



City of Saint Paul Capital Budget Proposal

Funding years 2022-2023

Thank you for your interest in the Saint Paul Capital Improvement Budget. Through the capital improvement budget process, we strive to reflect and uphold the values of our community. Our funding decisions are guided by the principles of equity and inclusion, strategic investments, and fiscal responsibility.

Please respond to each question listed below as it applies to your project. Please do not submit your proposal until the application is complete.

Before proceeding with the application, please read and indicate your awareness of the following requirements.

ADA requirements available at: <https://www.ada.gov>

I am aware of ADA requirements.

CERT requirements available at: <https://cert.smwbe.com/>

I am aware of CERT requirements.

Saint Paul's public art ordinance available at: <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/financial-services/public-art-ordinance-program>

I am aware of the City's public art ordinance.



Contact Information

Contact Person: Paul Kurtz, PE; City Engineer

Contact Phone: 651-266-6203

Contact Email: paul.kurtz@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Project Overview

1. Project Title:

Bruce Vento Elementary Safe Routes to School

2. Brief (1-2 sentence) Summary of Project:

This project will construct sidewalks and bumpouts around Bruce Vento Elementary School to improve pedestrian safety and make sure kids can safely get to school. The project will leverage over \$800,000 in federal funding.

3. Project Location:

The project will be centered around Bruce Vento Elementary School in the Payne/Phalen neighborhood. The pedestrian safety improvements will be constructed in a variety of locations throughout the Payne/Phalen neighborhood, though primarily along the busier streets in the neighborhood – Arkwright Street and Case Avenue.

4. Affected Ward(s): See the [Saint Paul District Council and Ward Lookup](#)

- Ward 1 Ward 5
- Ward 2 Ward 6
- Ward 3 Ward 7
- Ward 4

5. Affected Neighborhood District Council(s): See the [Saint Paul District Council and Ward Lookup](#)

- District Council 1 District Council 6 District Council 11 District Council 16
- District Council 2 District Council 7 District Council 12 District Council 17
- District Council 3 District Council 8 District Council 13 Citywide
- District Council 4 District Council 9 District Council 14
- District Council 5 District Council 10 District Council 15

6. Estimated Project Completion Date:

12/31/2023

7. Submitting Department:



Public Works

8. Department Priority (numerical priority out of total submitted projects, ex. 3 of 6):

2 of 7

9. Which category best describes your project?

- Buildings
- Streets and Utilities
- Residential and Economic Development
- Parks and Trails
- Other

Project Description

10. Please describe the project including a physical description of the project noting important sub-elements and information on project timing and/or phasing.

Bruce Vento Elementary School is located at the intersection of two busy streets in the Payne/Phalen Neighborhood – Case Avenue and Arkwright Street. Both of those streets present substantial barriers to elementary aged kids walking to school. The proposed project will construct pedestrian safety improvements – primarily bumpouts along Case Avenue and Arkwright Street.

There are also a variety of sidewalk gaps in the neighborhood. This project will identify sidewalk gaps closest to the school that can be addressed by construction of new sidewalk.

City staff will work with the community to determine the exact locations of bumpouts and sidewalk gaps to be filled. In mid-2020, Public Works worked with the elementary school to distribute a digital survey to parents asking for feedback on which potential bumpout locations would provide the most benefit. Unsurprisingly, the survey results indicate that the intersections closest to the school are the most desired locations for pedestrian safety treatments. Public Works will continue to work with the community to determine final locations.

In 2018, the City submitted a project application to the Regional Solicitation administered by the Metropolitan Council and was awarded \$842,528 in federal funds to use towards construction. The City is required to provide a 20% local match, in addition to providing engineering and inspection costs. In total, the City's contribution to the project is \$549,405.

Purpose and Justification

11. Please provide pertinent information on the purpose and justification for this project. Please consider the following questions in your response:



- Why is this project important? (eg. opportunity for collaboration, condition, significant need, etc.)
- What problem is this project trying to solve?
- What benefits does it provide to residents or users? What is the historical context of this project?
- Is this a new project, an improvement or expansion project, or maintenance on an existing asset?
- Does this project address any specific health and safety concerns?
- Does this project address an inequity or otherwise support diversity and inclusion?

This project is important because it prioritized the safety and welfare of children, the youngest and most vulnerable residents in Saint Paul. Bruce Vento Elementary School is located at the intersection of two busy streets, Arkwright Street and Case Avenue, that create substantial safety concerns for kids walking to and from school, or kids walking to and from their parent's car if they get picked up and dropped off each day. A 2016 speed study found speeds over 32 mph on Case Avenue near the school.

School District data indicates that 324 students live within one mile of the school, a significant population of children that may walk or bike to school. The school is located in an ACP50 area and estimates that 15% of the school enrollment sometimes walks or bikes to school.

At Bruce Vento, 95% of students are eligible for free or reduced lunch and 95% are students of color. The three Census Tracts surrounding Bruce Vento have higher than average rates of diabetes, heart disease, obesity and asthma than Saint Paul as a whole; all conditions that can be prevented or improved by increased physical activity. Improving the walking environment will improve opportunities for physical activity. This project enhances the walking environment to several community destinations that serve targeted populations. The proposed project is intended to create corridor-wide improvements that make Arkwright and Case easier and safer for community members to navigate by foot or bike.

In addition to Bruce Vento Elementary, several other schools and after-school care programs are located within a mile of the campus include: Farnsworth Aerospace Upper Campus, John A Johnson Elementary School, Twin Cities Academy charter school, the

Eastside YMCA, the East Side Salvation Army and Wilder Playground. Improving crossings of Case Avenue will make walking between these destinations safer and easier for students and other community members. This can result in increased

levels of physical activity for these students and reduced crossing risk for pedestrians as they cross

both Case and Arkwright.



SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

Completing the sidewalk network around Bruce Vento Elementary will improve the walking environment for all residents of the community. Filling sidewalk gaps enhances access to transit routes, including the Route 71 on Arkwright St., and commercial destinations. This will especially serve residents in winter, who otherwise have to use the street to travel on foot.

Bruce Vento has been growing its Walk to School Day since creating its SRTS plan. Last year, the school participated in Walk to School Day by having buses and parents drop off students four blocks from the school at Wilder Playground. This enabled 100% of Bruce Vento students to walk to school. This year, Bruce Vento expanded the program to host four events throughout the year. Community volunteers, including employees from a nearby HealthPartners campus, help make these events a success.



Funding Request

Anticipated Funding Source*	Prior 5 Years	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	5-Year Total
Federal funds			\$842,528				\$842,528
CIB			\$549,405				\$549,405
Total			1,391,933				1,391,933

Anticipated Expenses*	Prior 5 Years	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	5-Year Total
Engineering & Inspection			338,773				338,773
Construction			1,053,160				1,053,160
Total			1,391,933				1,391,933

***Add rows if needed.**

Additional comments regarding funding request:

The funding amounts indicate that the construction costs are split 80% federal funds and 20% city funds, and the Engineering & Inspection costs are 100% city costs.

Fiscal Responsibility

12. Have grants or other matching funds for this project been secured?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please explain: The funding amounts indicate that the construction costs are split 80% federal funds and 20% city funds, and the Engineering & Inspection costs are 100% city costs. This project leverages over \$800,000 in federal Safe Routes to School funds. Without our local match, these federal funds will not be spent on this project, or in Saint Paul.

13. How does this project further City goals of fiscal responsibility? As applicable, include details such as:

- Status and timing details of grants applied for and/or secured or other non-City funding sources.
- Estimated annual increase or decrease in operating costs for this project.
- How operating cost increases or decreases were determined (include details such as personnel costs, materials, maintenance, contracts, energy savings, etc.).
- If new infrastructure, how the department will pay for the increased operating costs.
- Whether the project is currently underway.



- If/how the project prevents a measurable financial loss or reduces future expenses.
- If/how the project contributes to growth in the City's tax base.

City staff applied for this federal grant in 2018, indicating that the City would be responsible for our required 20% local matching funds. The federal funds have been secured and are available for use by the City for this project. These federal funds can not be used for other purposes in Saint Paul, and if the City does not provide the required 20% match, the Metropolitan Council will award these funds to a different metropolitan area agency.

The project is an investment in an established neighborhood in Saint Paul proposing to construct safety improvements that increase the desirability of the neighborhood. People want to live in neighborhoods where they feel safe, and where they feel their children are safe, and this project makes it easier for kids to get to school safely.

The project does not increase annual operating costs. This project will reduce city liability by replacing a number of corner pedestrian ramps that are not ADA compliant with new ramps that are ADA compliant, and safer due to the addition of a bumpout.

The project is consistent with City goals of fiscal responsibility as the proposed improvements, such as sidewalk infill or ADA compliance, is infrastructure the City intends to build at some point – this is an opportunity to build that infrastructure with 80% of the construction costs paid using federal funds rather than local funds.

Condition

14. Facility/Pavement Condition Index: This project will replace a number of corner pedestrian ramps, many of which are in poor condition and are not ADA compliant.
15. Expected useful life of the project: 50 years
16. Please elaborate on any issues relating to condition. Consider things such as:
 - Whether/how this project remediates health or safety issues that pose a danger to users.
 - Whether/how this project addresses code violations or other mandates or legal requirements.

The project reduces risk to children walking and biking to school and addresses Saint Paul's ADA compliance requirements at pedestrian corner ramps.

Usage

17. Describe the current and potential usage of this project, using the following questions as a guide:
 - If this is an existing asset, who currently uses it?
 - How is it used?
 - Who might use it if this project is funded?
 - How will this project/improvement meet the needs of the surrounding



community/those who do or will use it?

School District data indicates that 324 students live within one mile of the school, a significant population of children that may walk or bike to school. The school is located in an ACP50 area and estimates that 15% of the school enrollment sometimes walks or bikes to school.

The proposed project focuses primarily on sidewalks and pedestrian safety improvements, primarily addressing the safety needs of the most immediate neighbors in Payne/Phalen who rely on walking to get to and from school or other destinations.

Equity and Inclusion

The City of Saint Paul and the Capital Improvement Budget Committee are committed to advancing equity and inclusion in Saint Paul.

Economic Impact

18. Describe the economic development impact of the project, using the following questions as a guide:

- How does this project create jobs?
- How does this project promote business opportunities?
- How does this promote economic development in underserved or underdeveloped neighborhoods?

This project creates jobs in the construction industry and ensures that Saint Paul's workforce can get to and from employment opportunities in the neighborhood. Many neighborhood residents rely on walking and transit to get to and from jobs, and this project would construct sidewalks that allow them to do that safely and with dignity. This project ensures that children attending school at Bruce Vento can get to school safely every day so they can focus on schoolwork rather than focusing on how to get to and from school. By investing in children and schools, Saint Paul is playing the long game to ensure a well-educated and skilled workforce 20 years from now.

The project makes the Payne/Phalen neighborhood a more attractive place to do business. Employers want to locate where employees want to be, and employees want to be in neighborhoods where they feel safe and raise families with safe infrastructure for children.



Community Impact

19. Please describe the impact this project will have on the community. As applicable, address issues such as:

- Potential to enhance neighborhood stability or quality of life
- Right fit (supports or enhances the cultural characteristics of the surrounding community)
- Proximity to Area of Concentrated Poverty where 50% or more of residents are people of color (ACP50)
- Art/aesthetics
- Unmet need
- Accessibility
- Transportation
- Potential long term positive/negative effects on community
- Historical or cultural significance of asset
- Public safety
- Equitable and inclusive design

People use sidewalks for a number of reasons, but we know that those in the greatest amount of economic stress are more likely to walk if they can't afford to drive. Others can't drive due to disability or other reason and rely entirely on walking and transit to get around Saint Paul. Those with the fewest financial resources are often those relying the most on walking to destinations, including transit stops to perform everyday travel needs. These individuals deserve dignity and safety as they walk, and we have a responsibility to provide them with basic infrastructure that allows them safe and comfortable conditions. For some Saint Paul residents, one corner pedestrian ramp that isn't ADA compliant can be the difference between being able to get to the corner store safely.

Sidewalks are one of Saint Paul's greatest assets and are one of the primary elements that separates Saint Paul from surrounding communities. While sidewalks provide important transportation needs, they also provide ample opportunities for community building through serendipitous chance meetings on sidewalks. Sidewalks are where we teach kids to ride their bikes, where kids write messages to passersby in chalk, and where girl scouts sell cookies. Sidewalks are where you buy a glass of lemonade from a family you've lived only a block away from for years but never had a chance to meet. Sidewalks are spaces where neighbors want to stop and chat, dogs get walked, and rollerskate wheels get worn down to nubs through endless laps around the block. If we want to build community, we must first build sidewalks.

This project is located in an ACP50 area and serves those who rely on walking the most. This project prioritizes the safety and comfort of those using wheelchairs, and those walking to and from transit. This project will construct sidewalks in locations where there are none today, and where people walk in the street as a result.



Strategic Investment

20. How does this project further City goals of strategic investment? As applicable, include details such as:

- Collaborative arrangements with outside project partners, including who they are and what their role is with the project.
- Collaborative arrangements with other City departments for this project (example: bundling materials).
- How this project promotes innovation (incorporates new technology, uses resources strategically, etc.).
- How this project takes climate change/environmental sustainability/energy efficiency into account.
- How this project complies with a need or goal identified in an adopted City or neighborhood plan.

This project is a strategic investment because it leverages over \$800,000 in federal transportation funds to construct critical neighborhood infrastructure. The City has clear policy guidance to construct sidewalks and pedestrian safety improvements and this is an opportunity to accomplish those City goals with external funding.

This project is the result of a longstanding collaboration between the City of Saint Paul and Saint Paul Public Schools to complete a school Safe Routes to School Plan in 2016-2017, apply for federal funding in 2018, and work towards construction in 2023. This project is the result of dozens of collaborative meetings between SPPS and City staff working towards a common goal of prioritizing safety and welfare of children.

This project is a clear step to address the climate crisis facing Saint Paul. Transportation is responsible for 30% of Saint Paul's greenhouse gas emissions, largely cars. Saint Paul has clear policy to promote transportation through other means and making sure that sidewalks are safe and comfortable is a critical first step in giving people options to choose not to drive.

The proposed project is consistent with the goals of the Saint Paul Pedestrian Plan, which identifies construction of sidewalks and supporting Safe Routes to school as two critical recommendations to improve and promote walking throughout the City. Much of the project area is included in what the plan calls a High Priority Area for Walking Investments.

The Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan also supports construction of sidewalks, promotion of alternatives to driving, and support for safety improvements on collector and arterial streets.



SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

Other

What else you would like to tell us about this project that was not addressed in the questions above?

Click or tap here to enter text.



Bruce Vento Elementary Safe Route to School Project

- Walking and bicycling improvements near Bruce Vento Elementary School including a connection to Gateway State Trail
- Curb Extensions along Arkwright St and Case Ave
- Sidewalk Infill near school
- City cost share on federally funding project.
- 2023 \$549,405 CIB

