

# SAINT PAUL PEDESTRIAN PLAN

## Executive Summary

Photo credit: Dan Anderson

The Saint Paul Pedestrian Plan addresses citywide walking needs such as connecting the sidewalk system, providing safer ways to cross streets and education and enforcement programs to support safe walking. It includes recommendations to achieve the plan's vision: *Saint Paul is a walking city—we are more healthy, resilient and connected when walking is safe and appealing for all.* Advancing equity informed all aspects of the plan's development, from our community engagement strategy, to analysis, to recommendations to support safe walking throughout Saint Paul.

Chapter 2 describes the goals of this plan:

- 1. Make walking safe for everyone.** People of every age and ability deserve to be safe while walking – in every neighborhood of Saint Paul. We can make walking safe by prioritizing pedestrian safety in street design, teaching safe walking and driving behaviors and eliminating traffic-related fatalities and injuries.
- 2. Connect vibrant communities in all parts of Saint Paul.** Walking enables us to connect with the people and places that make up our community and make our public spaces feel lively. We can connect communities by focusing walking investments in places with the greatest needs, accelerating completion of the sidewalk network and improving snow and ice removal.
- 3. Get it done.** We will achieve our vision of a walking city by coordinating activities across city departments and partner agencies, pursuing opportunities for low-cost interim solutions and updating this plan every five years.

### WHAT DOES EQUITY MEAN WHEN WE TALK ABOUT WALKING IN SAINT PAUL?

Equity is at the foundation of this plan. Here are some of the ways our plan Steering Committee defined equity at the start of this planning process:

“All neighborhoods are equally safe to walk in, regardless of demographic differences.”

“Don't make infrastructure improvements based on complaints—invest where need is greatest.”

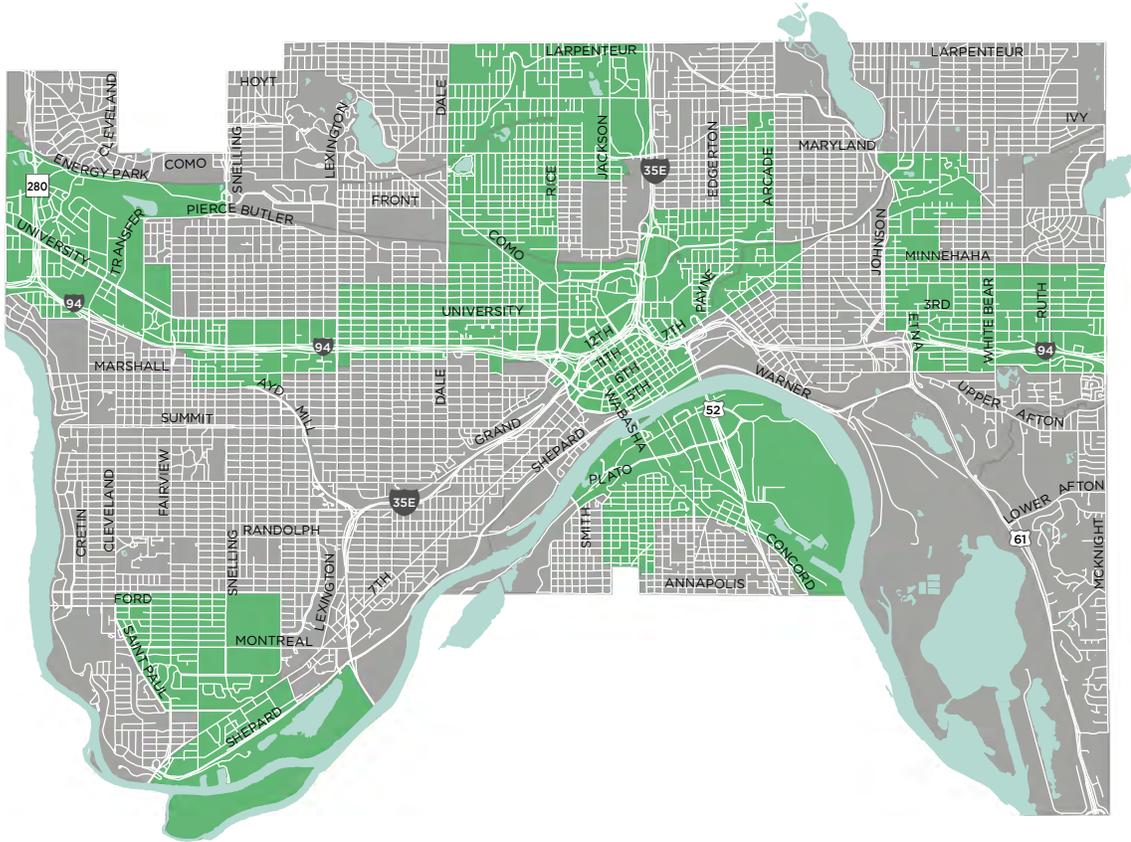
“Have a transparent, consistent process for pedestrian improvements.”

Chapter 3 describes how community members participated in this plan. Over 4,000 Saint Paul residents, workers and visitors shared their experiences walking in Saint Paul and helped shape the priorities and recommendations of the plan. People from every part of the city requested that the city invest in safe walking.

The Saint Paul Pedestrian Plan goals, strategies and actions address our community's top priorities for walking and identify how the City of Saint Paul will focus walking investments in ways that equitably distribute resources and prioritize locations with highest need. The plan focuses on actions that can be implemented in the next five to ten years.

The full plan is available online at <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/transportation/walking-saint-paul>

Figure 1. High Priority Areas for Walking Investments



## High Priority Areas for Walking Investments

Participants in the planning process shared their top three priorities for walking investments:

- Equity: Make investments in neighborhoods where residents rely on walking the most
- Safety: Make investments along and across busy streets such as four-lane roads
- Connectivity: Make investments in areas of the city that lack sidewalks

Chapter 4 describes how these priorities translate into measures that are used to score

areas of Saint Paul and prioritize the need for walking investments in these areas. Saint Paul census tracts were assessed on measures of equity, safety, connectivity, health, access to transit, population and employment density, and destinations to establish High Priority Areas for Walking Investments (Figure 1). Equity, safety and connectivity are the most heavily weighted factors in the analysis.

The city will prioritize future walking investments in High Priority Areas for Walking Investments. The map in Figure 1 will guide the location of future capital investments such as sidewalk infill, sidewalk repair and crossing improvements.

**OUR VISION**

*Saint Paul is a walking city—we are more healthy, resilient and connected when walking is safe and appealing for all.*

**Infrastructure and Maintenance Priorities**

An overwhelming majority of people who participated in the planning process want the city to invest more in pedestrian safety. Participants reported that the top three improvements that would make walking safer and easier are:

- Improving ways to cross busy streets such as four-lane roads
- Adding sidewalks to streets without sidewalks
- Improving snow and ice removal on sidewalks

Chapter 5 describes how each of the priorities listed above is implemented today and identifies actions to support each priority through the implementation of this plan. Of the actions to support infrastructure and maintenance of Saint Paul's walking network, some are identified as near-term actions. These actions are those the City of Saint Paul is already in the process of implementing or is poised to make progress toward in the next one to two years. Table 1 lists the top near-term infrastructure and maintenance actions.

**Program Priorities**

City of Saint Paul staff administer several programs to support walking. These programs fall into four categories: encouragement, education, enforcement and evaluation of the walking network.

Information about the following programs and actions to support and sustain them can be found in Chapter 5:

- Stop for Me
- Crash Response
- Safe Routes to School
- Paint the Pavement
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Counting

See Appendix C for a complete list of all actions identified in the plan.

**Monitoring Our Progress**

Chapter 6 describes how the City of Saint Paul will monitor progress toward the goals of the pedestrian plan and maintain information about our walking system. The City of Saint Paul will monitor progress on the pedestrian plan and the development of the city's pedestrian network over time in order to move Saint Paul toward this plan's vision: *Saint Paul is a walking city—we are more healthy, resilient and connected when walking is safe and appealing for all.*

Table 1. Top Near-Term Infrastructure and Maintenance Actions

Actions	Responsible Entity	Policy	Capital Investments	Operations	Programs
1-5. Establish a consistent process for reviewing, improving and prioritizing pedestrian crossings. Review and update policies as necessary to incorporate best practices and national guidelines. Apply these policies to all projects and requests that include crossing improvements.	Saint Paul Public Works	x			
1-9. Dedicate additional funding to improve pedestrian crossings in conformance with best practices and support on-going maintenance of these treatments.	Saint Paul Public Works, Mayor's Office, City Council		x		
1-14. Construct sidewalks on both sides of every street as part of street reconstruction projects, in accordance with Saint Paul City Council Resolution 17-65.	Saint Paul Public Works	x			
2-2. Study alternative funding structures to construct new sidewalk that equitably distribute property assessment burdens.	Saint Paul Public Works, City Council	x			
2-4. Require property owners to install sidewalk adjacent to all streets abutting properties undergoing site redevelopment.	Saint Paul Public Works, Saint Paul Department of Safety and Inspections, Saint Paul Planning and Economic Development	x			
2-5. Use High Priority Areas for Walking Investments to select areas for grant funding opportunities, such as Safe Routes to School, Metropolitan Council Regional Solicitation and Ramsey County partnerships.	Saint Paul Public Works		x		
2-8. Develop a public awareness campaign to educate residents, businesses, and other property owners about the city snow removal ordinance and encourage people to report violations.	Saint Paul Public Works				x
2-11. Explore a proactive system to address non-compliance with sidewalk shoveling ordinance. Empower inspectors to uphold high standards for snow and ice clearance.	Saint Paul Public Works, Saint Paul Department of Safety and Inspections				x
2-12. Explore ways to accelerate corner clearing after snowfalls, especially in High Priority Areas for Walking Investments.	Saint Paul Public Works			x	x
3-2. Review and update the Saint Paul Department of Public Works Temporary Pedestrian Access Route (TPAR) policy (originally adopted 2014) to define requirements for TPAR implementation and mandate use of best practices identified by Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines. Proactively inspect TPARs and enforce contractor compliance with city policy.	Saint Paul Public Works	x			