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. 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.	Letter via email

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. 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.	Email (different sender)
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. 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.	Email

		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. 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.	Letter via email
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."	

COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE PUBLIC HEARING ON July 16, 2025			
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. 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.	In-person
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 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.	In-person

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 ride-alongs, 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. 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.	In-person
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 service—we would fully support having a state memorial on the Capitol grounds. Thank you for your time.	Virtual
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