Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

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

Date: December 7, 2026
To: Members of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB)
From: Erik Cedarleaf Dahl, Executive Secretary

Overview of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

Purpose

This overview will provide Board members with a summary of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board's (CAAPB) role, recent accomplishments, and key planning and implementation initiatives shaping the future of the Capitol Area.

Background

Over the past several years, CAAPB has continued to build on decades of planning, design, and regulatory leadership, moving from long-range vision toward implementation. The 2040 Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2021, provides the overarching policy framework for creating a connected, accessible, vibrant, and welcoming Capitol Area that respects its historic and civic significance while responding to the needs of Minnesotans today and into the future.

Overview

The presentation will highlight several areas of CAAPB's work, including:

- **Planning and Design Frameworks:** Implementation of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, Capitol Rice Development Framework, and Capitol Mall Design Framework.
- **Capitol Mall and Public Realm:** Advancing improvements to the Capitol Grounds, including the completed Tribal Flag Plaza, expanded tree canopy, accessibility, cultural representation, and opportunities for greater public use and activation.
- **Commemorative Works and Civic History:** Modernizing commemorative works policies and processes and advancing projects that recognize and interpret Minnesota's diverse history.
- **Capitol Area Community Vitality:** Supporting neighborhood livability, public safety, business development, community programming, and partnerships through the Capitol Area Community Vitality initiative.
- **Transportation and Redevelopment:** Coordinating major efforts such as Rice Street reconstruction, Capitol Rice District redevelopment, and improved connections between the Capitol, surrounding neighborhoods, and transit.
- **Ongoing Planning and Policy Initiatives:** Updating zoning and design rules, advancing East Campus planning, exploring new public spaces, and strengthening coordination with state agencies, local governments, and community partners.