

Downtown Saint Paul for People

What is this project?

Working together with the Department of Planning and Economic Development, relevant City agencies, developers, downtown businesses, and community stakeholders, the **Downtown 2050 Plan Update** will set an integrated framework for Downtown Saint Paul's next chapter.

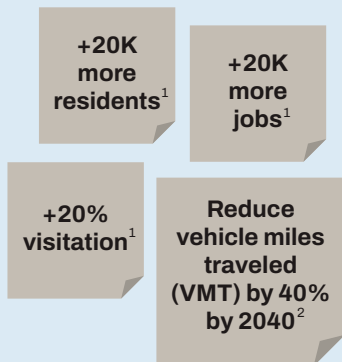
Responding to evolving economic, social, and environmental conditions, the Plan advances three interconnected pillars — **vitality**, **placemaking**, and **resiliency** through strategies, zoning updates, and policy levers that support a thriving and sustainable Downtown.

What will success look like?

Downtown Saint Paul is blessed with incredible bones: an enviable, walkable street grid, bounty of historic buildings, stunning sight-lines and natural access to both the capitol and the riverfront. But today, Downtown has its challenges: street-level retail vacancies, poor perceptions of safety, inactive ground floors of buildings, and sluggish housing and office markets.

This plan will set Downtown's next trajectory, resulting in: more streetlife, stronger neighborhoods and social connection, more vibrant nodes of activity, and a more resilient market and environment.

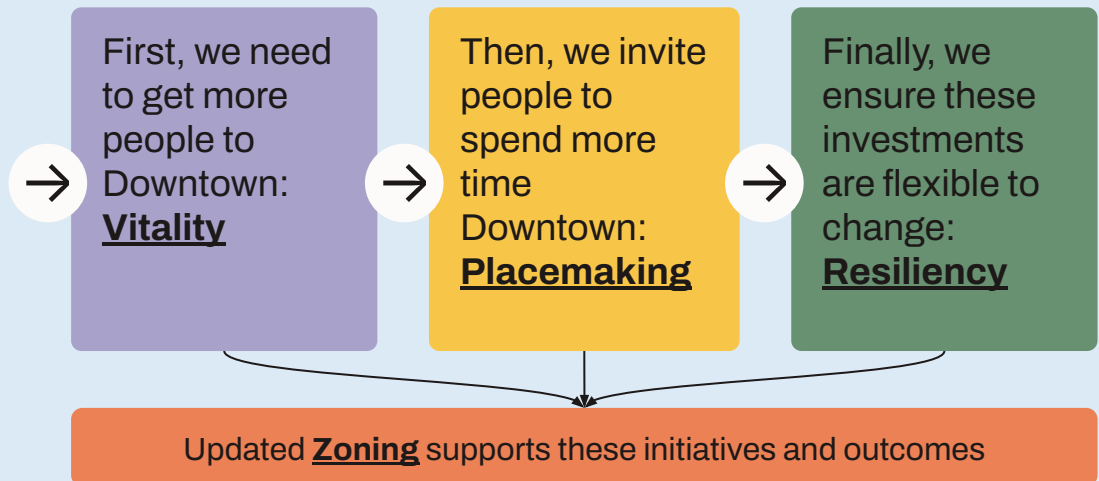
Preceding Plan Goals



¹ Downtown Investment Strategy

² 2040 Comprehensive Plan

Downtown 2050 Plan Pillars



How will this plan work?

Building on prior planning efforts and more than \$1 billion in anticipated public and private investment, **the Plan will align zoning, capital investments, public-realm improvements, and policy actions** around shared priorities. In doing so, it will provide a clear roadmap for public and private partners to shape a Downtown that boosts vitality around existing and new nodes, creates the conditions for great placemaking at the street level, and keeps the district resilient to future changes.

Key questions for the future of Downtown:

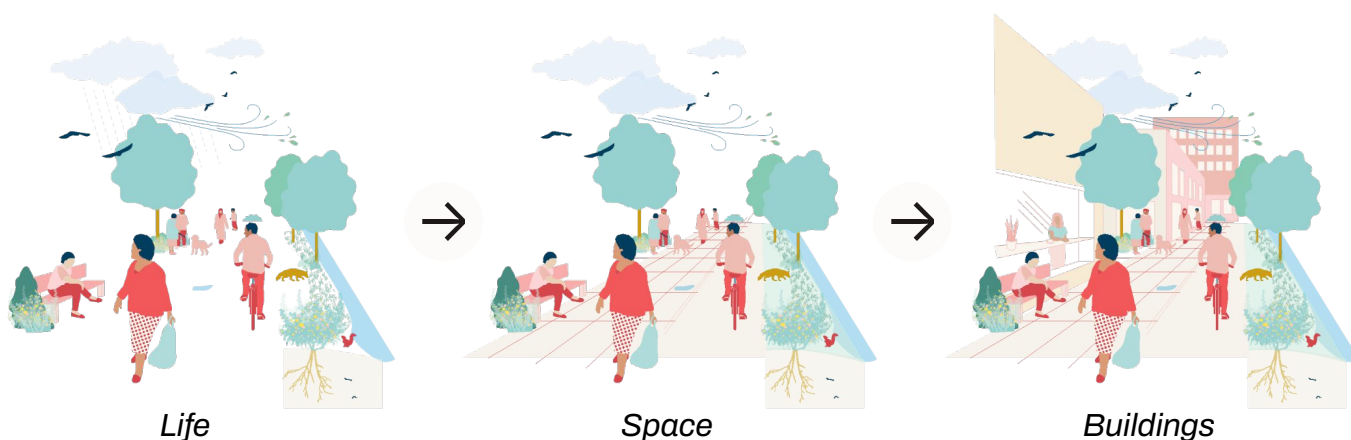
- What places or experiences embody the best of Downtown Saint Paul?
- What regulations, market conditions, or other challenges are stymieing downtown from achieving its full potential?
- What does Downtown need to be a complete neighborhood for residents, workers, and visitors?
- What is your vision for Downtown?

Our team and approach to downtown transformation

To deliver on these ambitious goals in Downtown's complex environment, we have assembled a multidisciplinary and multicultural team: from zoning experts to public artists, global urban design leaders to public policy experts. Our team combines **Gehl's** world-renowned expertise in understanding cities through "life, space, and buildings" with **LSE Architects'** deep local roots in the Twin Cities and proven track record of community-driven design.

Life, space, buildings — in this order

Gehl's approach to cities starts with addressing the lived experience first, then shaping public space to support it; and finally focusing on the buildings that host our home, workplaces, and daily conveniences.



About Gehl

Gehl is a global urban strategy and design firm that understands how people and place shape one another. Founded by Jan Gehl, a pioneer in human-centered city making, Gehl has helped downtowns define their vision with stakeholders and the public for a decade in the United States and three decades around the world — using an interdisciplinary toolkit to ensure our densest, most iconic districts invite thriving public life. We are incredibly proud of our body of North American district planning work, which includes Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Vancouver, Minneapolis, Houston, Austin, Nashville, Calgary, Augusta, and New York City.

About LSE

Based in Minneapolis, LSE is a full-service architecture, planning, and interior design firm serving as the zoning lead on the project. With long-standing partnerships with public and private entities in the City of Saint Paul such as the Sears Site Redevelopment, LSE has built a deep and diverse portfolio that reflects their commitment to the city, its neighborhoods, and the stewardship of valued community resources.

“A good city is like a good party – people stay longer than really necessary because they are enjoying themselves.”

Jan Gehl