



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

DOWNTOWN STREETS AND SIDEWALKS PLAN

Capitol River Council Public Realm Task Force

2025 03 06



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PUBLIC WORKS

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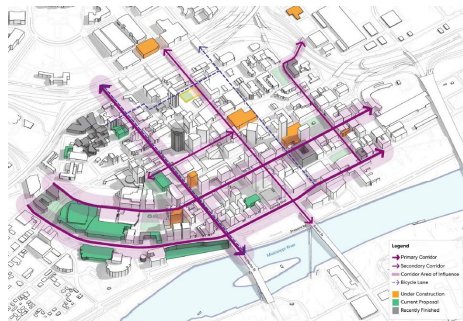
Purpose of a Streets and Sidewalk Plan

Examine all the needs of downtown streets and sidewalks and determine the best way to fit the many pieces together.

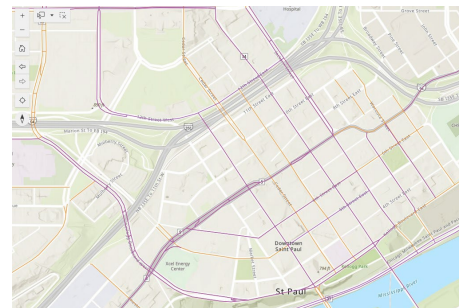
The plan will build upon prior work and establish a transportation network and public realm that is **safe**, **convenient**, and **vibrant**.



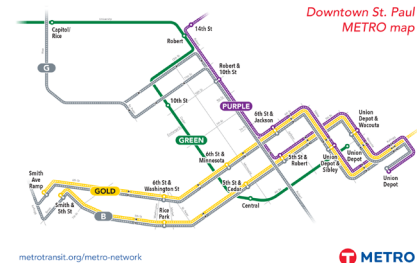
Many Projects Under Construction
Photo of Capital City Bikeway



Downtown Investment Strategy, 2023
Primary Pedestrian Corridors



Transportation Safety Action Plan, 2024
High Injury & Crash Network



METRO Network , 2027 anticipated
High Frequency Transit service



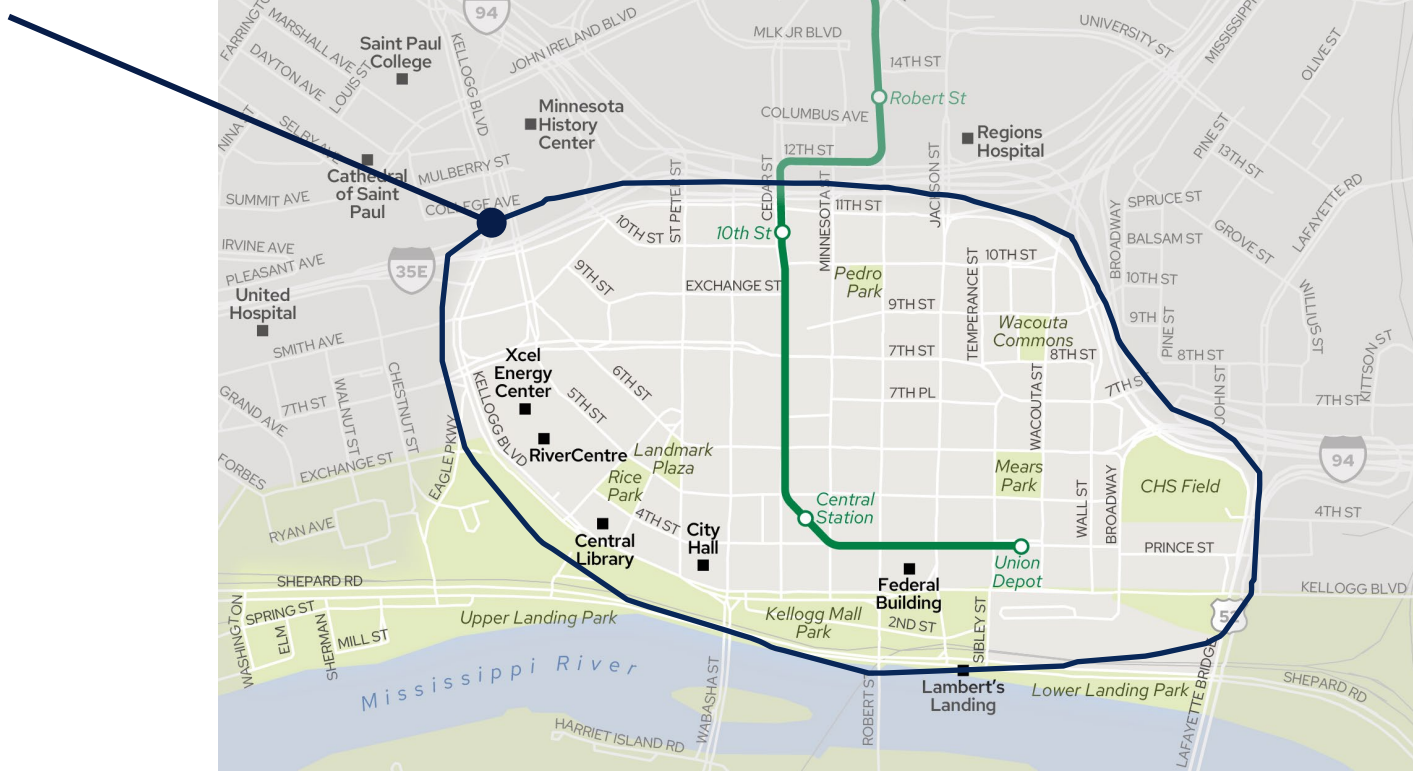
Some of the priorities can at times feel competing

The Plan can ensure that we are working towards those overall aspirations – even if we have to make compromises at the individual project or street scale to do so.





Study Area





Status and Lookahead

- Consultant Team Selected:



- Work has just started
- Key Schedule Milestones
 - Summer 2025: Draft Street and Sidewalk Priorities in the focus area
 - Spring 2026: Complete “Case Study” Corridor Engineering
 - April 2026: Apply for implementation funding
- Sign up for updates.

Website: [Stpaul.gov/DowntownStreetsPlan](https://stpaul.gov/DowntownStreetsPlan)



Draft Vision

The Saint Paul Downtown Streets and Sidewalks Plan will establish a transportation network that is **safe, convenient, and vibrant**. The public realm and transportation network together facilitate downtown becoming a renewed center of energy in the region that safely connects diverse businesses, residents, and visitors throughout the year. To be resilient to land use and travel pattern changes, the streets and sidewalks **prioritize an enhanced pedestrian experience** and **reduce automobile dependency**. The Downtown Streets and Sidewalks Plan will articulate a pathway to implementation of this vision.



Known Challenges – *draft work in progress*

Access/Disconnection to River & Capitol

Lack of All Day People Density

Public Realm isn't pleasant

Tree Canopy/planting

ROW is too wide

One-way streets

Barriers of adjacent highways

So Much Construction

Car-centric Funding Limitations

Surface Parking

Commercial Loading



Known Opportunities – *draft work in progress*

Flexible Zoning; Mixed-use development by right;

Incentives for redevelopment

Diverse land uses

Potential imminent
land use change

Redesign of streets for safe ped/bike experience

Install two-ways

High frequency transit

Compact/Walkable Grid Connections to the Capitol

Pedestrian-oriented urban design

Previous Planning – Investment Strategy, River Balcony, Bike Plan



Engagement Goals

- Understand the diverse transportation and public realm needs of downtown Saint Paul
- Provide space for feedback on broader priorities for a safe, convenient, and vibrant downtown
- Build on the many prior downtown engagement efforts to minimize engagement fatigue
- Identify and listen to underrepresented voices to advance more equitable outcomes
- Build a sense of ownership in the plan to ease implementation



Methods of Getting Feedback

- **Public Workshops** – Meetings organized by Plan team, open to anyone
- **Pop-up events** – Plan attends meetings/events hosted by others; ensures we can hear from a wider array of users and stakeholders, open to anyone
- **Design Charette** - Hands-on method of exploring opportunities, constraints and outcomes, inclusive of design professionals & key stakeholders
- **Political & Stakeholder Engagement** - Small group & one-on-one engagements with residents, neighborhood organization (CRC), established business groups, agency partners, local institutions, etc.



Themes



Safe & Comfortable



Connected & Convenient



Equitable & Accessible



Vibrant & Inviting



Sustainable & Resilient



Breakouts – 20 minutes

- **Breakout into groups based on the theme you are interested in**
- **Select a recorder for note taking**
- **Select a reporter for group report back**
- **Respond to the question in the zoom chat**

Extra Slides



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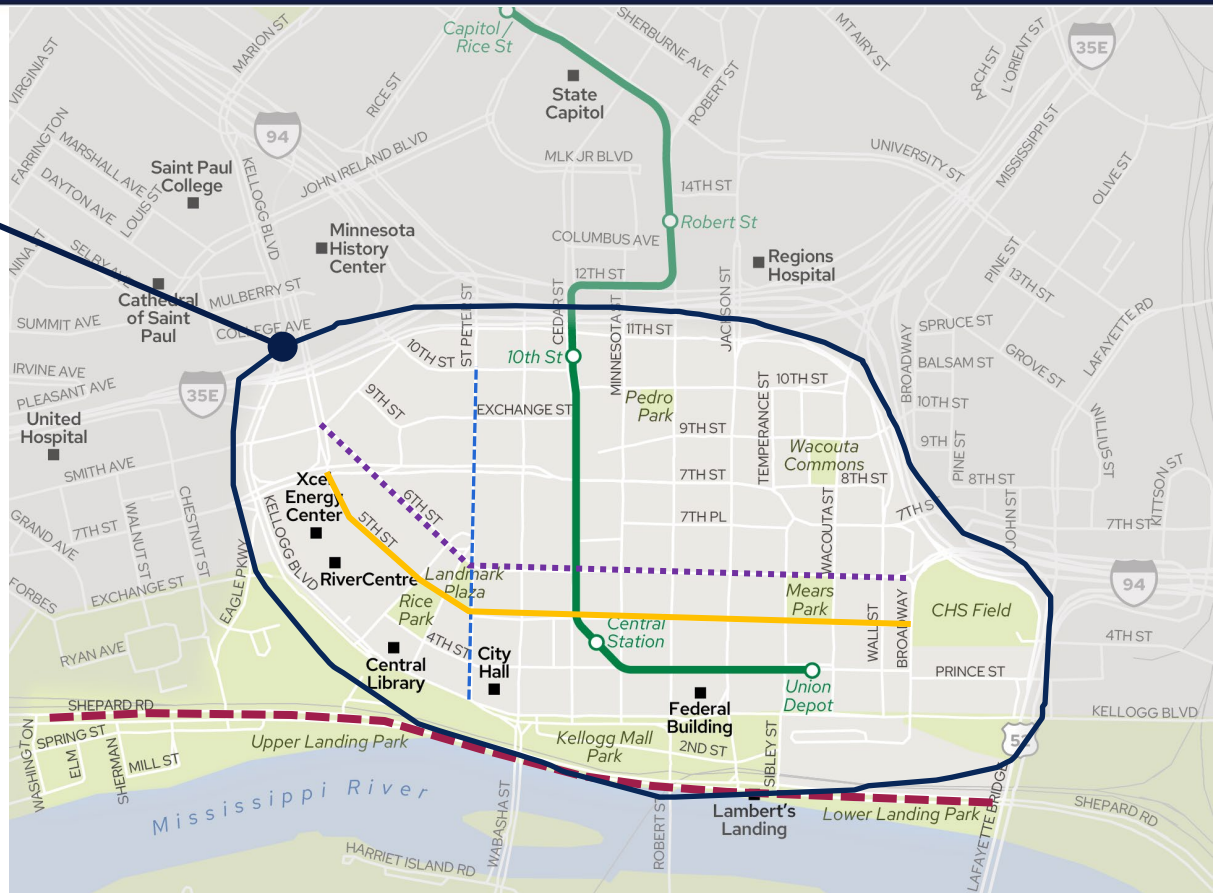
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Study Area

“Case Study” Corridors:




- St Peter Street
- 5th Street
- 6th Street
- Shepard Road



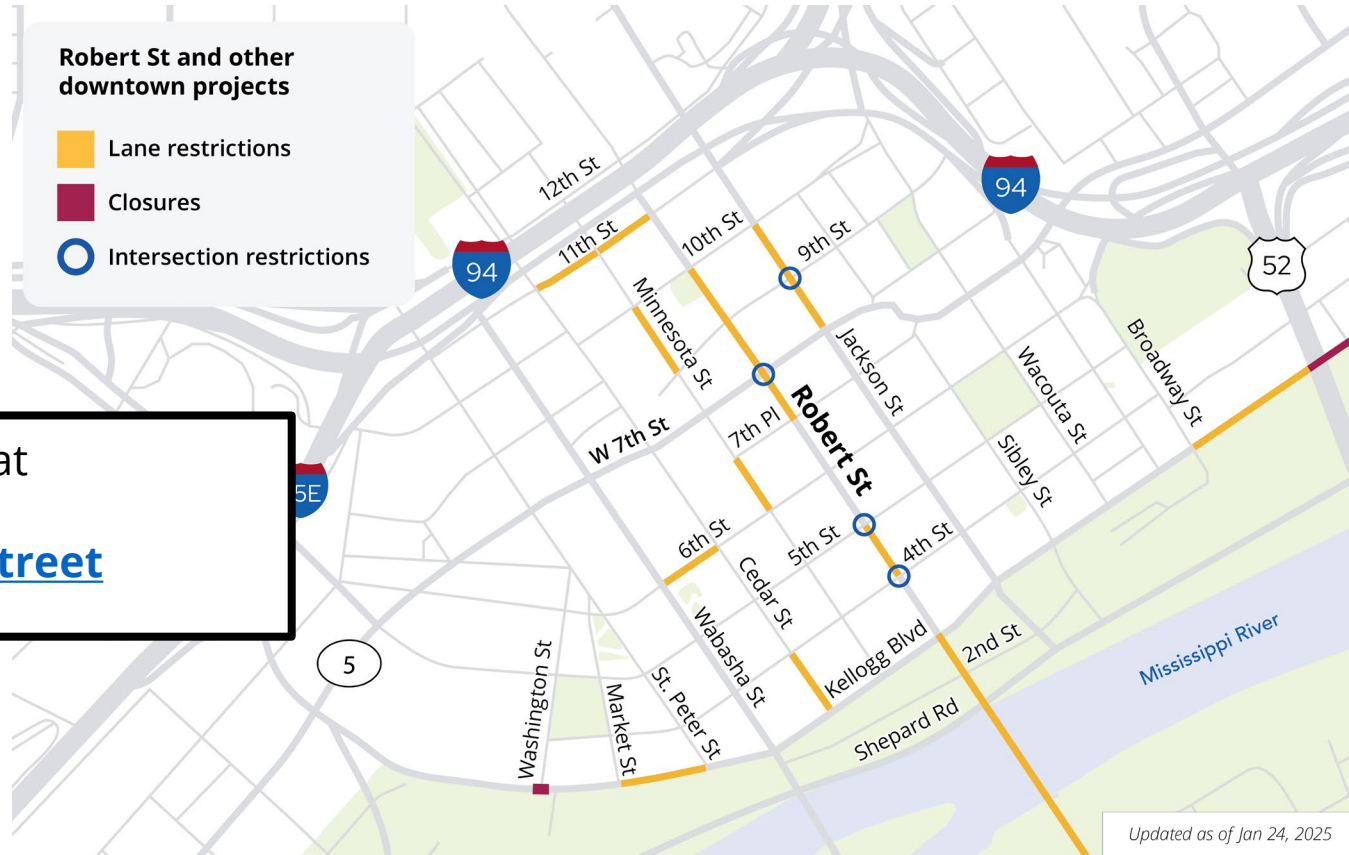


Current Construction

Robert St and other downtown projects

-  Lane restrictions
-  Closures
-  Intersection restrictions

Sign up for updates at
stpaul.gov/RobertStreet





“Known” Projects

Meaning: Recently constructed, in construction, or in design

- Street Projects
- Transit Projects
- Bridge Projects
- Bikeway Projects





Safe & Comfortable

Create a transportation network that facilitates safe and comfortable trips, especially for the city's most vulnerable travelers

- Eliminate traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries
- Improve safety and comfort for people walking and biking
- Improve the experience of people taking transit
- Improve sense of personal safety downtown by creating more organic activity and “eyes on the street” (i.e. increased presence of people)



Connected and Convenient

Create a transportation network with easy-to-use and reliable travel options

- Improve non-auto access to and from Downtown residences, businesses, and commercial areas
- Improve non-auto access to and from Downtown jobs
- Expand access to all modes of travel
- Eliminate gaps in the street, trail/greenway, and sidewalk networks
- Ensure access to existing and planned high-quality and high-frequency transit service
- Organize and prioritize curb space for efficient pick-up and drop-off, loading and unloading, and service activities
- Address barriers to key destinations such as the Mississippi River and the Capitol
- Improve the reliability of the transportation system during events



Equitable and Accessible

Create a transportation network with mobility options for all

- Contribute to equitable opportunities and outcomes for all people
- Balance the mobility and street use needs in the public realm
- Increase affordability and attractiveness of non-driving transportation options
- Increase the percentage of the transportation network that is fully accessible on a daily basis and during winter weather events in Downtown Saint Paul
- Engage with critical communities and prioritize improvements to areas that have been adversely impacted by past transportation decisions



Vibrant and Inviting

Create a public realm that makes it attractive to do business in and spend time around downtown

- Use infrastructure to highlight and enhance the nearby features, institutions, attractions, and/or places.
- Enhance community gathering places with high-quality transportation infrastructure and amenities
- Enable equitable participation in events and gatherings with redundancy in access
- Dynamically manage the right-of-way to facilitate events and community needs
- Increase the number of Saint Paul residents and visitors connecting with the Mississippi River



Sustainable and Resilient

Create a transportation network that is adaptable to change, sustainably managed, and makes low-emissions travel a legitimate choice

- Improve climate resilience and adaptability of transportation infrastructure and maintenance
- Reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduce single-occupant vehicle trips by 40% by 2040
- Increase the number of trips, especially those less than 3 miles, made by sustainable modes
- Improve system resilience to severe weather incidents

