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**Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board**

*Agency Profile* ..... 1

<https://mn.gov/caapb/>

**AT A GLANCE**

- The Board is responsible for zoning jurisdiction, design review, and planning authority in a 60-block area around the Capitol Building.
- Two full-time, one part-time staff, and three professional advisors serve the Board.
- The Board consists of 12 members appointed as follows: four by the Governor, three by the Mayor of St. Paul, two Representatives by the Speaker of the House, two Senators by the President of the Senate, and the Lieutenant Governor as Board Chair. The Board meets five to six times a year.

**PURPOSE**

The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB) is a small state agency with responsibilities unique to the state. Its mission is:

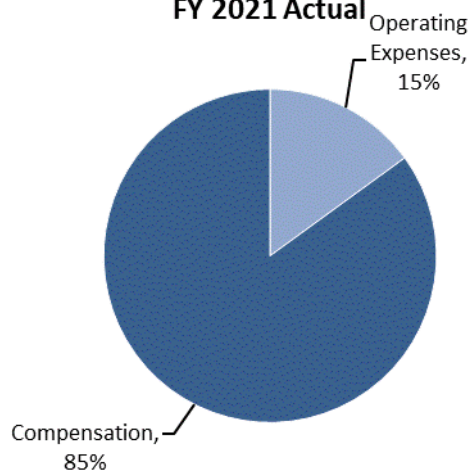
- To preserve and enhance the architectural integrity of the Capitol Building and area.
- To improve and protect open areas for public enjoyment.
- To develop accessible approaches to the Capitol Area for pedestrians, roadways, and mass transit.
- To establish a framework for growth in keeping with the original Cass Gilbert design.

The Board’s framework of operations is a comprehensive plan and codified zoning and design rules, developed with input from stakeholders, approved by the Board, and implemented by staff. The Board coordinates its responsibilities with other state agencies, the City of Saint Paul, Ramsey County, Capitol Region Watershed District, neighborhood planning bodies, commercial and residential property owners, developers, and other private sector professionals.

**BUDGET**

**Spending by Category**

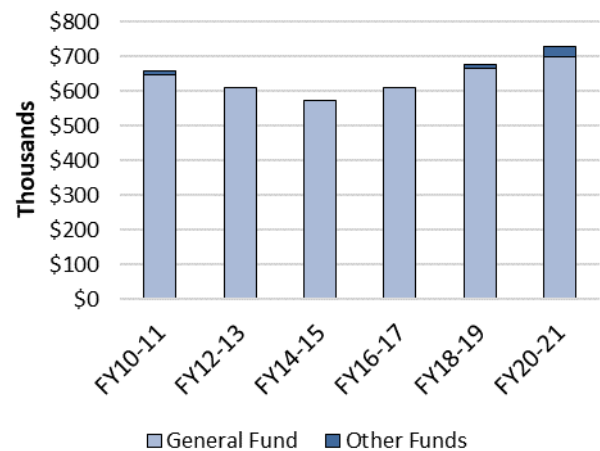
**FY 2021 Actual**



*The CAAPB’s operations are funded predominantly through the general fund.*

*Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)*

**Historical Spending**



*FY18-19 (and FY20-21) reflects costs of developing the new 2040 Comprehensive Plan in house.*

*Source: Consolidated Fund Statement*

## STRATEGIES

### Regulation:

- MN Statute 15B. Capitol Area Planning and Preservation identifies CAAPB’s regulatory responsibilities.
- Chapter 15B.03 Subd.6 grants CAAPB general rulemaking authority to adopt rules based on policy guidance in the Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol Area (updated in 2021).
- MN Rules Ch. 2400 govern Zoning and Design for the MN State Capitol Area (updated in 2012).
- Under MN Rules Ch. 2400, the CAAPB acts on requests for zoning permits or design review approvals for projects within the Capitol Area, within 60 days of receiving a complete application.
- A Saint Paul building permit for projects in the Capitol Area is issued only after the CAAPB has approved a zoning permit. A Certificate of Design Compliance may be required, if changes occur during City review.

### Development and Planning:

- Provide project-specific guidelines for Capitol Area work and encourage post construction analysis.
- Oversee a development framework and maintenance standards for the Capitol mall and its memorials.
- Conduct open and timely competitions for the design of state buildings and memorials in the Capitol Area.
- Provide open consultation with other state agencies and the City of Saint Paul.
- Initiate funding requests and promote design integrity and restoration – of the Capitol Building and other State buildings in the Capitol Area – in cooperation with the Department of Administration and the Historical Society (MNHS).

### Policy:

- The 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol Area, updated in 2021, identifies principles, objectives, and strategies to guide all CAAPB work and rules under MN Rules Ch. 2400.

## RESULTS

The Board has achieved the following measurable outcomes and successes over the past two years:

- Prepared and adopted a new and expanded 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol Area, using in-house staff and extensive public and stakeholder review and input.
- Worked closely with Seritage, its consultants, the public, and other public and private stakeholders on redevelopment planning for the former Sears site.
- Approved land use and zoning permits for a new mental health facility on the former Bethesda site. This followed a year of close collaboration on planning and design with property owner Fairview Health, future tenant Acadia Healthcare, community members and stakeholders, and other public agencies.
- Undertook robust process under two task forces to examine, solicit public input on, and update MN Rule Ch. 2400.2703 governing commemorative works in the MN Capitol Area. Undertook rulemaking process with two public comment periods, a public hearing, multiple reviews by MN Revisor’s Office and Office of Administrative Hearings, discussion at multiple Board meetings.
- Led or collaborated on major district-wide planning initiatives, including:
  - Capitol area parking and commuting patterns
  - Downtown connectivity
  - Rice Street redesign and economic vitality planning
  - Lower Rice Street Building Upgrade fund
  - Capitol Area stormwater management study
  - Design for rebuild of John Ireland Bridge (MNDOT)
- Participated in regional, multi-agency initiatives, including:
  - Rethinking I-94
  - Downtown Commons Study (MNDOT)
  - Purple Line BRT

- Reviewed design of Capitol building and campus projects, (joint decision making with MNHS on alterations to MN Capitol building; and sole decision making on any changes to the Capitol campus open space, landscaping and structures). Detailed design review of campus construction plans.
- Shifted to a hybrid work model and virtual operations, with a mix of teleworking and office days, and virtual meetings of the Board, the general public, zoning and rule hearings, client meetings, and most interagency communications. Transition back to a mix of in-person and online operations is underway.
- Transitioned smoothly to a new Executive Secretary, PT staff, and onboarded three Board members.
- Surveyed visitors to the Capitol Mall regarding their visitor experience.

<b>Type of Measure</b>	<b>Name of Measure</b>	<b>Previous</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Quality & Quantity	Zoning regulation: Respond to zoning inquiries, zoning and design assistance, and zoning permit reviews.	100% achieved	100% achieved (Approx: 100 inquiries 15 assists 10 zoning & 12 sign permits)	July 2020- July 2022
Quality & Quantity	Board meetings and hearings: Held virtually, plus Livestream. Meetings ran efficiently and clearly for all participants.	3-5 mtgs/yr	11 mtgs	July 2020- July 2022
Quality (Completion period depends on project complexity, the volunteer committee, and fundraising.)	Design / Update of Artworks: Lead artwork committees on design solicitation and selection. Assist Admin. Dept on implementation of new and updated memorials.	Approx. 4 memorials	4 memorials and various plaster/paint repairs in Capitol building	July 2020- July 2022

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The legal authority for the CAAPB is MN Statute 15B (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=15B>).