



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:

I-94 Noise Wall Construction – Prior to Fairview

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

This project will construct a Noise Wall along the south side of I-94 between Prior Avenue and Fairview Avenue

3. Project Location:

The noise wall will be constructed along the south side of I-94 between Prior Avenue and Fairview 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:

12/31/2021

7. Submitting Department:

Public Works

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



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.

MnDOT and the City are partnering on the construction of a noise wall to shield residential properties from sound pollution caused by traffic along I-94. The noise wall will be constructed along the south side of I-94 between Prior Avenue and Fairview Avenue. MnDOT is the lead agency on designing and constructing the noise wall, and is funding 90% of the construction costs. The City has agreed to provide the remaining 10% of the funding needed to design and construct the wall. The City Council approved resolution 18-332 indicating support for construction of the wall and agreeing to provide the 10% required local funding match. The City Council also approved resolution 21-372 authorizing staff to enter into a cooperative construction agreement with MnDOT to construct the wall and agreeing to provide the 10% local match.

The noise wall will generally be 10'-20' in height, varying as needed to effectively shield adjacent residential properties from unwanted noise while accounting for existing terrain. The design of the noise wall will be guided by MnDOT's noise wall design standards, generally consisting of concrete posts and wood planking spanning between posts.

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 has been a collaboration between the City of Saint Paul and MnDOT over the past several years. The City has partnered with MnDOT to do community engagement to determine whether residents are supportive of construction of a wall. MnDOT uses a fairly unique process of allowing adjacent residents to vote on whether a noise wall is desired. In this neighborhood, that process indicated community support for the noise wall. Noise walls are generally welcomed by residents who live near freeways and are subjected to sound pollution from traffic. Noise walls have been shown to be an effective deterrent reducing unwanted freeway noise. Neighborhoods near freeways has been shown to be exposed to greater levels of pollution and are linked with higher rates of various health problems or disease. Residential properties adjacent to freeways often have reduced economic value. Constructing a noise wall is one way to mitigate the negative externalities of freeways.



Funding Request

Anticipated Funding Source*	Prior 5 Years	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	5-Year Total
		\$					\$
CIB		101,000					101,000
Total		101,000					101,000

Anticipated Expenses*	Prior 5 Years	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	5-Year Total
Design & Construction		101,000					101,000
Total		101,000					101,000

***Add rows if needed.**

Additional comments regarding funding request:

The \$101,000 CIB funding request matches a nearly \$900,000 investment by MnDOT. The \$101,000 includes the City's portion of design and construction administration.

Fiscal Responsibility

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

- Yes
- No

If yes, please explain: The requested \$101,000 is the City's 10% match to a nearly \$900,000 investment by MnDOT in a Saint Paul neighborhood. Without this 10% match, MnDOT will not proceed with this investment 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.

The project will bring a notable improvement to the quality of life in a Saint Paul neighborhood. The project will make the neighborhood more desirable, increasing value and improving economic wealth of Saint Paul residents. The project will begin and complete construction in 2021. The wall will be owned by MnDOT, meaning it does not increase the number of assets (liabilities) owned by the City. The City will agree to perform minor maintenance of the residential side of the noise wall, increasing the City's annual operating expenses, but those costs are anticipated to be minimal and is not anticipated to require any new personnel or equipment.

Condition

14. Facility/Pavement Condition Index: N/A
15. Expected useful life of the project: 30+ years. Major maintenance, including replacement costs are a MnDOT responsibility.
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.

This is a new noise wall in a location where one does not exist today. The project increases the quality of life for residents who currently endure noise pollution from the freeway.

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?

This is a new noise wall in a location where one does not exist today. The project increases the quality of life for residents who currently endure noise pollution from the freeway. The project was requested by nearby residents, who voted that they supported the construction of a noise wall.

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?

Construction of a noise wall creates jobs in the construction industry. The project makes a Saint Paul neighborhood a more desirable place to live, increasing property values and creating wealth for Saint Paul residents.

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

The project addresses quality of life issues in a residential neighborhood. Residents who live near freeways endure a number of negative externalities, including exposure to noise and air pollution. Construction of a noise wall is a proven way to reduce exposure to noise pollution and improve neighborhood livability. The project will provide a long-standing benefit to Saint Paul residents for decades to come as the wall remains in place. The project was requested by the community and supported by the City Council. The project is not located in an ACP50 area.

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.

The project is the result of a longstanding partnership with MnDOT to partner on capital improvement projects within the City of Saint Paul. This project will be designed and delivered by MnDOT. At time of this writing, MnDOT has completed design and the project is out to bid – construction will start in summer 2021. Nearly every project MnDOT leads located within City borders includes some element of cost participation from the City, and this project continues that tradition. MnDOT is prepared to pay for 90% of the costs associated with design and construction of the wall, and requests a 10% match from the City of Saint Paul. Failure to provide our local match to the project would damage our working relationship with MnDOT and could result in fewer state projects in Saint Paul.

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.



Noise Wall – I94 from Fairview to Prior

- MnDOT Project to construct a noise wall along the south side of I94 between Fairview and Prior.
- City to provide 10% cost share of this MnDOT Metro Highway Noise Abatement Project.
- Construction in 2021
- 2022 \$101,000 CIB

