesota maritime history.

Thank you for considering my public commentary. I hope the USS Ward deck gun can remain in Minnesota for public display in some capacity, as "it is history, that deserves to be remembered."	
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B. Comments received on or before December 19, 2024, during the Public Hearing

No	Date	Comment	Mode of comment
9	12/13/2024	I strongly support the proposal to move the USS Ward Gun to the MN Military Musuem by Camp Ripley as they have the capacity to maintain this important piece of MN military history. In addition I think more people will see it and lean about it at our military museum. I am a MN combat veteran who has deployed multiple times, and a military researcher (full-time retired volunteer). I legally can not, and do not speak for the VFW or American Legion, but as an individual who is a Vice Commander at both I can say our membership supports this.	Email
10	12/18/2024	I had planned to attend the hearing tomorrow however now I am unable to make it. I am interested to hear others' opinions and thoughts. From my perspective the USS Ward gun has been on the Capitol grounds since 1958 and is made to be outdoors in a central location. I remember being in Oahu for the 70 th Anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack. It was so neat to see the information and pictures of the USS Ward and crew. I took pride in our Minnesota connection and still do. I knew the Ward gun was at the Capitol and it sparked renewed interest in telling others and showing others where it is located. My dad and I have also visited it several times. I agree it needs to be maintained however it should be maintained at its current sitethe Capitol Mall area. I do not agree it should be taken to Little Falls for the new museum that has not been built yet. In a recent article there is mention that many items are still in storage because there's not enough room to display them in the current building. It also mentions how the current location deters people from coming to the museum because of the imposing gates of Camp Ripley. New museum aims to tell the stories of Minnesota veterans Artsandculture grandrapidsmn.com The better alternative is to keep and maintain the gun at the Capitol grounds and not be moved to Little Falls. Maybe this is the impetus to keep it maintained at our capital city of St. Paul rather than moving it to a less central location.	Email

11	12/19/2024	Thank you for allowing me to attend to this public hearing. My name is Brooks Berg and I am a retired navy captain. I served in the Sub-marine force of the United States navy. I also volunteer currently at the Dr Harold C Deutsch World War 2 history center as a member of the World War 2 round table. I also work with Randal in a limited fashion to work on restoration of the Little Falls museum area. The USS Ward gun is an artifact that deserves and demands better protection from the elements, it is a hugely valuable piece of artwork, as I see its being called here to the State of Minnesota. Randal Dietrich as executive director is here and I know he will be a proud owner of theshould it be decided to transition it away from the Capitol mall area. Randal recently hosted a meeting online on December 16 th for commemoration of Battle of the Burge with noted author Alex Kershaw who wrote about the subject. Randal is such enormous proponent of Minnesota History that he pointed out to Minnesota veterans that were featured in the book prominently by Alex Kershaw the author and this is the type of work that Randal induces for the museum as the owner of this gun. This gun has been exposed to extreme weather conditions of Minnesota for more than 60 years, its hot, its cold, its icy, its next to a roadway with salt, potassium and everything else. If it is allowed to sit out thereyou showed pictures of what it looks like now, I can't imagine what its looking like underneath that paint. Being a navy veteran I know that rust is insidious and attacks everywhere all the time. So not being a conservator, am just an engineer that served on submarines if you see rust like that you get nervous. If we don't do something in the right manner to preserve that gun, that gun will probably not be around too much longer perhaps, so we need to take care of it. And I don't think painting over rust is a valuable solution, or a solution that this valuable piece of a Minnesota history deserves. I think painting over it just paints over	In person

		Thank you for allowing me to speak my piece.	
12	12/19/2024	Good afternoon, and thank you for the time here Tina to speak to the committee on this important topic. My name is Bill James, I am the area president for the navy league of the United States for the Upper Midwest, encompassing all of Minnesota as well as the Dakotas, Iowa and parts of Nebraska. The Navy League of the United States is a time-honored citizen led non-profit association that was formed during the Teddy Roosevelt administration. Our mission is to educate, advocate and support on behalf of the active duty and veterans of the United States Navy Marine Corp, the US Coast Guard and the Merchant Services. So, we are a citizen led team that focuses on kind of the water team if you will. So, looking at the history behind the ward and particularly the gun that is on the mall here, it is our concerted belief that we need to preserve this artifact long term so that future generations can take advantage of understanding the relevancy and importance of the history that was involved with the ward during World War 2. Obviously Randal has got a great plan for a brand new museum up in that Camp Ripley, and its a perfect location to move this gun to, that location restored so that it can reside in a safe secure, better environmentally controlled area so that future generations to come can learn about the history, and the background and the relevance and the importance of this important military artwork. So as the representatives of the Department of the Navy and marines and Coast Guard here, we'd like to have continuity of supporting not only the mission of the armed forces involved, but also the history and legacy that goes on with their great past. Where the gun sits today obviously its challenged due to the environmentals, other structural support issues and it would be a real travesty if it continued to deteriorate to the point where it would have to be removed and then obviously scraped out. So we think its a great moment in time to pick up this artefact, get it professionally reconditioned and then to put in	In person
13	12/19/2024	Thank you for allowing me to speak, I am a consulting objects conservator and one time I kind of worked for the Minnesota Historical Society and was involved with the actual hands on work on the Ward Gun and I submitted 3 documents to the CAAP Board that outline the history, the maintenance history of the gun since atleast 1958, through my active work on it was in 2009 and then there is a report from MNHS dated 2015, so you can get the actual details from that. I was contracted by	In person

		Randal Dietrich earlier this year and I completed a current edition report and conservation recommendations for the gun in February and so I would just like to read my conclusions from that. As documented in the condition report submitted to the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum in February. The Ward 3 Gun currently on outdoor display is actively deteriorating resulting in continued metal losses and disfigurement. This is evident in the various paint loss areas which have exposed the underlying metal to active corrosion. Active corrosion of iron alloys which the gun is primarily composed of is indicated by flaking metal surfaces, yellow and orange corrosion products and rust staining on the painted surfaces, all of those indicators are present on the gun, including relatively large areas of metal loss on the recoil tubes which have exposed the interior springs and as was previously mentioned here, the current location of the gun is exposing it to aerosolized sodium chloride salt particles from road salt which are driving the corrosion reaction. The best course of action to preserve the USS Ward Gun and to prevent further alteration of the significant historic object is to remove it from outdoor display and store it in a controlled indoor display environment. Thank you.	
14	12/19/2024	Thank you, Bill Strusinski, and the Ward Gun was having issues when I was Commissioner of Administration back in 1978 with the restoration. We couldn't get funds to restore it or keep it appropriately conditioned, so I think this a great opportunity to get it reconditioned and to relocate to some place where there would mean a little bit more visibility for everybody, and suffice and help educate the world as to the importance of that artefact. Thank you	Online
15	12/19/2024	Hi, Doug here, not too much to add, I am really excited to see the Ward Gun restored and put in a place where it can be saved and shown to future generations, I think where its at right now is detrimental to it and happy to see this process move forward.	Online
16	12/19/2024	Good afternoon, thanks for the time to speak, I am Gary Carlberg, while I am combat deployed veteran myself, I really want to speak more on behalf of my father who was a World War 2 Vet that served in the pacific. That maintaining the condition and repairing what we have lost already and rebuilding this would be a high priority to my Dad, who appreciated going to the museums and seeing the equipment and things from when he served. And so I really think the paint	In person

		to me its not really such a big deal, but the bit where the metal is deteriorating and some of the smaller pieces, the springs and some of the other parts that can't be replaced or would be significantly expensive that has me very concerned. So I think this is a good thing we are doing to move it into the Camp Ripley where so many other people could see it, I think its good. Thank you.	
17	12/19/2024	Sorry I couldn't get audio to work. I'm a member of the small group designing exhibits for the new museum, and just wanted to stress how central the USS Ward gun, restored, will be to the visitor experience entering the galleries. It will the first tableau visitors experience, with mannequins telling the stories of the US Navy reservists who served the gun.	Online written comment read by Erik Cedarleaf Dahl

A COMPLETE LISTING OF COMMENTS SUBMITTED BETWEEN MARCH 31 TO MAY 5, 2025, DURING THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD CONDUCTED BY CAPITOL AREA ARCHITECTURAL AND PLANNING BOARD (CAAPB) STAFF ON BEHALF OFF THE USS WARD GUN COMMEMORATIVE ARTWORK REVIEW COMMITTEE (CARC).

Comments were submitted to provide input on the application to remove the USS Ward Number Three Gun from the Capitol Mall, disposition plans, and restoration of the removal site by the Department of Administration.

Comment No.	Date	Comment	Mode of Submission
1	3/31/2025	Hello, I have a public comment regarding the USS Ward Gun on the MN Capital Plaza: Even though I would be sad to see the gun leave its place of prominence in downtown St. Paul, I do support its movement to the proposed location of the new MN Military Museum at Camp Ripley. It will be much better protected from the weather and risk of human caused damage, and restored for the benefit of generations to come in this new location, along with key context and educational displays. I fully support and endorse moving the USS Ward Gun to the MN Military Museum of Camp Ripley.	Email
2	3/31/2025	I am very much behind the effort to move the gun from the Capitol Grounds to the Minnesota Military Museum! Thank you.	Email
3	4/14/2025	Please support moving the USS Ward gun from the capitol grounds to the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum. Thank you	Email
4	4/14/2025	I support the plan to move the USS WARD gun from outside the MN Capitol to inside the soon to be new museum by Camp Ripley, Little Falls, MN.	Email
5	4/14/2025	Please allow the USS Ward gun to be moved to the Camp Ripley museum.	Email
6	4/14/2025	This artifact needs a secure place to protect it from vandals and the weather. I fully support the museum's proposal to have it moved.	Email
7	4/15/2025	I'm writing to express my support for relocating the USS WARD's Gun Number Three from the state capitol grounds to the Minnesota Military Museum, Little Falls, MN. Having visited the site where it is currently located, outside, exposed to the elements, it is clear that time and weather have taken their toll on this historic piece	Email

		of American history with significant ties to Minnesota. This item was manned by a U.S. Naval Reserve Crew from the Twin Cities and fired the first shots against a Japanese submarine attempting to enter Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941. This action marked the United States' entry into World War II. This is the only significant piece of equipment left from the naval destroyer. Time, weather, and neglect have led to its deterioration. However, the Minnesota Military Museum staff has already demonstrated their ability to restore and preserve such items. Gun Number Three's relocation to the museum ensures that this historic piece will be restored and preserved under better conditions than it is now. President Lincoln once referred to the "silent artillery of time," and its impact upon public memory. Time is of the essence, and we must act now to ensure this historic piece is restored and preserved for future generations.	
8	4/15/2025	Good morning. I am Director of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison, the Badger State's counterpart to the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum. Our mission is to preserve and interpret the role of Wisconsin's veterans in American military history from the Civil War to the present. We are pleased to collaborate with our partners in Minnesota on many fronts. I write to you today to register my strong support for Randal Dietrich's application to have the USS Ward gun moved from the Capitol grounds and preserved. This gun is of national and international significance, and is perhaps the most prominent artifact from December 7, 1941, not located in Hawaii. It is a great treasure for Minnesota, an important part of the state's history, and deserves to be somewhere it can be restored, interpreted, and preserved for future generations. If you have questions or need additional information, please let me know. Thank you for your time and attention.	Email
9	4/15/2025	I am writing to express my full support of moving the gun from the USS WARD to the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum in Little Falls, MN. This piece of history is important to Minnesota History and its people. My uncle (Kenneth Ekblad) served on the USS WARD on Pearl Harbor day, and into the Pacific through WWII. Our family has letters he wrote to his	Email

		fiancé/wife through those years and we will be sharing them with the museum. Many Minnesotan's served on that ship and this history needs to be passed down to the next generations. I am happy to hear that the Veterans museum is wanting to restore and care for the gun. Thank you for hearing my voice in support of this project!	
10	4/16/2025	Good morning. Please do all you can to save the gun from the USS Ward with the MN museum as it is an important part of our history of WWII. Thank you,	Email
11	4/16/2025	This is a note to support moving the USS Ward gun #3 from the State Capitol grounds to the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum. That valuable artifact can be restored and protected inside at the new museum there.	Email
12	4/16/2025	I write today in proud support of relocating this historical artifact to the Mn Military and Veterans Museum. The USS Ward Gun #3 has graced our Capitol Complex since 1958 and now needs a new home that protects it from our harsh climate. My grandfather Nels was in France the day the Armistice was signed ending WWI; my grandfather Ruben was stateside, waiting to ship out. My father in law served on the USS Grenadier (SS210) in the South Pacific in WWII. My father served in the Air Force Reserves. I served in the Army, as did my brother Dave. My youngest daughter is an Air Force officer on active duty; my oldest daughter is married to an Air Force officer on active duty. History is important and the USS Ward Gun #3 is part of it. I hope it is transferred to the Museum so it can be cared for and displayed with honor. Thank you for your consideration.	Email
13	4/16/2025	As a proud U.S. Navy veteran of the submarine service stationed aboard five submarines and accumulating over seven years under water, I'm writing to express my strong support for the Minnesota Military Museum's plan to save, restore, and display indoors the USS Ward gun currently on outdoor display on the state capital grounds. This historic naval gun should be sheltered from the elements after having spent more	Email

		than 60 years on outdoor display, and I ask that you	
14	4/16/2025	support the museum's plan. I am writing to you regarding the effort to remove,	Email
14	4/10/2025	restore, and relocate the USS Ward gun from the State	EIIIdii
		Capitol grounds to the Minnesota Military and Veterans	
		Museum. As a historian, teacher, and retired naval	
		officer, I believe it is imperative that we seize this	
		opportunity to preserve an artifact that played a role in	
		one of the most pivotal events in world history. The	
		fact that Minnesotans were the sailors manning this	
		very gun on December 7, 1941, makes it an especially	
		significant piece of our state's heritage.	
		The gun has been exposed to the elements outdoors	
		for far too long, and moving it indoors is essential for	
		its preservation. The museum's new facility will offer	
		the gun a place of prominence, protecting it from	
		environmental damage and allowing for a more	
		complete and compelling interpretation of its historical	
		importance. This move ensures future generations will	
		understand the vital role Minnesotans played in a	
15	4/16/2025	defining moment of global history.	Feesil
15	4/16/2025	I'm am in total support of moving the Gun to the	Email
16	4/16/2025	Museum.	Email
10	4/10/2023	I write to you today to share my support for the application of the Minnesota Military & Veterans	Ellidii
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		Museum. This proposal to relocate the USS Ward gun	
		from the state capital mall to the museum has my full	
		and enthusiastic support.	
		My family had a strong connection to that gun and I	
		recall going to see it numerous times as a young boy.	
		My uncle was Kenneth Ekblad and he was a Machinist	
		Mate 1st Class on board the Ward when that gun was	
		fired at the Japanese Mini Sub in Pearl Harbor. Keneth	
		was married to my father's sister, Elsie Sundberg, who	
		was in Hawaii when the attack took place. They were	
		both members of the "First Shot Club". Elsie returned	
		home to St. Paul for the remainder of the war and gave	
		many talks about her experiences at Pearl Harbor and	
		the actions of the Ward.	
		Kenneth was a member of the St. Paul Naval Reserve	
		that was activated. He wrote letters home as he	
		traveled to San Diago to take the Ward out of	
		"mothballs" and refit the Ward to be returned to	
		service. I am writing to urge you to approve this	
		application but also to tell you that there is no doubt in	

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		to have that gun restored and on permanent display at the museum.	
		Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts on this matter.	
17	4/16/2025	I write to express my support for the proposal to move the USS Ward Gun to the new MN Miltary and Veterans Museum, which is currently under construction.	Email
		The new facility will be a showcase for this prized artifact and it's location in central Minnesota will allow more Minnesotans to see the gun.	
		I have been a long-time supporter of the Museum and know what wonderful stewards of historical preservation the staff is. The Ward gun will be in good hands!	
		Thank you for your consideration.	
18	4/16/2025	I strongly support the Minnesota Military and Veterans Musuem's plan to preserve and protect the historic USS Ward Gun.	Email
		It amazes me that we in the land locked state of Minnesota have the weapon that fired the first shot at Pearl Harbor! This is a piece of MN military history we need to preserve, not let it continue to deteriorate.	
19	4/16/2025	I fully support the removal and restoration of the Ward gun to be relocated at the Mn. Veterans and Military Museum.	Email
20	4/16/2025	Please consider backing the proposal of giving this very important artifact in the history of Minnesota Veterans during World War II, a proper home where it will no longer rust and deteriorate in the open weather. And where its story can be properly told and appreciated. Please vote to preserve this important artifact in its proper place.	Email
21	4/16/2025	The gun of the USS Ward, which fired the first rounds against the Japanese in the pre-dawn of December 7, 1941, has sat outside on the Capitol grounds for the past 67 years. I strongly endorse a proposal to relocate it to the new Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum currently under construction at Camp Ripley. As a military historian, I recognize the significance of this unique artifact of Minnsota history. It needs to be fully restored, more properly protected, and better	Email

		interpreted. The museum at Camp Ripley is, by far,	
		best suited for this. Thank you for your support.	
22	4/16/2025	I was recently made aware of the application from the MN Veterans and Military Museum that is requesting that the gun from the USS Ward be removed from the State Capitol and sent to the new museum being built outside of Fort Ripley. As a university history professor, who specializes in World War II (especially Minnesota's role in the war) I cannot support this decision enough. Having this significant historical artifact housed inside, at the brand-new museum, will give countless new visitors the chance to see and learn about this incredible moment in our history. I do hope the MN Military Museum's application is seriously considered so that the gun can be repaired	Email
		and displayed in a way that will allow generations of	
		Minnesotans the opportunity to see if.	
23	4/17/2025	As President of Minnesota's 9,000-member Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr. Chapter of the Association of the United States Army, I write to express our strong support for the removal, restoration, and relocation of the USS Ward gun from the Minnesota State Capitol grounds to the new Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum at Camp Ripley.	Email
		The USS Ward's legacy—firing the first American shot of World War II—holds deep meaning for our military and veteran community. Its preservation and placement at the new museum will ensure that this iconic artifact is interpreted in context, honoring its historic role and inspiring future generations.	
		This relocation aligns with the museum's mission and enhances statewide efforts to preserve and tell Minnesota's military story. Our chapter stands ready to support this important initiative in any way possible.	
24	4/17/2025	I want to give my endorsement to the initiative to bring the Ward Gun #3 from the capitol grounds to the MN Military Museum.	Email
		In my former capacity, I was the property & fiscal officer for the MN National Guard. A portion of my duties included oversight of all federal items in the MN Military Museum. There is an absolute bevy of MN military artifacts from every era of war and peace from the MN service members statewide. With the opening of the new 30+ acre museum site in the coming year, the expansion allows for pieces that have been in	

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		storage or displayed in isolated locations to be	
		showcased once again.	
		Although the monuments on the capitol grounds have	
		undergone a true transformation in recent years, Ward	
		Gun #3 would be best served as a rehabilitated military	
		artifact at the state's only state-funded military	
		museum.	
25	4/17/2025	I work at the Veteran's Service Building and had seen a	Email
		historic gun mounted near our parking lot 100 times	
		before I knew the amazing story behind it!	
		g and y and a	
		As you are likely aware, the USS Ward Gun #3 is among	
		the most historically significant items currently located	
		on Minnesota Capitol grounds. It fired the first rounds	
		at Pearl Harbor, sinking a Japanese midget-submarine	
		that was enroute to fire upon US ships. I recently	
		toured Pearl Harbor and was pleased that they	
		highlight the USS Ward as the first action of WWII's	
		Pacific Theater. The fact that Minnesotan's were at the	
		helm (and potentially saved numerous US lives) is	
		amazing.	
		Unfortunately, the gun has not been preserved and is	
		poorly placed where few get to appreciate it. I ask you	
		to support the Minnesota Military and Veteran's	
		Museum's (MMVM's) request to remove, restore, and	
		relocate this incredible artifact.	
		Bottom Line: the USS Ward Gun #3 is a great tribute to	
		our Minnesota service members. It should be	
		prominently displayed at the MMVM to appropriately	
		honor, educate, and inspire all generations. Thank you	
		for your consideration.	
26	4/17/2025	I'm firmly in favor of moving the Ward Gun from the	Email
20	1,17,2023	Capital Grounds to the new MN Military and Veterans	Lilian
		Museum.	
		The gun needs to be refurbished and moved to an	
		indoor location.	
		The museum would be the perfect place to display the	
		gun and tell the story of the USS Ward and the men	
		who served on the ship.	
		I honestly can't think of any reason to leave the Ward	
		Gun where it is or any other "better" place to move it	
		to. Thank you for asking for public comment.	
27	4/18/2025	I recently found out about the desire to give the USS	Email
	7, 10, 2023	Ward's #3 gun a new home. If so, I cant agree with this	Liliali
		idea more. As awesome as it was to find it outside the	
		I laca more. As awesome as it was to initiall outside the	

capital building, it was shameful to see its condition as this incredible piece of history is rusting in front of all to see.

I enjoy traveling to different battlefields around the world, and visiting military museums whenever possible. I am always amazed when they have an item that was actually involved with a major historic event similar to this gun. But to be honest, these items are quite rare. The majority of the time, the items on display are trainer equipment that have been refurbished to look like the actual item, as the originals have been lost to history.

With this gun, you have an opportunity to attract many military history enthusiast like myself and to tell the 'crazy story' of the USS Ward and it's captain/crew. Who were on their 1st mission the night/morning of 7 Dec, 1941. How they passed on the information of their attack to higher command, but were moronically ignored leading to the huge loss of life as we know it in the battle of Pearl Harbor. In addition, this same ship was rebuilt into a 'High Speed Transport' (ADP – 16) participating in 8 additional battles throughout the pacific. Only to succumb to a Kamikaze strike on 7 Dec, 1944. One additional amazing fact to this story is how the original captain of the USS Ward (while captain of another ship) was given the order to sink the doomed USS Ward/ADP 16 3 years to the day that the historic shots were fired at Pearl Harbor.

This ship/gun/story should be on prominent display for all to learn of this fascinating story. I cant emphasize enough how stories and items associated with them at this level are extremely rare.

I have visited the museum at Pearl Harbor several times, and noticed that they have a nice display representing the story of the USS Ward (see attached pictures). I am sure that they would love to have this gun added to their collection, especially knowing how it is being kept and primarily ignored in its current location. There is well over a million people visiting the battlefield in Pearl Harbor annually who are inspired by the amazing displays/stories and artifacts that are set for all to learn from.

My recommendation is for this gun to be refurbished

		and brought to a place to tell it's story of the heroic actions that the MN Navel crew conducted throughout WW2, or please, send it to Hawaii for it to be placed with the other amazing artifacts that people come to see at Pearl Harbor. The world should know the story of what transpired that day, to include the amazing facts associated with its Minnesota Naval reservists. I would be happy to speak to you more about it if you would like. I am currently employed by the MN ANG, where I work as a weekender at the Veteran Service Building, and I have a prominent role with the Pacific Air Forces at Pearl Harbor/Hickam Air Force Base.	
28	4/19/2025	I'm writing to urge you to support the Minnesota Military Museum's plan to place USS Ward's gun #3 on indoor display at the new museum building near Camp Ripley, MN.	Email
29	4/20/2025	Thank you for your time and consideration. I have worked for the State of Minnesota for over 40 years and spent the first 14 years working in the Centennial building. I would often walk over and look at the gun on my lunch break. I occasionally get over to the Capitol complex and have been disappointed by the condition of the gun. Please consider letting it be moved to the Minnesota Military museum at Camp Ripley. Along with the sail and rudder of the USS Minneapolis-St Paul submarine if would be a great addition to the new museum. Thank you.	Email
30	4/21/2025	I support the new Minnesota Military Museum's plan to relocate this historic artifact for future generations to continue to learn about our Minnesota history. After nearly 70 years on the Capitol Mall, I am in support of saving the USS Ward gun #3 by removing, restoring and relocating this incredible WWII artifact to the new site near Camp Ripley.	Email
31	4/21/2025	I would like to express my fervent support for relocation of the Ward Three Gun, owned by the U.S. Navy, to an interior showcase location where it can be better maintained and protected. This important piece of history will also benefit from a comprehensive interpretative display at its new location. Thank you for your time and consideration in this endeavor!	Email
32	4/21/2025	I want to relate my strongest support for the transfer of the USS Ward Gun #3 from the Minnesota Capitol grounds to the custody of the Minnesota Military and	Email

Veterans Museum. This national historical artifact deserves to be properly conserved and placed within a museum setting to maximize its interpretation and importance to the history of the state of Minnesota and the United States of America.

I serve on the Executive Board of Directors for the Dr. Harold C. Deutsch WWII History Roundtable and as the USS Minneapolis/St. Paul (SSN708) Restoration Team Leader for the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum. As a retired US Navy Captain and in light of my affiliations listed just before, I have an excellent vantage point to understand the importance of the USS Ward Gun #3.

I note the USS Ward Gun #3 has been approved by the Board in the following excerpt:

"The Board voted on March 24, 2025, that application for the removal request for the USS Ward Gun meets the condition in Minnesota Rules 2400.2703., Subpart 6., Item C. "C. the artwork has faults in construction or requires maintenance such that the Department of Administration is unable to properly care for or store the artwork;"

This milestone paves the way for this important historical artifact to continue on the path of restoration and into the hands of Mr. Randal Dietrich, the Executive Director of the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum.

Other considerations include:

The artifact has been stored outside and suffers from deterioration due to exposure to weather extremes. It has not been properly maintained per the excerpt referenced above and without expert conservation may be lost as an important historical artifact of the state of Minnesota and the United States of America. If not properly conserved, the Director of the Navy Heritage and History Command in Washington, D.C..

Heritage and History Command in Washington, D.C., may direct its return so that it may be displayed in the new National Navy Museum located there.

The new Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum will provide an excellent home for this artifact. The museum executive director, Randal Dietrich, has deep experience in the proper conservation, display and interpretation of history. The USS Ward Gun #3 would be a key piece in the new museum guaranteeing its

33	4/21/2025	proper place in telling the history of Minnesotans far into the future. As a veteran and long term Minnesota state resident, the proposal to transfer the USS Ward Gun #3 to the custody of the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum is well founded with the facts above and has my unmatched recommendation for moving forward. I write today to endorse the proposal to restore and preserve the Ward gun. While it has been nice to visit it outside at the Capitol Mall, an historical object of this importance should be better curated into the future. As the gun crew was Minnesotan, we should take the lead in it's preservation, so future generations can use it as a physical evidence of our state's role in the opening hours of WWII.	Email
34	4/28/2025	This WWII weapon has a serious Minnesota history; The first combat action in the Pacific in WWII, firing on a Japanese mini-sub Pearl Harbor. This is significant to Minnesota because the gun crew was made up of sailors from Minnesota. It is not readily seen in its current location on the Capitol grounds, moreover, the story of the weapon is not to be found in that location. The 'Ward Gun" should be displayed, in-doors with its history and the respect it deserves, at the new Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum!	Email
35	4/29/2025	I heartily endorse the move to the Minnesota Military Museum. It's way beyond time to see the gun be displayed in an accessible and respectful manner instead of moldering in the shrubs. Thank you.	Email
36	4/29/2025	I am writing to you in your role as Planning Fellow of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board to add my voice to those who strongly urge the Board to approve the movement of the USS Ward gun #3 from the Capitol grounds to the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum. The gun is a significant, one-of-akind, artifact with special relevance, not just to the city of St. Paul and the State of Minnesota, but also to the US Navy and American history in general. While it may not be as easily accessible to the general public if removed from an open area on the Capitol Mall, I believe a move to the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum will facilitate the artifact's restoration, conservation, and protection from the elements that its current location does not allow. Although it pains me to have the gun moved so far from the home of the majority of the men who crewed the ship, the museum is in a better position to preserve it and its historical	Email

		context for future generations. Again, I support the removal of the gun from the Capital Mall and its transfer to the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum.	
37	4/29/2025	I hope that the State will properly maintain and continue to display the USS Ward Gun. This is an important piece of history which deserves to be taken care of. Thank you	Email
38	4/29/2025	I'm writing to urge you to support the Minnesota Military Museum's plan to place USS Ward's gun #3 on indoor display at the new museum building near Camp Ripley, MN. Thank you for your time and consideration.	Email
39	4/30/2025	Please consider moving forward, to transfer the Ward gun to the MN Military & Veterans Museum.	Email
40	4/5/2025	I've recently read about the proposal to remove the deck gun of the USS Ward, restoring it, and ensconcing it at the new Minnesota Military Museum. I think that this is a capital idea as it will enhance the interpretation of Minnesota's military history and will at the very least prompt the restoration of the gun. Thank you,	Email



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: On December 7, 1941, the destroyer USS Ward, crewed primarily by Naval Reservists from Saint

Paul, Minnesota, fired the first American shots of World War II when it sank a Japanese midget

submarine attempting to infiltrate Pearl Harbor; and

WHEREAS: The naval gun that fired those historic shots has stood as a symbol of Minnesota's brave entry into

the global fight for freedom and has long been displayed outside the Veterans Service Building in

Saint Paul; and

WHEREAS: On September 2, 1945, aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, the Empire of Japan formally

surrendered to the Allied Powers, bringing an end to the most devastating conflict in human

history; and

WHEREAS: The USS Saint Paul, a proud heavy cruiser named in honor of Minnesota's capital city, was present

in Tokyo Bay during the surrender ceremony and is one of the few American warships able to claim

this historic distinction; and

WHEREAS: The City of Saint Paul's deep maritime connection is further honored through the placement of the

ship's bell in Saint Paul's City Hall, symbolizing the enduring bond between the state and its naval

legacy; and

WHEREAS: The gun of the USS Ward will be ceremonially removed today to undergo restoration before its

permanent installation at the new Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum near Camp Ripley,

preserving its story for future generations; and

WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota pauses today to reflect on the courage and sacrifice of the more than

300,000 Minnesotans who served in World War II, and to honor the legacy of those who helped

secure peace and liberty across the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, September 2, 2025, as:

USS WARD AND VJ DAY COMMEMORATION DAY

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 20th day of August.



GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE



Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board



625 Robert Street North Saint Paul, MN 55155 651-757-1500

https://mn.gov/caapb/

Date: October 3, 2025

To: Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board members

From: Jessie Hughes, Office Administrative Specialist, Capitol Area Architectural and Planning

Board (CAAPB)

CC: Erik Cedarleaf Dahl, Executive Secretary, CAAPB

Peter Musty, Principal Planner & Zoning Administrator, CAAPB

AGENDA ITEM #10 - Tribal Flag Plaza Flag-Raising Ceremony RE:

Tribal Flag Plaza Flag-Raising Ceremony: September 5, 2025



Photo courtesy of the Office of Governor Walz & Lt. Governor Flanagan

The Tribal Flag Plaza Flag-Raising Ceremony on September 5, 2025, marked a historic moment at the Minnesota State Capitol: for the first time, the flags of the eleven sovereign Tribal Nations sharing land with Minnesota were permanently raised on the Capitol Grounds.

The Plaza includes each Tribal Nation's flag, plantings selected by each Tribe at the base of each flagpole, and Minnesota-sourced granite pavers and benches. Together, these elements create a lasting place of recognition, respect, and acknowledgment of the government-to-government relationship between the State of Minnesota and the sovereign Tribal Nations.

The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB), chaired by the Lieutenant Governor, played a central role in the vision, design, and realization of the Plaza. The request for a Tribal Flag Plaza was initially raised during the 2021 Governor's Tribal Summit, and this project was developed in close coordination with Tribal Nations, the Minnesota Legislature, and the Department of Administration to bring this collaborative vision to completion.

Event Program

The event started with opening remarks from CAAPB's Executive Secretary, Erik Cedarleaf Dahl. This was followed by a Dakota Blessing from Vanessa Goodthunder (Cansayapi) and an Ojibwe Blessing from Sharon Day (Bois Forte Band of Chippewa). After the blessings, the Dakota Flag Song was played while Dakota Tribes flags were raised, and then the Ojibwe Flag Song was played while Ojibwe Tribes flags were raised.

Following the raising of the Tribal flags, Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan shared remarks. After their remarks, Tribal leaders from each of the 11 federally recognized Tribes of Minnesota spoke:

- Former President Robert Larsen of the Lower Sioux Indian Community
- Chairman Michael Fairbanks of the White Earth Nation
- Chairman Faron Jackson of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- Vice Chair Agatha Armstrong of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Chairman Cole Miller of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- Chief Executive Virgil Wind of the Lacs Band of Ojibwe
- Chairman Darrell Seki, Sr. of the Red Lake Nation
- Chairman Bruce Savage of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Chairman Kevin Jensvold of the Upper Sioux Community
- President Grant Johnson of the Prairie Island Indian Community
- Chairman Carlos A. Hernandez of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa

The program ended with closing remarks from Governor Tim Walz and dismissal by CAAPB's Executive Secretary, Erik Cedarleaf Dahl.





Photos courtesy of the Office of Governor Walz & Lt. Governor Flanagan

The Future of the Tribal Flag Plaza

Currently, plants that are sacred to each Tribe grow at the foot of their flagpole. There are also Minnesota-sourced granite benches for visitors to rest and reflect on the significance of this Plaza. The Plaza is flanked by white pines that will provide shelter from the sun and wind.

In the coming months, plaques will be installed under each Nation's flags that provide visitors with information about each Tribe and their seal. This will no doubt be a great teaching opportunity for all the students that visit the Capitol each year.

Lieutenant Governor Flanagan stated during the Flag-Raising Ceremony, "The Capitol should tell the full story of the history of Minnesota, one that honors all 11 federally recognized Tribal Nations, acknowledges complex histories and builds a future rooted in inclusion, beauty, and truth." It is CAAPB staff's hope that this Tribal Flag Plaza does just that and helps make the Capitol more welcoming to more Minnesotans.

Special Thanks

CAAPB staff would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all the agencies, organizations, and vendors that helped us make this event a success:

- Tribal-State Relations Executive Director Patina Park
- Native American Affairs Coordinator Adam Savariego
- Bipartisan members of the Legislature
- The City of Saint Paul
- Governor's Office: Simone Frierson, Julia Scovil, Amanda Frie, Katelyn Padden, and Sam Gullick
- Department of Administration: Commissioner Gronvall, Assistant Commissioner Waslaski, Laura Haag, Chris Mukina; Luke Jannett and Justin Patrick; Carrie Stiles and Laura Goiffon
- Facilities Management: Director Kari Suchy, Arborist Charlie Kreuger, and Grounds
 Supervisors Joe Dinnebier and Justin Lange
- Capitol Security: Captain Roeske and SSPD Commander Brown
- MnDOT: Joel Wenz
- Vendors: Twin Cities Tent and Event Rental, SixS Event Rental, Warning Lites, and Printastik
- Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board Members



Resources:

- Tribal Flag Plaza Flag-Raising Ceremony program
- Tribal Flag Plaza Flag-Raising Ceremony recording (Minnesota Senate Media Services)
- Tribal Flag Plaza Background document
- Tribal Flag Plaza Day Proclamation from the Office of Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan



Media Coverage:

- Minnesota Senate Media Services On Sovereign Ground
- Star Tribune Brooks: For the first time, Minnesota raises the flags of all 11 tribal nations at the Capitol
- MPR News Tribal nations' flags raised in historic moment at Minnesota State Capitol
- Pioneer Press New Tribal Flag Plaza at Capitol highlights Minnesota's past, present
- CBS News Flags of 11 sovereign tribal nations flown for first time at Minnesota State Capitol
- Sasaki Minnesota State Capitol Dedicates First-Ever Tribal Flag Plaza Honoring Sovereign Nations

Attachment

Attachment A: Tribal Flag Plaza Day Proclamation from the Office of Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: The land on which the Minnesota State Capitol and Capitol Mall stand is the homeland of the

Dakota people; and

WHEREAS: The eleven federally recognized Tribes in the State of Minnesota are vital communities that

contribute to the cultural, economic, and civic fabric of our state; and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota State Capitol Mall is a place where all people are welcomed and where the stories

of our diverse communities are honored; and

WHEREAS: The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board authorized the creation of the Tribal Flag

Plaza in May 2024 on the Capitol Mall, as envisioned in the Capitol Mall Design Framework, to honor and recognize the eleven federally recognized sovereign Tribal Nations whose homelands

and borders are shared with the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota established a Tribal Flag Plaza on the Capitol Mall where the flags, names and symbols

and of each of the eleven Tribes are now permanently displayed, including: Cansa'yapi/ Lower Sioux Indian Community; Gaa-waabaabiganikaag / White Earth Nation; Gaa-zagaskwaajimekaag / Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; Gichi Onigaming / Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa; Mdewakanton / Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community; Misi-zaaga'iganiing / Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe; Miskwaagamiiwi-Zaagaiganing / Red Lake Nation; Nah-gah-chi-wa-nong / Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa; Pezihutazizi Oyate / Upper Sioux Community; Tinta Wita / Prairie Island Indian Community; Zagaakwaandagowininiwag / Bois Forte Band of Chippewa; and

WHEREAS: Tribal Nations were included during the design of the Tribal Flag Plaza and chose the plantings at

the base of each flagpole and the white pine trees; and

WHEREAS: The arc of the plaza is part of the Capitol Mall Design Framework, where all are welcome – all may

gather to learn, reflect, and celebrate; and

WHEREAS: With deep respect and commitment, Minnesota raises these flags as a symbol of the government-

to-government relationship with the Tribal Nations and as an affirmation that this plaza and the Capitol Mall as a whole be a shared place of serenity, joy, and freedom of expression for all people

in Minnesota.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 5, 2025, as:

TRIBAL FLAG PLAZA DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 5th day of September.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE

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Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board



625 Robert Street North Saint Paul, MN 55155 651-757-1500

https://mn.gov/caapb/

Date: October 3, 2025

To: Members of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB)

From: Erik Cedarleaf Dahl, Executive Secretary, CAAPB

Peter Musty, Principal Planner and Administrator of the Rules for Zoning and Design, CAAPB

RE: AGENDA ITEM #11 – Other Project Updates

Project Updates in this Memo:

1) Rice Street Redesign (also see full memo)

- 2) State Office Building
- 3) Commemorative Works (not mentioned / in the works)
 - a. WWI Plaque
 - b. Blue Star Gold Star Memorial
- 4) Former Sears Site
- 5) Capitol View Mental Health Hospital
- 6) TRACKING TABLE: Multiple Infrastructure Projects and Studies
 - a. NEW to table: Centennial Office Building Study, John Ireland Bridge Reconstruction

Redesign of Capitol Rice Corridor (Rice Street from Pennsylvania to John Ireland)

For the October 2025 Board meeting, the preferred street design alternative will be brought forward for consideration. **Please see separate memo for full update.**

Background: A major initiative of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol Area, (profiled in Chapter (Principle) 4) was to transform the "Capitol Rice Corridor" (includes portion of Como, Rice, 12th Street across interstate to St. Peter).



The project was enabled by a \$25 million provision from the 2023 MN State Legislature, appropriated to Department of Transportation (but just for Rice Street itself – **the length shown in green above**) to include collaborative work with City of Saint Paul, Ramsey County, Metropolitan Council, State of Minnesota, and, of course, the CAAPB. The project must include implementation of a multi-modal (mobility) hub at University and Rice. (Legislation details can be found in <u>June 2023 Board Memo</u>.) Appropriation is available until June of 2029.

State Office Building Update

The State Office Building Renovation and Addition continues to progress. The addition is in progress with structural steel, roofing, and concrete block work underway. The original building construction continues with new roof systems, windows, and interior wall framing. Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing system continue to advance.

Commemorative Works Applications

World War I Plaque

The World War I plaque is an existing memorial on the Capitol Court of Honor, that commemorates 57,413 Minnesotans who fought abroad during World War I. In February 2019, during the 91st session, bill <u>HF 810</u> was passed authorizing the replacement of the existing plaque with a new plaque that will take into account all Minnesota veterans who fought during World War I, both abroad and at home. The legislation authorizes the CAAPB to solicit design submissions for the new plaque from the public.

On January 9, 2025, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, through Cole Trace, its Legislative Liaison, reached out to the CAAPB Executive Secretary to inform the Board of the Minnesota American Legion Foundation's intention to foot the bill for the installation of new plaque in the Court of Honor per HF 810.

The CAAPB Executive Secretary met with Mike Maxa, the adjutant for the MN American Legion Foundation to discuss the intention to $\,$



Image of existing World War I plaque at the Court of Honor

replace the World War I plaque considering the coming into effect of the Minnesota Rules 2400.2703 in 2022. From the discussion, it was agreed that MN American Legion Foundation will submit a Commemorative Work

application for modification of an existing work on the Capitol Ground for the World War I Plaque, while the discussion on how to align the 2019 legislation and new Commemorative Works rules is underway.

The MN American Legion Foundation is currently working on submitting the application, with continued guidance from CAAPB staff.

Blue Star Gold Star Memorial

On February 17, 2025, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA), through Jon Kelly, its Director of Government Affairs, reached out to the CAAPB Executive Secretary to inform the Board and request input on a policy item in the Governor's HF2444 budget bill for the department, authorizing a Blue Star Gold Star Families Memorial in the Court of Honor.

"Blue Star Families is a term used to refer to the immediate family members of active-duty service members in the United States military. This tradition dates back to World War I when families displayed banners with a blue star to represent a loved one serving in the armed forces.

"The term 'Gold Star Family' originated during World War I when families displayed service flags with blue stars representing their loved ones serving in the military. If a service member died, the blue star was replaced with a gold star, signifying their ultimate sacrifice. This allowed communities to recognize the immense loss suffered by these families."

Following discussions, it was then agreed that CAAPB's role per Minnesota Rules 2400.2703 will be incorporated into the HF2444 budget bill language. The bill has since been passed by the Senate (May 17, 2025), therefore becoming session Law Chapter 30, Section 14., Subdivision 2., and currently reads as follows;

Subd. 2. **Memorial plaque.** The commissioner of administration shall place a memorial plaque in the court of honor on State Capitol grounds to recognize the service and sacrifices of Minnesota's Gold Star and Blue Star families. The process for determining design and location of the Gold Star and Blue Star memorial will follow the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board commemorative works rules under Minnesota Rules, part 2400.2703. The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board shall select a design from the submitted designs to use as a basis for final production. The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board must include the commissioner of veterans affairs on the design review committee established under Minnesota Rules, part 2400.2703. The memorial design must be furnished by the person or group who submit the design at no cost to the state.

The bill was presented to the Governor on May 20, 2025, and is expected to become an official session law in summer 2025.

CAAPB staff have been actively supporting Cole Trace, MDVA Legislative Liaison, with the application process for the plaque addition and expect to receive a formal submission shortly.

Updates on Off-Campus Capitol Area Projects

Former Sears Site

New owners continue to build capacity to implement the transit-oriented urban village vision for the site.

The current owners, Asian Media Access, led by Ange Hwang in partnership with Asian American Business Alliance, are currently promoting a range of ideas for long-range reuse of the old Sears building as a centerpiece

of larger site redevelopment. They have sought guidance from CAAPB and City staff as they build a development team to support the ownership and design team.

Since the 'big box' pattern of the old Sears is currently not legal by Zoning regulations nor Comp Plan policy, introduction of that pattern as a first phase would require amendment to the Comprehensive Plan (and extend the process considerably) unless they also can present an implementable site redevelopment plan that also meets requirements of the Capitol Rice Development Framework (2040 Comp Plan) and before they apply for specific approvals of building projects within the Rules for Zoning and Design.

Lastly, their team is building support to explore technical barriers and development-related environmental studies and infrastructure costs connected with the current site and building realities, and that is taking time. As always, staff will update the Board and the community with information as soon as we are able.

Review: Sears closed in 2018. Subsequent planning led to final approval of the Capitol Rice Development Framework in 2021, confirming the longstanding transit-oriented walkable vision for an urban village, reestablishing an urban pattern of mixed uses reconnecting the neighborhood across the site around a central green space. Seritage, as the former owner, participated with CAAPB and the City to engage the community on design alternatives for the urban village vision as found on CAAPB website.

The process affirmed the public realm vision of smaller blocks within a network of tree-lined streets with a new central park, and the market research reported by owner and community input steered land use toward the predominantly mixed residential demand (vs new office). In early 2022 came an investor-related delay due to uncertainty around Saint Paul's new rent control regulations. In late 2022, Seritage decided to list the site for sale. The site was bought by the current owners after initial purchase by another entity.

Update - September 2025: There are three notable updates:

- We are still waiting for site owners to form a full development team to continue with site design and planning.
- Thanks to an Active Transportation grant from the Department of Transportation, Staff has participated as a primary resource with site ownership in a bike and walk audit coordinated by MnDOT and lead consultant Alta. The project is evaluating connectivity from the site to neighborhoods, and districts surrounding anticipates pre-application meetings to resume in summer of 2025. The work will assist in review of site planning. The owner has signed off on location of intersections and BRT stations proposed by the Rice Street Design Team.
- Temporary activities continue on the site under the <u>temporary permitting guidelines</u> set in place by CAAPB in 2021. The site owner regularly submits permits to allow activities that are under 12 days or less and operate during daylight hours unless formal notification is made to neighbors. Several activities that began this summer are now under review and may come forward for Board review in the near future.

For more information, please contact staff.



Capitol View Mental Health Hospital (at old Bethesda Hospital Site): Opening in October

Staff recommends that if you haven't, that you please walk or drive by the site when you are on campus. Construction is finishing up on Capitol View Mental Health Hospital https://www.capitolparkmentalhealth.com/.

The following update was provided Sept 19 to CAAPB staff by Garrett Smith of the Acadia/Fairview team:

"The hospital is scheduled to start taking patients in October. I have attached a couple pictures of the completed facility ... they showcase the beautiful building sitting perfectly downtown adjacent to the Capitol!"



Multiple Infrastructure Planning and Construction Projects Ongoing in Capitol Area

CAAPB planning activity is in full swing following Board adoption of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol Area in June 2021, structured by The Capitol Area Principles. See table on next page for updated status. (Questions: contact Peter Musty)

Planning	Sponsor/Lead Agency	CAAPB role	Timing
Sears Site: MX District Plan	public/private team (Developer pre- application meetings, CAAPB, City)	process and review lead	pre-application meetings currently paused as development team formed by owner
Commemorative Works Rules (2022 Update to Rules) Funded \$500K, one time sending, available thru FY27	CAAPB (working with MNHS, Administration under new Rules)	Staff receives inquiries under Rules, looking to improve process with Lindsey Dyer of MNHS	CAAPB Commemorative Works Fellows Tina Chimuzu (2024) and Ella Coon (2025) have led process and are providing updates to Board/Advisors
Capitol Area Stormwater Management Study	Capitol Region Watershed District	co-lead	Complete, CAAPB accepted in March 2025
Rethinking I-94	MnDOT	policy and planning committee(s)	ongoing, alternatives being narrowed
Downtown Commons Study (off- shoot of Rethinking 1-94)	MnDOT	steering	Completed Fall 2023, multi- jurisdictional staff team continues to meet
Capitol Heights Development Framework	CAAPB (leveraging Station Area Planning)	lead	On hold. (see Station Area Planning)
BRT Station Area Planning: METRO Purple Line (Robert to Jackson)	Ramsey County and Metro Transit	Staff is on Technical Advisory Committee, Design Review Team, updates Admin and Capitol Heights reps	Two station area plans will be brought forward by the County team for comment and Board approval in late 2025 or early 2026.
BRT Station Design: METRO G- Line	Ramsey County and Metro Transit	Staff on Technical Advisory Committee, CAAPB approved station location and design in Capitol Area, approved design and location of stations is integrated into 30% Rice Street plan under consideration by Board.	Station locations approved by CAAPB in March 2025. Metro Transit participating in Rice Street planning and design led by Ramsey County, City and CAAPB plus partners

DESIGN UNDERWAY: \$25M Capitol Rice Corridor (Rice Street Redesign/Rebuild)	funds held by MnDOT for City/County/ CAAPB leads design coordination	partner, CAAPB approvals	See staff memo: community process near completion, community preferred alternative has been released and is under review
Jackson Street Rebuild (Northeastern boundary of Capitol Area)	City	Staff on PMT	Approved by CAAPB in March 2025, undergoing implementation
DESIGN UNDERWAY: 12th Street Redo (downtown across St Peter bridge, up 12 th to John Ireland)	City	Staff on PMT	Design team and engagement underway, options in vetting
UNDERWAY: \$185K Mandatory Update to Rules for Zoning and Design	СААРВ	Opticos lead consultant	ongoing in 2025, review process ongoing
COMPLETE: \$1 mil. Capitol Mall Design Framework (Admin. w/ \$5 mil. for implementation)	СААРВ	lead	Approved in 2024, trees planted in upper mall, tribal flag plaza open
Capitol Mall Design Framework Implementation	CAAPB (w/ Dept of Administration)	Co-lead	Funding extension by Legislature (June 30, 2027)
Capitol Area Community Vitality Task Force	Task Force completed work in 2024, legislature authorized funding in 2025 session	lead	\$4M Legislation approved, Update provided in separately.
NEW: John Ireland Boulevard Bridge	MnDOT	CAAPB has approved bridge design, will study entire JIB end to end in 2026 with MnDOT funding commitment	Construction about to begin following Twin Cities Marathon (October 3-5).
NEW: Centennial Office Building Study	Dept of Administration	CAAPB Guidance, Review/Study, Approvals	Predesign study by Administration near completion; identifying cost, design and technical parameters

We continue to be VERY Busy! Staff is implementing the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the Capitol Mall Design Framework. For many items, Board Members may be offered chances to observe, participate in, or advise steering committees or community discussions.

Questions? Please contact CAAPB Staff directly.