

Attachment C

Originally included in October 2025 board meeting memo but is included here again for your convenience. No change in the evaluation has been made from 30% to 60%.

CAAPB Staff Evaluation

Compliance With Minnesota Statute Chapter 15B



Does the design process and design comply with requirements in MN Statute 15B CAPITOL AREA PLANNING AND PRESERVATION? Yes. 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, Chapters/Principles 4, 5 and 7).

Compliance With 2040 Comprehensive Plan



Does the design align with policy in the [2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol Area](#)? **Yes.** 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.
 - 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.
 - d. Promote tree diversity as a risk management technique for limiting the impact of diseases, pests, and other problems associated with climate change.
 - 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