



Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board



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Date: March 1, 2024
To: Members of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB)
From: Erik Cedarleaf Dahl and Peter Musty, CAAPB

RE: Capitol Mall Design Framework (CMDf): Preliminary Approvals including Major Moves, Call for Public Comment, Release Date of Survey #2, and Request for Agency Letters (Agenda Item 2)

The Capitol Mall Design Framework (CMDf) is a document that will be used to guide the future of the Minnesota State Capitol Mall for years to come. It will exist as one of four Framework plans that are adopted by reference to the 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol Area, and serve to guide improvements from landscape design and plantings to wayfinding, stormwater management, public space design, commemorative works and public art. It will be referenced for compliance in future board approvals, and will guide decisions about maintenance, memorials, ecological systems and security improvements by the stewarding agencies of the State Capitol Campus.

CMDf'S STATUTORY and POLICY REQUIREMENT.

The CMDf is Required by Statute, Comp Plan, Rules and Legislation: The CMDf in final published state will serve as planning and design policy manual, as called for in several important CAAPB policy documents:

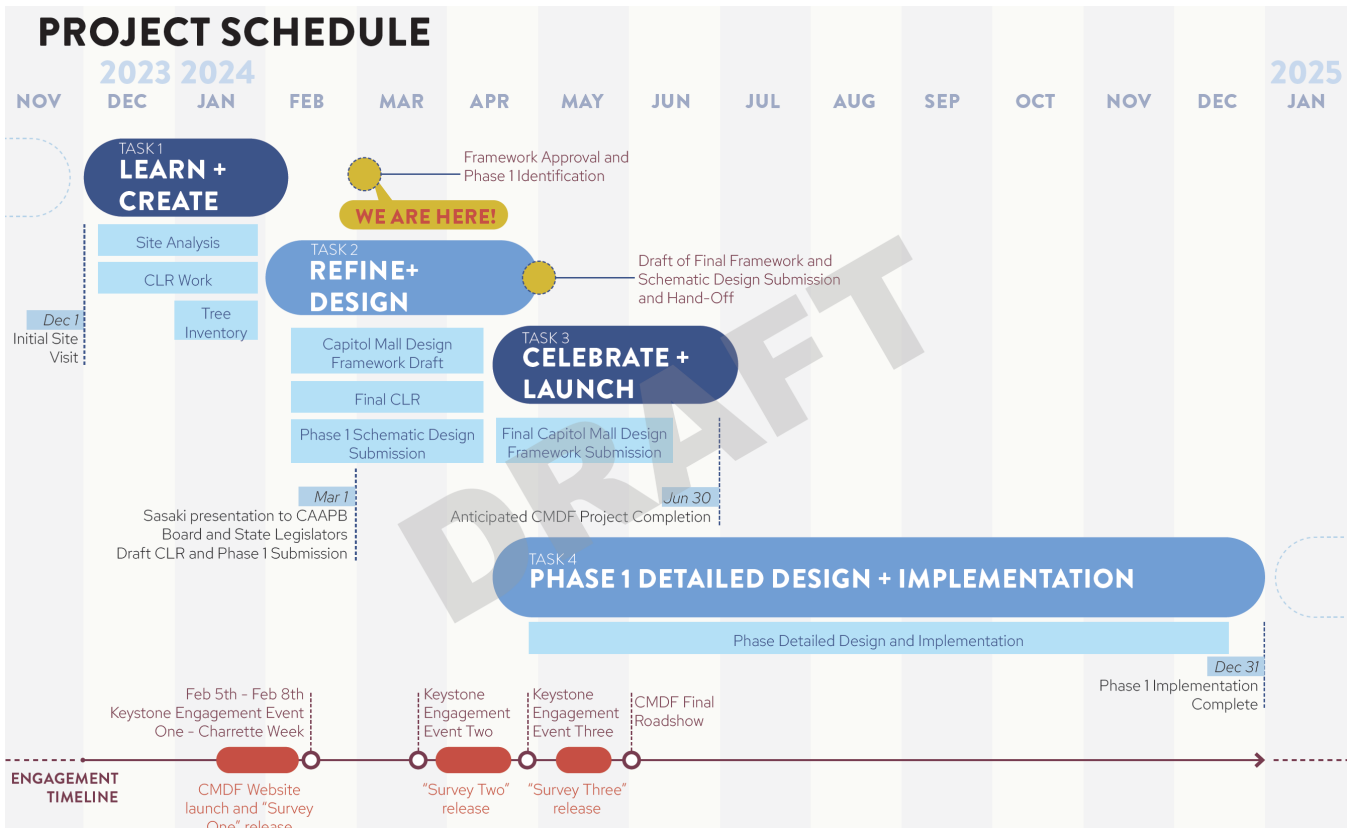
- Statute 15B requires that CAAPB maintain policy guiding design and planning for the Capitol Mall, grounds, and approaches.
- 2021 - The 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol Area, (see policy guidance in Chap. 1 & 2).
- 2022 - Rules for Commemorative Works (MN Rules Chapter 2400)
- 2023 - Legislation funding development of the "Capitol Mall Design Framework", Minnesota Laws 2023, Chapter 62, Article 2, Section 124.

PROCESS SUMMARY.

The CMDf process has included extensive and nationally competitive team selection process and rigorous background research, and wide ranging local, regional and statewide stakeholder engagement. The timeline has been compressed to allow for initiation of projects as soon as mid to late 2024:

- **June 2023:** enabling legislation was approved creating funding, timeline and other requirements for the CMDf (See attached memo to Board including entirety of 2023 legislation related to Capitol Area)

- **August – September 2023:** development and release of Request for Proposals to complete CMDF. The process included vetting of six qualifying proposals and interviews of three teams. A selection team was formed made up of representatives of the major stewards (agencies) of the Capitol Mall, including Capitol Board Members, the Department of Administration, Minnesota Historical Society and City of Saint Paul, among other important partners.
- **October 2023:** Selection of Sasaki with team members including interdisciplinary team including Damon Farber, Zan, Barr and other design specialists (Sasaki proposal available on request)
- **November 2023 – January 2024:** statewide survey released; project startup research and background information, research related to Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) identifying historic resources (<https://youtu.be/69zyZsHH70g?si=uKBAsag23GcLh1-L>), community charrette preparation, formation of four focus groups: More Minnesota, Saint Paul Community, Executive Leadership Group, local outreach/meetings
- **February 2024:** Community Design Charrette at Minnesota History Center and Veterans Services Building
- **Next Steps in Spring 2024:** Release of two more statewide surveys, formal request for agency review letters, public comment period (30 days), statewide engagement events, the following graphic displays the overall timeline of the project:



COMPLIANCE.**CMDF's Compliance with 2040 Comprehensive Plan**

CAAPB staff affirms that the policy in the CMDF is in compliance broadly and specifically with policy guidance in all seven Chapters of *The Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol Area*. Policy requiring the CMDF itself is found on Chapter 2, page 65:

“To ensure implementation of the highest standards for the civic spaces of the Capitol Campus, update the CAAPB Mall Design Framework (1990) by 2025, addressing the policies of the chapters of this Comprehensive Plan.

2.39. In addition to addressing the policies of this plan, focus effort on updating location-specific planning and policy addressing issues including but not limited to: design and architectural of civic spaces and streets, memorial and commemorative art siting and programming, safety, wayfinding, sustainable landscaping, water, visitor experience and comfort, while ensuring continuity of primary functions such as supplying a range of places for speaking out and convening events.

2.40. Work with a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency team to garner input on the update to the Framework, especially regarding changes or upgrades to public or private buildings and the public realm surrounding them.

2.41. Include John Ireland Boulevard from the Cathedral of Saint Paul to the Capitol Building as part of the Mall, recognizing the importance of this ceremonial route as an extension of the Mall.

2.42. Address the site and connectivity issues of the Minnesota History Center.

2.43. While the focus is the design of the Mall, the Framework should address movement and connectivity to locations both within and outside the Mall.

- a. Address the impact of the addition of the Green Line Light Rail Transit on access to the east campus.*
- b. Specifically plan for improved connectivity to ensure maximum access and safety from the Capitol Mall to surrounding public spaces, including Leif Erickson Park, the Judicial Plaza, Call Gilbert Memorial Park, and to entrances of public buildings.*
- c. Encourage keeping public entrances of buildings on the Mall open to ensure access to public lobbies.*
- d. As new development occurs on or around the Capitol Campus (such as future development at the Sears site) ensure appropriate connectivity is considered within or as an addendum to, the updated Mall Design Framework.”*

CMDF's Compliance with 2023 Enabling Legislation

CAAPB staff reports to the Board that we remain in compliance with items (a) and (b), including consultations those identified in legislation.

“Sec. 124. CAPITOL MALL DESIGN FRAMEWORK.

(a) An update to the Capitol Mall Design Framework must include:

- (1) plans to integrate green space campuswide, including but not limited to the addition of green space on the following sites at the approximate sizes indicated:*

(i) the southwest corner of Rice Street and University Avenue, with a minimum size of 20,700 square feet;

(ii) the northeast corner of Rice Street and University Avenue, with a minimum size of 32,000 square feet; and

(iii) the north side of the State Capitol building adjacent to University Avenue;

(2) plans for visual markers and welcome information for the Capitol campus at one or more corners of Rice Street and University Avenue, anchoring a pathway to the State Capitol building and Capitol Mall that features interpretive markers honoring the importance and stature of the Capitol campus as both a historic site and as a modern, active public gathering space for all Minnesotans; and

(3) plans to plant trees throughout the Capitol campus, prioritizing the creation of a mature tree canopy to provide an area of shade for users of the Capitol Mall between or adjacent to the State Capitol building and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

(b) The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board must contract with one or more professional design consultants with expertise on horticulture, landscape architecture, civic space design, infrastructure assessment, and operations and maintenance planning to develop the framework updates. The board must additionally consult with the commissioners of administration and public safety and the senate majority leader and the speaker of the house or their designees before any proposed framework update is approved. The board must approve the updated design framework no later than March 1, 2024. EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.”

AGENCY REVIEWS.

Technical Advisory Team (TAT)

Published online here is the list of members of the Technical Advisory Team, with description of their role. The Sasaki PDF presentation contains the schedule for further reviews with the TAT throughout the Spring of 2024.

SHPO (1)	Amy Spong
COMMISSIONERS/RECS (1)	Jessi Held
FMD (3)	Chris Guevin Kari Suchy/Anne Johnson (event mgmt., function of open spaces) Joe Dinnebier (landscape design, maintenance, standards)
OES (1)	Marcus Grubbs
MNHS (2)	Brian Pease (Capitol building Site Manager) Lindsey Dyer (commemorative works liaison for Capitol Area)
CITY (1-2)	Luis Pereira (Planning & Economic Development (PED)) Anna Potter (Public Works) Allison Suhan-Eggers (HPC – Senior Historic Preservation Planner)
LEG + CAAPB Board (2-3)	Board Member Dana Badgerow Board Member Rep Ginny Klevorn
CAAPB Advisory Cmte. (3)	Advisor Michael Bjornberg (AIA Appointee) Advisor Joe Favour (State Arts Board Appointee) Advisor Denita Lemmon (Board Appointee)
Ramsey County	Brad Estothen
DOT	Lindsey Bruer, Stephen Terhaar
CRWD	Anna Eleria
CAP SECURITY (1)	Capt. Roeske
DISABILITY (1)	David Fenley

Formal Request for Agency Letters.

CAAPB Staff will be providing partner agencies to augment informal attendance and staff comments with formal reviews from partner agencies and other institutions.

CAAPB ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**Statements Available from Advisors Favour, Bjornberg and Lemmon**

CAAPB Staff have involved Advisors at nearly every step in the process following selection of a team. They have been asked to furnish statements to Board Members.

MORE MINNESOTANS: PUBLIC COMMENT, SURVEY and STATEWIDE REVIEW.

There is a second wave of engagement that will seek reactions from more voices. Sasaki will summarize the plan for Board Members to include more voices across the state.

BOARD ACTION.

At this time the Board is asked to consider preliminary approvals and to authorize next steps. Before further development of the CMDF and then final approvals later this Spring, there are several actions the board is asked to take:

- Preliminary Approval of “Ten Bold Moves” (see draft presentation PDF)
- Preliminary Approval of Reverend Dr. Martin Jr King Boulevard, between upper and lower Mall as the location of a \$5M first phase of implementation beginning in 2024.
- Preliminary Approval allows for next steps including refinement and finalization of the CMDF, by way of further engagement including 30-day public comment, statewide team engagements at events, further regional and local interactions, statewide survey (#2), and request for formal agency letters.

Following Board consideration at the meeting, staff recommends the following language for Board resolution related to the **Capitol Mall Development Framework (CMDF)**:

“The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (“Board”) reviewed the preliminary recommendations found in the DRAFT Capitol Mall Design Framework, dated _____ and resolves the following:

- 1) The Board accepts the report presented as in compliance with CAAPB duty to complete the Capitol Mall Design Framework defined in legislation Minnesota Laws 2023, Chapter 62, Article 2, Section 124.
- 2) The Board approves the draft recommendations contained in the report, with the following provisions:
 - a. There be a final approval vote by _____, as instructed in legislation.
 - b. Board staff must publish the report for public comment at CAAPB website for a period of 30 days following this approval.
 - c. The Board empowers its Executive Secretary and Chair to convene the Board again should there be significant comment voiced during the public comment period and substantive changes to the Capitol Mall Design Framework are required.
 - d. The Board provides preliminary approval to proceed with completion of schematic level design work related to the implementation project identified for construction.
 - e. [.... *additional provision(s) adopted by Board if desired...*]

