



District 17

Capitol River
Council

Alary's
KITCHEN & BAR EST. 1949

Join Co-Executive Director of
Capitol River Council (CRC)
Amy Lee.

Come support Alary's **new breakfast menu** (available 9am-1pm) and learn about what's happening downtown Saint Paul.

Get updates about downtown city projects including:

- St. Joseph Hospital demolition,
- 2050 Comprehensive Plan,
- 2050 Downtown Plan
- 2027 City Budget
- how to get involved with district council,
- and share your feedback about the skyways.



CRC is an official advisory group to the City Council, it represents and works in partnership with all District 17 stakeholders to act on urban planning and community building efforts as part of a shared vision to support sustainable, safe, healthy, and vibrant neighborhoods.

10/17/26
— SATURDAY —

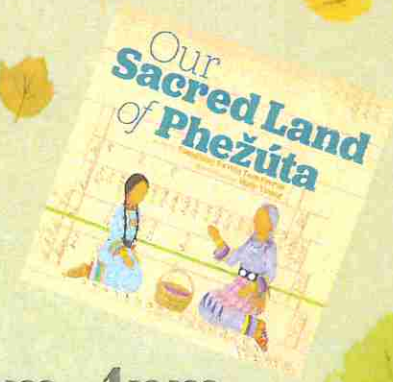
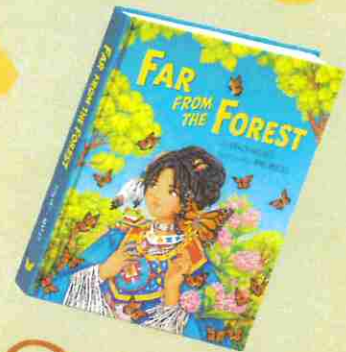
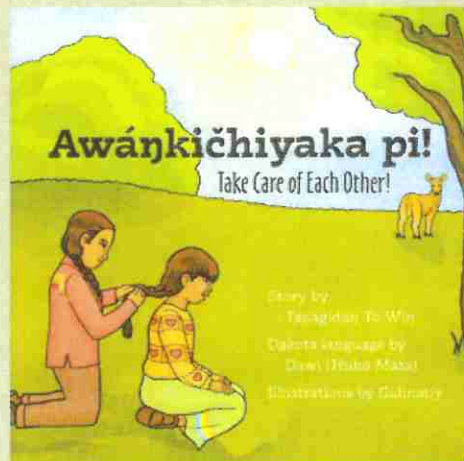
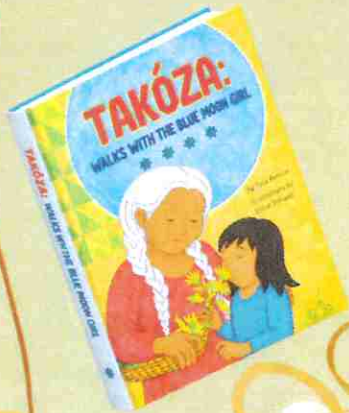
Who:

All community members
who live, work and play in
downtown saint paul/district 17

Time:
9:30AM – 2PM
Office Hours Pop-Up

Location
139 7th St. E. St. Paul, MN 55101

1st Annual Indigenous Book Parade



Sunday November 1st, 1pm-4pm

Presented by Friends of the Skyway

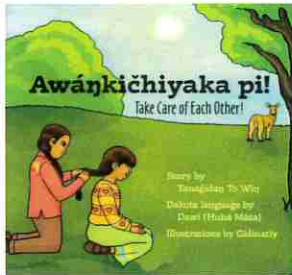
**Start at Minnesota Children's Museum with
FREE admission for their Securian First Free Sunday**

SCAN QR CODE FOR FREE REGISTRATION



Support the Indigenous Book Parade

<https://gofund.me/70340a4c4>



Be a part of St. Paul History and forward thinking positive change! Support the 1st ever

Annual Skyway Indigenous Book Parade!

Funds cover: Native American elder reader honorarium, printing of reusable book banners, inclusive family activities, art gallery exhibit, Native American snacks by Steven D's and more.

Katie ClementsTuma katiेतuma8@gmail.com a local Landmark Towers resident and educator is working in partnership with local Native American children's book authors, and illustrators raising funds to highlight essential books for Indigenous People's Celebration Month. **On November 1, 2026, (1-4pm)** the Indigenous Book Parade will bring families into the **St. Paul Skyway** to learn about the Dakota land we live on through stories, movement, and shared community experiences. Centered around books offered through Tara Perron's **Blue Hummingbird Woman's Store**, including Tara's book **Take Care of Each Other**, the parade will begin by the **Minnesota Children's Museum**, weave through the Wells Fargo area of the Skyway, and end in Town Square near Native-owned Steven D's restaurant. There will also be local Native vendors to support as well as Subtext Books.

Through these books and activities, participants will explore Native teachings about plant knowledge, relationships with elders, learning from animals and nature, and caring for one another. This project is also part of a larger effort to expand Indigenous Education for All in St. Paul.

Every donation will help make it possible for families, children, and teachers in St. Paul to participate for **FREE** and carry these important stories back into their schools and communities. **Donors will also be recognized on a video screen in the Wells Fargo Art Gallery Window.** Katie is asking for support to make this event accessible, educational, and welcoming for all. Please consider giving and sharing this fundraiser to help spread local Dakota knowledge and education across St. Paul.

Event Brite information for registration for **FREE** Event in the City of St. Paul Skyway

[Event link](#)



SKYWAY SPOOKTACULAR

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 31ST
1PM-4 PM

TRICK OR TREAT
IN THE SAINT PAUL SKYWAY



★ SCAN QR CODE FOR
FREE REGISTRATION ★



EVENT BY FRIENDS OF THE SKYWAY

Skyway Spooktacular



October 31st



Danse Macabre:
Dance in the Darkness



8 p.m. - midnight



Doubletree Hotel
Downtown St. Paul



Food + Cash Bar



Costume Contest
with Prizes



Ages 21+



Sponsors:

Saint Paul Downtown Alliance

Saint Paul Art Collective



Register Now:

The new METRO G Line

Faster transit is coming to the Rice Street and Robert Street corridor

Construction of the METRO G Line bus rapid transit (BRT) project is scheduled to begin in fall 2026. The G Line will substantially replace routes 62 and 68 with fast, frequent, and all-day service.

The G Line will connect communities and destinations in Little Canada, Maplewood, Roseville, St. Paul, and West St. Paul. Bus rapid transit is a package of transit enhancements that adds up to a faster trip and an improved experience.

Metro Transit plans to open the G Line in two phases to better coordinate with planned street construction in the corridor.

Phase 1, coming in 2027, will include the northern portion of the G Line from Little Canada Transit Station to Robert & Kellogg in downtown St. Paul north of the Mississippi River.

Phase 2, coming in 2028, will include the southern portion of the G Line from Robert & Fillmore to the Dakota County Northern Service Center.

A faster trip

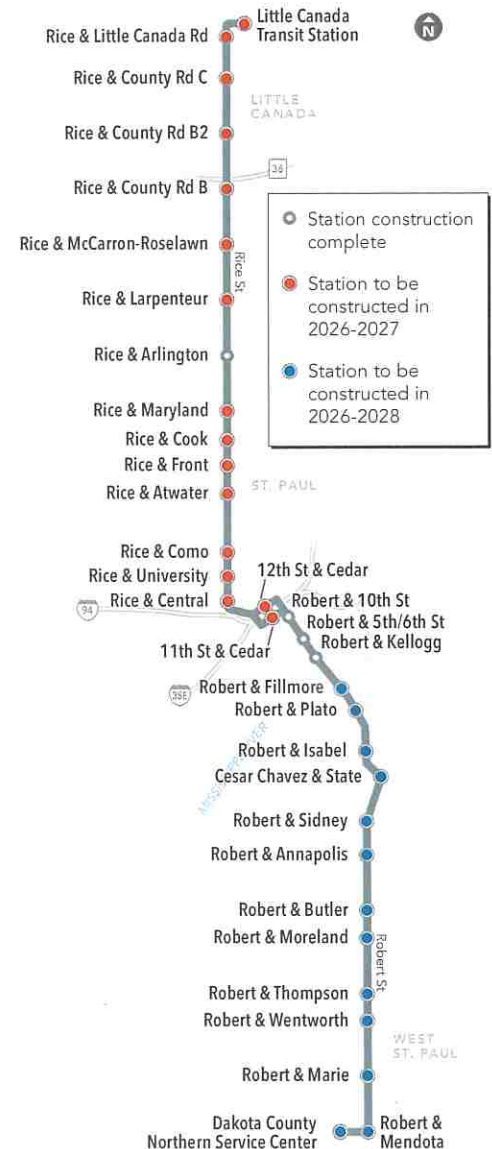
One goal of the G Line is to make service faster and more reliable. Here's how:

- Buses make fewer stops, significantly speeding up travel time.
- Ticket machines at stations allow customers to purchase tickets before boarding with cash or credit.
- Low-floor buses and raised curbs at stations, plus wider bus doors and boarding from the front and back, speed up boarding.
- Extending the curb at stations saves time; buses can merge more easily into traffic after serving a station.
- Signal priority at some locations will reduce delay of buses at traffic lights.

Improved transit experience

Enhanced shelters provide protection from the weather and a safe, comfortable, and convenient customer waiting space. Features include:

- Information about the route, transit system, and surrounding area
- Security cameras and emergency phones
- Enhanced lighting
- Push-button heating



PROJECT CONTACT:
Nasser Mussa, Outreach Coordinator
GLine@metrotransit.org



Project Schedule (subject to change)



What to expect from construction

Metro Transit thanks residents, businesses, and customers for their patience as crews work to get the METRO G Line ready for an anticipated launch in late 2027 and 2028. Construction may require periods of street closures and detours, sidewalk closures, and intermittent noise. People should anticipate:

- Construction at each intersection will generally include new street and sidewalk sections, changes to traffic signals, and installation of new shelters and other station features.
- Some locations will also include utility work and pedestrian improvements. Bikeway improvements are also included at some stations.
- Full lane closures will occur for up to 21 days at certain stations. Only one direction of traffic will be closed at a time, with additional lane restrictions for longer time periods.
- Outreach staff will communicate with residents, businesses, and property owners within one block prior to construction starting at each station location.
- Sidewalk access will be maintained on at least one side of construction zones at all times.
- Pedestrian access to homes and businesses will be maintained.
- Buses will be detoured at different points during the project. Up-to-date information can be found at metrotransit.org/alerts.
- Crews will install underground conduit for a fiber optic network along the length of the whole corridor to link technology at stations.

Bus Detours

- Routes 62 and 68 will be detoured at different points during the project.
- Buses will be detoured around construction intersections and temporary stops may be used at some locations.

Stay informed

For general project information:

metrotransit.org/g-line-project

For the latest information on bus route detours:

sign up for Rider Alerts at metrotransit.org/alerts

For the latest information on construction:

sign up for [G Line update emails](https://metrotransit.org/g-line-project)

Contact us with concerns, questions

Construction hotline:

651-240-3688

Outreach email:

GLine@metrotransit.org

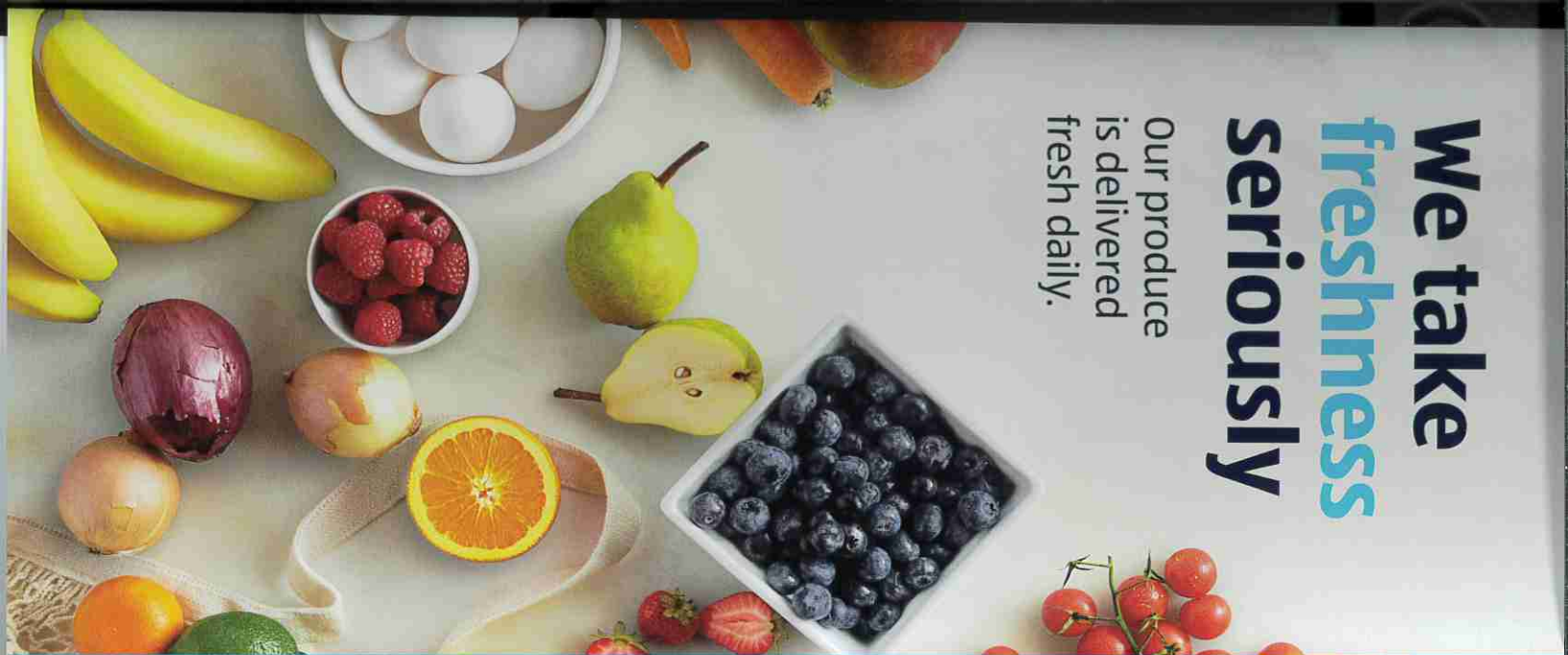
Need an interpreter?

Español, Hmoob, Soomaali, Oromoo, Karen

- Call 612-373-3333, Select Option 2
- Say what language: Español, Hmoob, Soomaali, Oromoo, Karen

We take freshness seriously

Our produce
is delivered
fresh daily.



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Express, most debit cards, Apple Pay and all forms of contactless
payment. We accept SNAP benefits. No checks, please.
We do not accept manufacturers' coupons. ©2024 ALDI Inc.



Welcome to all things ALDI.

Level up your
grocery game with
these insider tips.



It's an



thing.

HERE'S HOW YOU ALDI

From the first-timer to the seasoned shopper.



You lend a quarter, we lend a cart. This lets our employees focus on things besides chasing down carts. Don't have a quarter? Ask a cashier!



Bagging your own groceries (BYOG) helps us keep prices low and lines moving.



Unsatisfied with your ALDI purchase? We'll replace it and refund your money* so you can shop confidently.



Each week we have new, unexpected products at amazing prices. And not just food — you'll find clothes, toys, candles and more.



Looking for the lowest of the low prices? Find them every week with this red tag.



You'll find these cult favorites marked with a heart shaped logo. (Pro tip: stock up — these faves go fast!)

A Taste of Our ALDI Exclusive Brands

You can't get these anywhere else.



Free of artificial ingredients. Full of flavor.



The best of gourmet, from hand-picked meats to rich treats.



Fresh-baked breads and rolls, from classic white to keto-friendly.



A wide range of cheeses free of added hormones and rBST.



Fruits and veggies frozen for peak freshness.



High-quality meats — never any antibiotics, hormones or artificial ingredients!

*Restrictions apply. See Twice as Nice at ALDI.US or store manager for details.



SAINT PAUL
PLANNING & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

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Saint Paul MN 55102

Spencer Johnson

Senior City Planner
Department of Planning & Economic Development

spencer.johnson@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Office: 651-266-6093

Mobile:

Fax:



Friends of the Skyway

SkywaySaintPaul@gmail.com



Reimagine our Skyways

← Scan to Join Right Now!

HOSTED BY CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
REBECCA NOECKER

JOIN US BACK AT UNION DEPOT FOR THE 2026

DOWNTOWN ACTION SERIES

February
19

April
23

June
18

August
27

October
15

December
10

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON
THURSDAYS AT UNION DEPOT
(214 4th Street East)
FROM 4:30-6 PM

LEARN MORE & RSVP
VIA THE QR CODE



More information:

capitolrivercouncil.org

Contact CRC Co-Executive Directors to learn more about our work and how you can be involved:

- Amy Lee, amy@capitolrivercouncil.org
- Jon Fure, jon.fure@capitolrivercouncil.org

If you are interested in signing up to receive our emails, please follow this QR code:



CapitolRiver Council



(District 17 Map – includes Downtown, the Capitol area, Regions Hospital, and surrounding areas)

Mission:

CapitolRiver Council, an official advisory group to the Saint Paul City Council, represents and works in partnership with all District 17 stakeholders to act on urban planning and community building efforts as part of a shared vision to support sustainable, safe, healthy, and vibrant neighborhoods.

Respectful Conversations about Local Issues

CRC's community engagement work is focused on improving livability in the Downtown and Capitol area neighborhood (District 17). Making decisions based on input from **ALL District 17 stakeholders** is difficult.

Committees are one way that we engage diverse groups of people in discussions on topics of interest.

The Public Realm Committee focuses on ideas for improving and maintaining parks and recreation, public safety, transportation (transit, parking, bicycling, pedestrian safety / accessibility, etc.), and quality-of-life issues that relate to public spaces. **Meeting date: 1st Thursday of the month at 5 p.m.**

The Planning and Economic Development Committee meets on the **first Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m.**, and it reviews downtown development projects to ensure benefit, sensitivity and compatibility with our downtown community and vitality. The committee also leads CRC's planning activities.

The Skyway Governance Advisory Committee makes recommendations on issues and policies overseeing the operations and maintenance of the skyway system, including but not limited to its design, signage, and hours of operation. The committee meets on the 4th Friday of the month at 9 a.m.

The Arts, Culture and Events Committee meets as needed, and works to identify issues and implement activities that involve arts and community engagement.

Inclusion is essential

CRC facilitates participation in public decision-making about local issues, and about development projects in District 17. CRC also develops recommendations based on the outcomes of community engagement activities. Inclusion is essential, so that we can repair the harm that has been done through past community engagement activities that excluded people based on race, income, and other factors.

- **Inclusion** is the intentional creation of spaces and services with diversity in mind, to enable all individuals to succeed and thrive. Inclusion is achieved when someone with any kind of identity feels welcome, safe, and able to access the process of decision-making in our work.
- **Diversity** is the differences inherent in individuals. This includes, but is not limited to, ability (cognitive and physical), age, cultural background and values, ethnicity, gender, language, nation of origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and the intersections therein.
- **Equity** is social justice, and the fair treatment of individuals, based on their individual and diverse needs, viewed through the lens of historical power structures and social norms.
- **Accessibility** is building equitable access to our resources, services, and spaces for all customers and accommodations where accessibility isn't possible.

Diversity, Equity and Accessibility are **strategies we use to achieve Inclusion.**



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
REBECCA NOECKER, COUNCIL PRESIDENT
MEGAN JEKOT, SENIOR LEGISLATIVE AIDE

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Saint Paul, MN 55102-1615
Email: ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us
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DOWNTOWN ACTION SERIES – MEETING #8 SUMMARY

From Thursday, August 27, 2026 • 4:30-6 PM • Union Depot (214 4th St E • Saint Paul, MN 55101)

Purpose of the Downtown Action Series

The Downtown Action Series continues to serve as a shared table for downtown Saint Paul—bringing together residents, public agencies, businesses, and partners to stay informed, hold each other accountable, and actively shape the future of downtown. The series is designed not just to share updates, but to build relationships, surface ideas, and create a sense of shared ownership over downtown's next chapter.

Ramsey County – County Attorney Chris Tolbert

Chris Tolbert highlighted the public safety work undertaken ahead of the State Fair to proactively address concerns about potential group violence. Public agencies successfully secured court-ordered agreements preventing seven individuals from attending the Fair, while others identified as potential participants in group violence could be subject to arrest if they engage in defined gang-related activity. Tolbert described the effort as an important example of focusing on deterrence and early intervention, informed by violence that has occurred following Cinco de Mayo and other community events.

He also noted that Ramsey County continues to work closely with the Saint Paul Police Department, Metro Transit, Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, and Saint Paul City Attorney's Office on ongoing downtown quality-of-life and public safety issues, with the goal of coordinating efforts and improving conditions downtown.

Saint Paul City Council – Council President Rebecca Noecker

Council President Noecker addressed several major issues affecting downtown, beginning with the Skyway system. She emphasized that the City Council has already allocated the necessary funding to support reopening the Skyways and that the current delays are not related to a lack of funding or budget cuts. Instead, there are logistical challenges involving some Skyway partners, including recent bankruptcies. She reiterated that the City understands the urgency of reopening the Skyways and that previously allocated funding will remain available. The City's Skyway system currently has a partial closure at the Alliance Bank Center, while other east-west connections remain available.

She also discussed the ongoing encampment and unsheltered homelessness response following the Mayor's August 5 announcement regarding closure of the Pig's Eye encampment. Since then, residents have moved into housing and shelter as well as other encampments, including the Randolph and Shepard site. Council President Noecker noted that she has been hearing concerns from residents in Upper Landing and Waterfront Bay and invited attendees to share what they are experiencing and discuss next steps. While there is not yet a timeline for closing the Randolph and Shepard encampment, she said she remains in close communication with the Mayor's Office about identifying indoor spaces for residents and ultimately closing the site. She emphasized concerns about the safety of both people living at the encampment and surrounding residents, including the fact that portions of the site are polluted.

Finally, Council President Noecker highlighted the upcoming City budget process, noting that the City is facing a \$26 million budget deficit and will be considering significant proposed cuts. She emphasized the need to prioritize the frontline services residents rely on while also addressing the City's need for additional support from the State, including adequate Local Government Aid, as well as stronger partnerships with Ramsey County and other governmental partners. She encouraged residents to follow the Council's weekly Wednesday budget meetings and participate in the ongoing budget discussion. She also highlighted the upcoming Ward 2 budget conversation with the City's financial team as an opportunity for residents to engage directly in the process.

City of Saint Paul – Assistant Mayor for Housing, Economic Vibrancy, and Infrastructure Nick Stumo-Langer

Nick Stumo-Langer provided an update on the Mayor's 2027 budget, noting that Mayor Her delivered her budget address on August 13. He emphasized that the projected \$26 million budget gap is more than a mathematical challenge because the City must balance maintaining core services that residents rely on—including street maintenance and economic development—with strategic investments needed to move the City forward, including climate-related work. He encouraged residents to engage with the City Council throughout the budget process and make their priorities known.

On the Skyway reopening, Stumo-Langer reiterated that funding is secured and that the City has a clear path toward completing the physical improvements needed for reopening. However, the bankruptcy of the Athletic Club has complicated some of the legal pathways involved. He said City staff and partners are working through those challenges and that there is a clear line of sight toward reopening, though he was not able to provide a specific opening date. He highlighted the work of PEDD, City Planning and Development, the Downtown Development Corporation, the Downtown Alliance, and other partners in moving the process forward.

Stumo-Langer also discussed the City's encampment response, noting that Assistant Mayor Cedric Baker has been conducting ongoing community engagement in addition to the public hearings and recent Public Safety Committee discussions. He encouraged residents to contact the Mayor's Office with concerns about the Randolph and Shepard encampment, the former Kmart site just north of downtown, and other locations. He emphasized that the City's approach continues to focus on service-based transitions, with the goal of connecting unsheltered residents to housing and other resources.

Finally, Stumo-Langer shared an update on the anticipated Aldi opening downtown, noting that the store is currently targeting a late September or early October opening. The City expects to receive approximately two to three weeks' notice once the opening date is confirmed and will share that information with the community.

Downtown Alliance – President Joe Spencer

Joe Spencer highlighted the recent launch of a community prosecutor position focused exclusively on downtown, describing it as a major breakthrough and addition to the downtown public safety toolkit. He explained that the concept grew out of 2024 conversations with downtown stakeholders about expanding the Downtown Improvement District (DID) to encompass the entire downtown area. The community prosecutor strategy resonated with stakeholders and was incorporated into the DID petitioning process, though it took additional time to move from concept to implementation.

Spencer credited Council President Noecker with championing the position, including advocating for it in the City budget and continuing to push for implementation; he also thanked Mayor Her and the Assistant Mayors for helping move the effort forward. Most importantly, he thanked the downtown property owners who supported the DID, emphasizing that the district is a self-imposed and self-managed fee district. He noted that property owners' willingness to fund services such as ambassadors, cleanup, and rapid response reflects their belief that these services provide value and a return on their investment. Spencer encouraged property owners to continue providing feedback to the Downtown Alliance about the services and value they are receiving.

Downtown Development Corporation – President Dave Higgins

Dave Higgins highlighted a new partnership with the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation, which has stepped up to support the work happening downtown. He expressed enthusiasm about the Foundation's involvement and its partnership in the work ahead.

Higgins also reiterated that the Skyway remains a major priority for the Downtown Development Corporation. The DDC continues to work with both the Council President's office and the Mayor's Office on issues affecting the Skyway, including the Alliance Bank Center.

He also acknowledged recent challenges at the U.S. Bank Center, where a sprinkler issue caused significant water infiltration affecting both the Skyway and first floor of the building. Higgins apologized for the disruption and said a team of contractors is actively addressing the issue. He emphasized that maintaining Skyway access is a priority and that the DDC is working to mitigate the impacts and avoid additional closures.

Higgins did not have specific updates on other projects but noted that the DDC continues to work with its broader team on design concepts and is making progress on several projects, with additional updates expected in the near future.

**American Institute of Architects (AIA) Minnesota, Saint Paul Prize Design Competition - 2025
Saint Paul Prize recipient: Alap Parikh**

The Saint Paul Prize Design Competition is focused on supporting the next generation of designers while encouraging an open exploration of innovative ideas for places and public spaces in Saint Paul. The Downtown Alliance and Downtown Development Corporation worked with AIA Minnesota at the outset to help identify the focus of this year's competition. The 2025 Saint Paul Prize recipient, Alap Parikh, was introduced as part of the program, with Dante Saab of HGA Architects presenting the competition and its design concepts, which focus in particular on the river's edge, downriver areas, and beyond.

Saint Paul Port Authority - Director of Real Estate Kristine Williams

Christy Williams provided an update on the Saint Paul Port Authority's partnership with Fairview to redevelop the former St. Joseph's Hospital campus. Fairview recently awarded a demolition contract for the vacant hospital building, with work expected to begin soon. The initial visible work will likely be installation of a construction fence, followed by interior abatement to remove asbestos-containing materials and address other hazardous materials before the building itself is demolished. Major demolition is expected to begin in early 2027.

Williams noted that the Skyway crossing St. Peter Street will need to be removed as part of the demolition. Structural engineers determined that the existing Skyway cannot remain in place while the building is being taken down. However, she emphasized that its removal does not preclude a future redevelopment from incorporating a new Skyway connection.

The Port Authority, Fairview, and the City are still in the early stages of identifying a redevelopment partner for the site. An initial meeting with the Advisory Council is planned for the coming weeks to establish priorities and parameters for the future development, which could include job creation, tax base, housing opportunities, and other community benefits. The group will also begin discussing how and when to incorporate community feedback into the redevelopment process. Williams noted that while some activity may be visible at the site later this year, the most significant changes are expected to occur in 2027.

City of Saint Paul – Planning and Economic Development Senior City Planner Spencer Miller-Johnson

Spencer Miller-Johnson provided an update on the Downtown 2050 planning process, emphasizing the importance of pairing long-range planning with the City's short-term interventions so that downtown is prepared for future needs. Since June, the City has been working with Bell Studios, a planning and design consultant based in Copenhagen and New York City, which recently provided a draft working plan. City staff are now reviewing the proposed policies through a Technical Advisory Committee made up of City representatives and external partners, including Ramsey County, the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAP Board), the Downtown Alliance, and others.

With a draft set of policies now available for review, the City is beginning a broader community outreach process that will continue over the coming months. Staff recently conducted an in-person visitation survey at the Science Museum to better understand who is using downtown, what activities bring people downtown, and how visitors travel. Additional surveys will be conducted at other downtown locations, including the September 6 farmers market, with the goal of better understanding downtown users beyond residents and employees.

The City is also planning community workshops and targeted outreach to downtown residents, including engagement with Friends groups, neighborhood associations, and homeowners associations. Dates and formats have not yet been finalized, and Miller-Johnson encouraged residents to provide feedback on the most effective ways to engage the community and who should be included in the process.

City of Saint Paul – Department of Public Works Director Deb Barber & Assistant City Engineer Randy Newton

Public Works provided an update on the significant amount of downtown construction and associated closures/lane reductions, noting that getting around downtown will continue to be challenging through the end of October. The City is working with project partners to maintain as many transportation options as possible, including coordinating with Xcel Energy to keep one lane open in each direction during work on Eagle Parkway. There are also some positive developments, including strong progress on the Kellogg/Third Street Bridge project and an upcoming lane reopening on Jackson Street. Conditions are expected to improve after October, although not all construction will be complete.

Public Works also encouraged residents and downtown stakeholders to continue reporting street and infrastructure issues, including puddles, streetlights, and other maintenance concerns. The department is working toward creating more public-facing dashboards that would allow residents

to see what issues have been reported and where the City has completed work, but continued community reporting will be important to building that system.

The department is also exploring opportunities to use downtown as a pilot zone for testing new approaches to issues such as parking, loading zones, and street activation. Staff are discussing potential pilot projects that could be brought back to the Downtown Action Series for community input, with the philosophy that testing new approaches is necessary to determine what works.

Finally, Public Works provided an update on streetlight repairs and the planned Shepard Road lighting project. There are currently approximately 3,500 streetlights out across Saint Paul, and the City is increasingly focused on prevention in addition to repairing damaged lights. Public Works is working with SPPD to address ongoing wire theft, which has made it difficult to maintain lighting infrastructure.

The City has funding secured to install new lighting along Shepard Road in 2027, currently anticipated to extend from Sibley Street west toward Washington Street, potentially farther depending on the final design. A consultant will be brought on shortly to help develop the project. Given the ongoing threat of wire theft, the City intends to use the Shepard Road project as an opportunity to test more creative prevention strategies, potentially including enhanced security measures and coordination with police on surveillance. The goal is to develop a lighting installation that is both effective and resilient enough to remain operational after construction is complete.

Saint Paul Police Department – District Commander Jake Peterson

Commander Peterson provided updates on several ongoing public safety and quality-of-life issues downtown. He noted that police remain particularly busy during the State Fair and back-to-school period, while overall crime trends continue to decline. Bike and e-bike thefts, however, are increasing, and residents are encouraged to document bicycle serial numbers and take photographs at the time of purchase to improve the chances of recovery.

Peterson also discussed the growing presence of scooters and bikes downtown and the department's coordination with Lime and other organizations as technology and usage continue to evolve faster than existing laws and ordinances. The department's Real-Time Information Center has recorded more than 100 significant successes since opening just over a month ago and is now operating seven days a week, supporting public safety responses ranging from fire rescues to locating individuals involved in criminal activity.

SPPD continues to conduct targeted right-of-way cleanups with DSI and Public Works on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 6–8:30 a.m. Peterson also highlighted a recent increase in copper and wire theft, noting that community calls reporting suspicious activity near streetlights have helped officers make several arrests. He expressed appreciation for the new downtown

community prosecutor and shared informational materials on scooter and bicycle safety, the department's camera-sharing program, theft and burglary prevention, and camera/data questions.

Metro Transit Police Department – HAT Supervisor Sargent Maurer

Sargent Maurer provided an update on Metro Transit's downtown response efforts. The Response Team operates from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m., while the Support Team works from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The Homeless Action Team is now operating full-time, with a focus on assisting unsheltered individuals downtown, particularly around the train and bus stations. The Safe and Strong initiative also remains active.

Saint Paul Parks Conservancy – Great River Passage Director Jodi Massey

Jodi Massey provided an update on the Great River Passage Initiative and efforts to strengthen connections between downtown Saint Paul and the Mississippi River. The initiative encompasses programs, partnerships, and projects along the 17-mile stretch of river in Saint Paul. Downtown improvements currently underway include a two-mile loop connecting Kellogg Boulevard, Shepard Road, Wacouta Street, and the Science Museum, with trail and wayfinding signage, walking tours, and additional programming planned over the coming months.

Massey highlighted several opportunities to engage with downtown parks and riverfront programming, including Melodies on the Mississippi at Harriet Island on Wednesday evenings through September and Lunch on the Lawn at Rice Park through September 30. She also encouraged residents to consider the river as part of Saint Paul's identity as the City works on its place-branding initiative.

Massey also promoted We Are the River, an approximately 85-minute documentary about the Mississippi River in Minnesota produced by board member Peter Myers, which will air on TPT on September 1 at 8 p.m. Finally, she discussed efforts to improve the pedestrian experience through the Jackson and Sibley Street underpasses connecting downtown to the river. The Great River Passage team has been convening partners on potential improvements for the past year and a half, with an artist commission expected to be announced at the next meeting. A partnership with Public Art Saint Paul will also bring a temporary art activation to the underpasses as part of an upcoming fall festival.

Public Art Saint Paul – Office Manager Madeline Skjervold

Madeline Skjervold reminded attendees about the Wakpa Triennial Art Festival, taking place downtown this fall. The festival is free and open to the public, with opening weekend scheduled for September 12–13 and more than 30 artists showcasing original work, including a large-scale

installation on a downtown railroad wall. Attendees were encouraged to visit the festival website for the full calendar or pick up postcards and posters available at the meeting.

Ramsey County – Manager Ling Becker

Manager Ling Becker provided an update on Ramsey County's 2027 budget, the second year of the County's biennial budget cycle. She noted that the County uses the second year to evaluate whether budgeted dollars are producing the intended results, with budget hearings currently underway.

Becker highlighted the fiscal pressures facing the County. The current biennial budget included a 7.5% property tax levy increase and difficult reductions, including eliminating 43 positions, reducing Shoreview library hours, and transitioning the County detox facility to a community provider. For 2027, the County is proposing an 8.25% levy increase, driven in part by increased costs associated with federal policy changes and the need to add 32 correctional officer positions identified through an independent staffing study. Without the additional positions, the County would continue to face higher overtime costs and potential Department of Corrections penalties or costs associated with housing individuals in other facilities.

Becker noted that approximately 70% of the County's budget supports human services and public safety, much of which is administered under state and federal requirements. She emphasized that these responsibilities create costs the County has limited ability to control locally and encouraged residents to follow the budget process and participate in upcoming hearings.

Visit Saint Paul - Vice President Jenn Schaal

Jenn Schaal provided an update on the City and Visit Saint Paul's place branding project, which is currently in the public survey phase. The project aims to better understand how residents, workers, and visitors perceive Saint Paul and develop a shared citywide brand that brings together the distinct stories and identities of the city's neighborhoods while supporting a more unified approach to promoting Saint Paul.

Schaal encouraged attendees to complete and widely share the five-minute survey, which is available in multiple languages. She emphasized the importance of honest feedback, including about what is and is not working, and noted that the survey is open through the end of September. Additional updates on the branding project are expected over the coming months.

Active Residents - Bill Hanley & Robb Mitchell

The discussion highlighted the growing role of downtown residents as active partners in shaping the neighborhood. As the residential population grows, residents are increasingly contributing ideas, organizing initiatives, and supporting efforts that strengthen downtown—not simply participating as an audience for civic leadership.

The Skyway 5K drew 905 participants last year, including Council President Rebecca Noecker and Joe Spencer, and organizers are planning a second event for February 27, 2027, contingent on the Skyway being fully open. The Friends of the Skyway, led by Nancy K. Meyer, is also developing walking groups and other activities to bring residents together, including evening and early-morning walks. Other resident-led efforts include music and art programming in the Skyway and a planned Halloween event.

Residents are also exploring ways to expand healthcare resources downtown. The group has held 76 monthly blood drives and recently began conversations with Ramsey County Public Health about potentially expanding those efforts into broader healthcare partnerships serving downtown residents and workers. Additional resident involvement is taking place through Friends of the Parks groups and the ongoing development of Wabasha Park.

The discussion also highlighted the success of \$5 progressive dinners, an idea initiated by downtown resident Rob Mitchell. The dinners bring residents together to visit multiple downtown restaurants in one evening while encouraging people to meet their neighbors and support local businesses. The broader point was that creating a neighborhood requires more than adding housing: buildings provide the physical infrastructure, but residents create the connections, activity, and community that make a neighborhood function. The group encouraged residents to participate in upcoming dinners and other resident-led activities as a way to build those connections.

Sustain Saint Paul - Downtown Revitalization Committee Co-Chair Cheyenne Violet

Cheyenne Violet provided a brief update on Sustain Saint Paul, an urbanist nonprofit focused on abundant housing, sustainable land use, and low-carbon transportation through education and advocacy. As co-chair of the organization's Downtown Revitalization Committee, she highlighted the group's recent tour of District Energy, a downtown system that provides heating and cooling services to approximately 80% of downtown Saint Paul. The tour drew one of the organization's largest groups to date, and additional tours are expected to be scheduled in response to continued interest.

Violet also highlighted Sustain Saint Paul's annual Highland walking tour, which explores the former Ford site and the organization's past advocacy for walkability and abundant housing in the area. Finally, she announced the organization's annual Sibling Rivalry fundraiser in October, a friendly competition with Minneapolis-based Neighbors for More Neighbors, which advocates for similar housing and transportation goals. Sustain Saint Paul won last year's competition and plans to participate again this year.