# Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

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Date: December 7, 2026
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;
Sophie Miller-Grande, Planning Fellow, CAAPB

## Other Project Updates

**Project Updates in this Memo:**

- Commemorative Works Activities Fund: Public History Project
- Zoning Rulemaking
- Fitzgerald Neighborhood Alliance Event
- Capitol Rice Street Reconstruction

## Commemorative Works Activities Fund: Public History Project

The Public History Project is a project focused on the history of commemorative works and social/environmental history in the Capitol Area. After a Request for Proposal (RFP) process took place in April 2026, two consultants were selected. Wayfinding, LLC and the 106 Group were contracted in August 2026 and have been significantly involved in their prospective research phases. The 106 Group submitted a preliminary draft narrative to staff for review and are making updates based on staff edits. Near-term next steps include the 106 Group writing a narrative outline with the perspective of the visitor experience, and Wayfinding will then start scripting self-guided tours for both a general audience and school-aged youth. The tours will showcase the Capitol Area as a civic and commemorative space.

The project is funded through legislative language in H.F. 1830, which appropriated $500,000 to the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board “to support commemorative artwork activities,” with funds available until June 30, 2027.

## Zoning Rulemaking

Staff are continuing through the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) rulemaking process, including updating the Statement Of Need And Reasonableness (SONAR) and working closely with the Office of the Revisor of Statues to refine language within the Zoning and Design Rules, Chapter 2400 (Rules). The final draft of Rules, also known as the Complete Revisor Draft, is ready to be reviewed by the Administrative Law Judge. Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules will be announced soon.

## Fitzgerald Neighborhood Alliance Event

On Monday, November 9, 2026, CAAPB staff facilitated a networking event co-hosted by the Fitzgerald Neighborhood Alliance (FNA). The event highlighted new projects and investments in St. Paul's Fitzgerald Neighborhood and spotlighted public-private collaboration for neighborhood growth and safety.

Through informational presentations, attendees received rapid-fire updates from key project leaders. Presenters represented the following organizations: CAAPB, City of Saint Paul Planning and Economic Development (PED) & Public Works, Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, Ramsey County Downtown Stronger Together, Metro Transit, Fairview and St. Paul Port Authority (St. Joe's Block), 17 Exchange, Kai Shin Clinic, and Assumption Church Improvements.

A networking social hour followed the presentations. The strong turnout underscored growing momentum and cooperative vitality within the Fitzgerald Neighborhood.

## Capitol Rice Street Reconstruction

The Capitol Rice Reconstruction project is nearing the end of its design process. The 100% design plans are currently being reviewed by agency partners and will be finalized within the next few weeks. The project is expected to go out to bid in early 2027, with construction starting in Spring 2027, in coordination with Metro Transit's construction of METRO G Line station areas along the corridor. While there have been some modifications to the plans in response to comments since the 60% design update at the June 4, 2026, CAAP Board meeting, there have been no substantiative changes that would require further Board action. Additional project updates will be provided in early 2027 regarding construction phasing and impacts once a contractor is on board to deliver the project. Work on the University and Rice public space design, along with proposed stormwater improvements, is continuing in parallel and will be coordinated with project design and construction, albeit with its own timeline.