



City of North St. Paul  
Economic Development Authority  
Regular Meeting Agenda

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September 10, 2024  
4:00 PM

The September 10, 2024 Economic Development Authority meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 2400 Margaret St., North St. Paul.

You can watch the meeting on our YouTube channel here: <https://tinyurl.com/NSPYoutube>

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Roll Call**

John Monge, President/Mayor  
Josef Matthews, Vice-President  
Terry Furlong, Member  
Brandon Bramscher, Member  
Peter Gagliardi, Member  
Tim Cole, Council Representative

**STAFF/EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Brian Frandle, Executive Director  
Riley Grams, Community Development Director  
Brett Garry, Business Association Representative  
Chris Cherne, EDA Secretary

**III. Adopt Agenda**

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

A. Approval of June 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes

**V. Meeting Open to the Public**

*This Open Forum is an opportunity for persons to address the Economic Development Authority on items not on the agenda. A completed public comment form should be presented to the staff liaison prior to the meeting. Comments will be limited to 3 minutes per person. While the Authority may ask clarifying questions of the speaker, no formal action by the Authority or discussion will be held on these items.*

**VI. EDA Discussion and Action Items**

- A. Downtown Design Manual CIP Item & Budget Impacts
- B. Facade Improvement Program
- C. EDA Project Updates

**VII. Updates**

- A. Staff Updates
- B. EDA Member Updates

**VIII. Adjournment**

**The next regularly scheduled Economic Development Authority meeting is Tuesday, October 8, 2024.**



To	Date
Executive Director and Authority Members	September 10, 2024

**Agenda Placement # IV.A**  
Approval of Minutes

**Subject**  
Approval of June 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes

**Background/Facts**  
N/A

**Recommended Action**  
Staff recommend approval of the June 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

**Attachments**  
1. EDA Minutes 06-11-2024

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Cherne, Community Development Administrative Assistant



**Economic Development Authority  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, June 11, 2024  
4:00 PM**

North St. Paul City Hall – Council Chambers  
2400 Margaret Street

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Monge called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**EDA Members**

John Monge, President/Mayor  
Josef Matthews, Vice-President  
Terry Furlong, Member Absent  
Brandon Bramscher, Member  
Peter Gagliardi, Member  
Tim Cole, Council Representative Absent

**Staff/Ex-Officio Members**

Brian Frandle, Executive Director  
Riley Grams, Community Development Director  
Daniel Winek, Finance Director  
Chris Cherne, EDA Secretary

**III. ADOPT AGENDA**

President Monge requested a motion to adopt the agenda.  
M/Matthews, S/Gagliardi.  
Motion carried 4-0.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Approval of April 23, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes  
President Monge requested a motion to approve the April 23, 2024 special meeting minutes.  
M/Bramscher, S/Matthews.  
Motion carried 4-0.

**V. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

No public comments.

**VI. EDA DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

A. EDA Budget & Staffing

Winek provided the EDA with a presentation on the EDA budget and staffing. Winek gave a snapshot look on current EDA financial information including \$479,020 in cash and investments as of December 31, 2023. In 2025, per state statute, the City could levy \$248,610, 0.0001813 x \$1,371,264,600. When the City certifies its maximum levy in September, that is the most that the City can levy. However, that number can come down by the time of the adoption of the levy in December. The last few years, the EDA has levied around \$201,000. Expenses in the budget summary include personnel, supplies, contractual services, capital, and transfers from the EDA

budget to the general fund. The EDA will have the opportunity to adjust the expenditures. The goal of the EDA is to reduce the percent allocation of the EDA budget for the Community Development Director and increase the amount under General Contract/Consulting Services.

Winek discussed the personnel summary for the EDA and the following allocations: City Manager at 0.10, Community Development Director at 0.50, Administrative Assistant at 0.20, and Assistant to the City Manager at 0.10. At the previous EDA meeting, Winek's recommendation was to reduce the allocation for the Community Development Director so that the EDA can use those funds for a consultant in the future, but to do so over time. This is going to be a tough budget year for the general fund. The City has all of its contracts coming up along with the normal cost of living adjustments. With those alone, the City is looking at a 7.5% levy increase.

Matthews stated that the last four years the EDA levied \$200,000. If the EDA levy offsets the cost of staff, is the EDA saving any money? Winek discussed the changes in net position on the budget sheet. In 2021, there was a positive \$143,201. In 2022, there was a negative \$56,643 (when the EDA approved a forgivable loan). There was a positive change in net position in 2023 as well. This is an indication that the EDA has not spent all of the money that has been budgeted, and that is why he would recommend to keep the levy the same. However, that could change in the future with the implementation of the Façade Improvement Program.

Winek presented 6 options for decreasing the Community Development Director's allocation. Winek asked if there is a percentage that the EDA believes the Community Development Director should be at. Monge and Matthews stated that the EDA has not felt that they were getting a return on investment in regards to the allocation. Matthews stated that the focus of the next few meetings should be to figure out how the allocation will be stepped down, and have a plan in place and stick to the plan to help stabilize the taxes in the City. Monge stated that the Community Development Director can keep a tally of how many hours they spend on the EDA. Frandle asked if it makes sense to move from 50% allocation to 40%. Winek stated that that is what he would recommend. This move is an \$18,032 impact to the general fund and a .25% impact to the levy. Winek stated that he would not be comfortable increasing the EDA levy unless the EDA can prove a real need for an increase.

#### B. Façade Improvement Program

Winek reached out to the Cities of Oakdale and Northfield inquiring about their own façade programs. The City of Oakdale had a Building Rehabilitation Loan program that has since been discontinued. Throughout their program, they had about a dozen loans around \$10,000 to \$20,000 with 10-year repayment plans at 2% interest. The City of Northfield currently has a Façade Improvement Grant Program that ran from 2020-2022 and restarted from 2024-2026. Winek provided the requirements and applications for each city's program. Winek stated that there are statutes that state EDAs may make loans to businesses, but he cannot find the authority to do a grant. Winek stated one of the things that they are looking into is that if the EDA cannot do a grant, they could do a loan with some interest to it, or it can be a forgivable loan that sunsets over a number of years.

Winek stated that the EDA must determine whether there is a specific area for eligibility, criteria and how much money they want to give. Winek urged appropriate scoring and weighing procedures and a publicly available, fair and transparent process. A lot of work still needs to be done. Matthews stated that the idea of the City offering loans is concerning, because that is not the City's job.

#### C. EDA Meeting Schedule

Frandle stated that the EDA had once held quarterly meetings, and going back to quarterly meetings is something that has been brought up. Frandle asked for the EDA's thoughts and input. Monge stated that the EDA does have some things coming up as soon as the Article No. 7

building is done. As soon as they receive their certificate of occupancy, there is one year to get businesses into the live/work units. Bramscher asked what size the commercial spaces are. Monge stated they are not large, but they can be combined to make a larger space. Monge stated he would like to meet again sooner rather than later. The EDA agreed to continue meeting every second Tuesday of the month at 4:00 PM moving forward.

#### D. EDA Project Updates

Frandle provided updates on the following EDA projects:

- **Article No. 7:** Construction is underway and planned to be completed and open for move-in by the fall of 2024. A temporary leasing office is currently being set up on the NW corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Ave E and Margaret St N.
- **Delaware Place Plat (2329 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue):** Doug Andrus of Andrus Built, LLC entered into a contract for private development with the City to build 10 townhouse units on the City-owned property at the NE intersection of 17<sup>th</sup> Ave and Delaware Ave. A preliminary plat, planned unit development and rezoning application was considered by the Planning Commission through a public hearing on May 2, and the City Council approved on May 21. The Applicant is currently working with the watershed district in regards to the onsite stormwater pond. Next steps include final plat, planned unit development, and the development agreement.
- **Margaret Street Commons:** There are some parties interested in the development of Margaret Street Commons. One party will present their ideas to the City Council during their workshop meeting on June 18.
- **Taco Bell (Formerly Oil Can Henry's):** Demolition has occurred and the project is underway for a new Taco Bell at 2371 McKnight Rd N.
- **Pine Tree Center:** Staff have attempted to reach the property owner on multiple occasions but have not been successful in getting a hold of him.
- **Pizza Factory:** There are new owners of the Pizza Factory business, now named Buddy's Pizza Factory, and they currently are operating out of the same tenant space at Pine Tree Center.

## VII. **UPDATES**

### A. Staff Updates

Frandle stated that consultants can do broker work for the EDA. If a developer is out of state, for example, a consultant can promote the City of North St. Paul and get its name out there. Frandle spoke with Baker Tilly who will get the EDA some information at a future time.

### B. EDA Member Updates

Bramscher shared that he is the owner of Mac's Diner in North St. Paul and that he is committed to the City of North St. Paul, as he grew up here. There are so many great things happening in the City. There has been a stagnant period; however, in the last few years, there has been a revitalization. Bramscher shared that he hopes to play a role in this momentum.

Gagliardi stated that he moved to North St. Paul with his wife 7 years ago, and he originally grew up in Hudson. His wife and family live in the surrounding area. When they were looking for homes, they discovered the City of North St. Paul. The City had a great home, and has a great neighborhood life. Gagliardi shared that he encourages more young families to move to North St. Paul. Gagliardi stated that he currently works in sales for NetSuite Consulting, and worked for an agricultural drone company prior. He and his brothers opened a branch up in Oakdale. Perhaps one day they will move the branch to North St. Paul.

Matthews stated he is glad to be back in the chair and having a meeting. He shared that he is very excited to have Bramscher and Gagliardi on the EDA. It is fun to be a part of the EDA and to see growth in the City.

Monge stated that he is excited to have Bramscher and Gagliardi on the EDA and encouraged the group to continue working hard.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

President Monge requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.  
M/Mathews, S/Gagliardi to adjourn the meeting at 5:23 PM.  
Motion carried 4-0.

**The next regularly scheduled Economic Development Authority meeting is Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 4:00 PM.**

Members, please notify any planned absences to:

Chris Cherne  
EDA Secretary  
651-747-2440  
[chris.cherne@northstpaul.org](mailto:chris.cherne@northstpaul.org)



To	Date
Executive Director and Authority Members	September 10, 2024

**Agenda Placement # VI.A**  
EDA Discussion and Action Items

**Subject**  
Downtown Design Manual CIP Item & Budget Impacts

**Background/Facts**  
See attached CIP Item "Update Downtown Design Manual" and budget information.

**Recommended Action**  
Staff recommend the EDA discuss and consider the study and the budgetary impact if the EDA funds the CIP request.

**Attachments**

1. CIP Item & Budget
2. Downtown Design Manual

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel Winek, Finance Director

**Capital Improvement Plan  
North St Paul, Minnesota**

2025 thru 2034

**Project #** PARK-24-004  
**Project Name** Update Downtown Design Manual

**Department** Community Development  
**Contact** Community Development Director  
**Type** Plan/Study  
**Useful Life**  
**Category** Parks, Playgrounds, Paths, Open Space  
**Priority** 4 Less Important

**Total Cost** \$60,000

**Description**

The Downtown Design Manual was approved by City Council in 2005. The Downtown Design Manual (PDF) was developed under the guidance and direction of the Design and Historical Review Commission and was adopted by Council in 2005. The manual illustrates portions of the zoning code as it relates to the desired built environment within the downtown. The zoning ordinance was updated in 2015, the 2040 Comprehensive Plan was approved in 2018, and the Redevelopment Master Plan was updated in 2022. The Downtown Design Manual is no longer consistent with city plans and ordinances and should be updated.

**Justification**

The Redevelopment Master Plan identified this project to be completed within the "short term" timeframe. Updating the Downtown Design Guidelines was also identified by the Planning Commission as a priority in their 2022 work plan.

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2031</b>	<b>2032</b>	<b>2033</b>	<b>2034</b>	<b>Total</b>
Professional Services	60,000										60,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,000</b>										<b>60,000</b>

<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2031</b>	<b>2032</b>	<b>2033</b>	<b>2034</b>	<b>Total</b>
102 Economic Development Fund	60,000										60,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,000</b>										<b>60,000</b>



CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA  
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
 SUMMARY OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION  
 2025 BUDGET

	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Proposed Budget	Variance from 2024 Budget to 2025 Budget Increase (Decrease)	
<b>REVENUES</b>							
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
AD VALOREM TAXES	184,687	200,907	196,473	200,907	200,907	-	0%
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
OTHER	14,275	(4,720)	19,880	2,000	2,000	-	0%
OTHER TAXES	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
PERMITS	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
FINES	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
LICENSES	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>198,962</b>	<b>196,187</b>	<b>216,353</b>	<b>202,907</b>	<b>202,907</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>							
PERSONNEL	25,800	50,913	125,037	135,328	127,024	(8,304)	-6%
SUPPLIES	-	-	51	-	100	100	0%
CONTRACTURAL SERVICES	19,960	191,918	8,898	54,456	65,783	11,327	21%
CAPITAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
TRANSFERS	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>55,760</b>	<b>252,831</b>	<b>143,986</b>	<b>199,784</b>	<b>202,907</b>	<b>3,123</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET POSITION</b>	<b>143,201</b>	<b>(56,643)</b>	<b>72,367</b>	<b>3,123</b>	<b>-</b>		





CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA  
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
 EXPENDITURES - LINE ITEM DETAILS  
 2025 BUDGET

GENERAL LEDGER CODE			2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Proposed Budget
Full-Time Employees - Regular	102	0 4010	21,088	39,974	92,782	102,638	100,075
Full-Time Employees - Overtime	102	0 4011	0	172	43	0	0
Deferred Compensation	102	0 4030	763	522	2,978	3,789	3,633
PERA Contribution	102	0 4031	1,023	2,971	6,962	7,693	7,501
FICA Contribution	102	0 4032	1,000	2,491	5,712	6,360	6,201
Medicare Contribution	102	0 4033	234	584	1,336	1,487	1,450
Health Insurance	102	0 4040	1,508	3,741	14,480	12,612	7,514
Worker's Compensation Insurance	102	0 4050	186	457	744	749	650
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICES</b>			<b>25,800</b>	<b>50,913</b>	<b>125,037</b>	<b>135,328</b>	<b>127,024</b>
Office Supplies	102	0 4110	0	0	51	0	100
<b>TOTAL SUPPLIES</b>			<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100</b>
General Contract/Consulting Services	102	0 4300	0	24,118	6,016	49,209	60,383
Legal Services	102	0 4302	1,052	663	1,748	4,000	4,000
Engineering Services	102	0 4304	12,992	34,184	0	0	0
General Service Fees	102	0 4310	0	6,810	0	0	0
Postage	102	0 4330	0	9	0	0	0
General Liability Insurance	102	0 4400	1,065	1,134	1,134	1,247	1,400
Utilities	102	0 4500	4,852	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	102	0 4630	0	125,000	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL CONTRACTUAL SERVICES</b>			<b>19,960</b>	<b>191,918</b>	<b>8,898</b>	<b>54,456</b>	<b>65,783</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL</b>			<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Transfer to other Funds	102	0 4992	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS</b>			<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>55,760</b>	<b>252,831</b>	<b>143,986</b>	<b>199,784</b>	<b>202,907</b>

CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL  
 YEAR TO DATE BALANCE SHEET  
 AS OF: AUGUST 31ST, 2024

102-EDA-ECONOMIC DEV AUTH

ACCT NO#	ACCOUNT NAME	BEGINNING BALANCE	M-T-D ACTIVITY	Y-T-D ACTIVITY	CURRENT BALANCE
<u>ASSETS</u>					
102-1010	CASH	479,020.33	1,926.99CR	39,094.63	518,114.96
102-1060	INTEREST REC INVEST	2,649.95	0.00	2,649.95CR	0.00
102-1200	LAND	<u>49,248.22</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>49,248.22</u>
	TOTAL ASSETS	530,918.50	1,926.99CR	36,444.68	567,363.18
<u>LIABILITIES</u>					
102-2012	ACCRUED SALARIES	2,189.36CR	0.00	2,189.36	0.00
102-2199	DELTA DENTAL	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.20CR</u>	<u>3.00CR</u>	<u>3.00CR</u>
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,189.36CR	0.20CR	2,186.36	3.00CR
<u>FUND EQUITY</u>					
102-2900	FUND BALANCE	528,729.14CR	0.00	0.00	528,729.14CR
	TOTAL REVENUES	0.00	0.00	109,555.49CR	109,555.49CR
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,927.19</u>	<u>70,924.45</u>	<u>70,924.45</u>
	TOTAL FUND EQUITY	528,729.14CR	1,927.19	38,631.04CR	567,360.18CR



# DESIGN MANUAL

## DOWNTOWN NORTH SAINT PAUL





# DESIGN MANUAL

## DOWNTOWN NORTH SAINT PAUL

### Prepared for:

The City of North St. Paul  
Design and Historical Review Commission

### Members at Large:

Paul Anderson  
Clare Erickson  
Ellsworth Erickson  
Tom Germschied  
Lucianne Hudak  
Kristen Rieser

### City Council Member:

Jan Walczak

### City Manager:

Wally Wysopal

### Prepared by:

Kari Haug Planning and Design, Inc.

### Reviewed by:

Claybaugh Preservation Architecture, Inc.

2005

*North St. Paul Depot circa 1910  
Photo from Minnesota Historical Society  
Photograph Collection*

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# BOUNDARIES OF THE DESIGN DISTRICT

The Downtown Design District includes properties located on the north and the south side of 7th Avenue between 1st Street and Henry Street, properties on both sides of Margaret Street from Highway 36 to 7th Avenue, properties with frontage on the south side of Centennial, and properties on the west side of Charles Street through the block to Margaret Street.



# PART I - INTRODUCTION

## Overview of the Design Manual

**Part I** is an introduction to the manual. This introduction provides the reader with background and definitions of terms used in this manual, and an explanation of the design review process, and its purpose. This section concludes with the six guiding principles that form the basis for development of the design standards and guidelines.

**Part II** lists the standards and guidelines for Downtown North St. Paul. Many different topics are covered from architectural controls to signs, landscapes, lighting, etc.

**Part III** contains appendices with application forms, checklists, and other helpful information.

## Purpose of The Design Manual

The Design Manual was developed to illustrate portions of the North St. Paul Code of Ordinance and to clearly depict the desired built environment within the North St. Paul Downtown District. It also was developed to communicate, facilitate, educate, guide, and inform the reader about the design review process and regulations contained within the North St. Paul Code of Ordinance. Furthermore, this tool was developed to *facilitate* the Design and Historical Review Commission's design review process, which is required for building renovation plans, property restorations, façade changes, new development, site work, lighting, sign applications, and other design or visual aesthetic issues. This manual, the North St. Paul Comprehensive Plan, and the *North St. Paul Code of Ordinance* will serve as the criteria by which The Design and Historical Review Commission will evaluate new development. Please refer to the section titled *Types of Projects that Require a Review* for a complete list of project plans that must be submitted to the Design and Historical Review Commission. In summary, the North St. Paul Design and Historical Review Commission (DHRC) developed ***The North Saint Paul Downtown Design Manual*** as a tool to:

- Help existing business owners and developers design, construct, and maintain storefronts in the downtown district
- Provide predictability to existing businesses and potential developers about what is going to be built around them in the future and the expected appearance and maintenance of these structures

## **Purpose of The Design Manual Continued...**

- Facilitate the design review process
- Provide clear illustration of design standards and guidelines according to North St. Paul City Code of Ordinances
- Prevent and eliminate conditions that depreciate property values, that cause blight, or are detrimental to personal safety, health, welfare, or the environment
- Provide ideas and encourage use of traditionally successful storefront design concepts
- Provide an easy application and approval process for projects consistent with the design standards
- Catalogue successful design concepts and locally unique characteristics that collectively form a blueprint for revitalization of downtown
- Reinforce the vision of a vibrant community center in downtown North St. Paul
- Provide business owners and potential developers tangible ideas that can be applied in North St. Paul's downtown to improve the potential for economic viability, and make the commercial district a welcome atmosphere for pedestrians.
- Ensure that the built environment embodies the values set forth by the guiding principles.

## **Who Should Use This Manual?**

This manual has been produced as a general reference for business property owners, tenants, and design professionals engaging in new construction, expansion, remodeling and rehabilitation in North St. Paul's Central Business District also referred to in this manual as the Downtown District or simply Downtown. The manual is also a reference tool for City staff, the Design and Historical Review Commission, the Planning Commission, community leaders, and other decision-makers in evaluating the appropriateness of design proposals.

# The Role of Developers and Business Owners

The appearance of a town and the related civic pride of a town can be powerfully impacted by the actions and inactions of its Downtown property owners, influential business leaders, and also by developers choosing to build in the community. In this regard, the citizens, appointed officials, civic leaders, and small business owners respectfully request that those who have the power to impact civic pride do so in the following ways:

## ***Expectations for Developers***

The citizens, business owners, and City of North St. Paul expect that developers will:

- Be receptive and responsive to community input
- Consider mixed-use development
- Maintain the small-business/small-town atmosphere through development and retention of small-scale storefronts
- Create and maintain a pedestrian-friendly character
- Create transparent building facades and avoid blank walls
- Develop creative parking designs that respect the pedestrian and streetscape
- Develop buildings in proportion with surrounding buildings
- Respect the public realm and connect to it whenever possible
- Avoid building stand-alone structures
- Respect the future of the community by implementing sustainable building and landscaping practices in your development

## ***Expectations for Existing Business Owners***

The citizens, business owners, and City of North St. Paul expect all business owners to:

- Employ as many of the Design Manual recommendations as applicable and economically feasible to enhance the potential for economic prosperity of *all* businesses within the downtown.
- Ensure that storefronts and general building maintenance is in compliance with city ordinances.

## The Desired Character of Downtown

The purpose of this section is to clearly communicate the desired character of Downtown. The intention is that by clearly communicating what the desired character is, there will be appropriate actions that will compliment and improve the aesthetic appearance and pedestrian-related function of Downtown, thereby enhancing its economic potential.

***North St. Paul would like to preserve and enhance its small-town and pedestrian-friendly atmosphere while at the same time encouraging development that can contribute to a more economically successful Downtown.*** To do this, new construction, infill buildings, and renovated facades along 7th Avenue should be designed such that they support the small-town and pedestrian-friendly character and facilitate retail and service business functions. This manual contains many illustrations of guidelines and standards that may promote development and renovation that will achieve these ends.

To enhance the special character described as small-town, particular design elements are recommended that will bring forth the unique and distinctly identifiable characteristics associated with a small town. These characteristics have to do with smaller scale buildings, a variety of stores on a main street, convenient services often provided by local merchants, safe and walkable streets, and well-maintained public areas. To enhance the pedestrian-friendly environment, architectural details that create visual interest, safe street crossings and low speed traffic, well lit signs and walkways, appropriate scale and mass of buildings, planted areas, and comfortable, clean seating areas are desired. Clearly visible store entrances; convenient, but unobtrusive parking; housing; and transparent storefronts are desirable elements to improve the economic potential of the district.

Since people tend to travel to destinations to shop and recreate, it is also desirable to bring forth or enhance the distinguishing characteristics of North St. Paul. Without distinguishing elements, every place would look like every other place. The location of a place with a uniquely identifiable character should have clearly defined edges and a center. In other words, it is desirable for a distinct place to have walls, a boundary, or enclosure to define it. A distinguishing name or landmark helps to make a place special and give it a distinct identity. Often landmarks are born out of the history of the place, or a natural or man-made local amenity or resource. In North St. Paul, railroad history, manufacturing history, town traditions, and the local culture all provide potential collective memories waiting to be recalled or icons waiting to be recognized and celebrated.

When considering 7th Avenue, the buildings are what create the walls for the street. Buildings that are too short (one-story) do a poor job of defining the street, providing enclosure, or creating *walls* for the place. Buildings that are too tall (more than three stories) are out of proportion with the existing buildings and would disrupt the existing character of Downtown. For these reasons, we would like new development to be at a scale of two to three stories, a scale compatible and harmonious with the present scale of buildings and one that will allow sunlight to continue to reach our streets while at the same time providing walls to define the place.

## Building Height and its Effect on Place-making



If you were to think about a street as an outdoor room, the buildings that line the street would create the walls (streetwalls) for the room. Streets lined with only single-story or occasionally two-story buildings do a poor job of defining the street and therefore do a poor job of *place-making*.

The proportion of one-story buildings to street width is approximately 1:6 or 1:7. Most buildings to the east of Margaret are one-story, while most on the northwest side of the 7th & Margaret intersection are two-story, or 1:4. Given the desire to create a sense of enclosure to establish a sense of place, the height of these buildings should increase over time by one to two stories in order to better define the space and create a *place*.

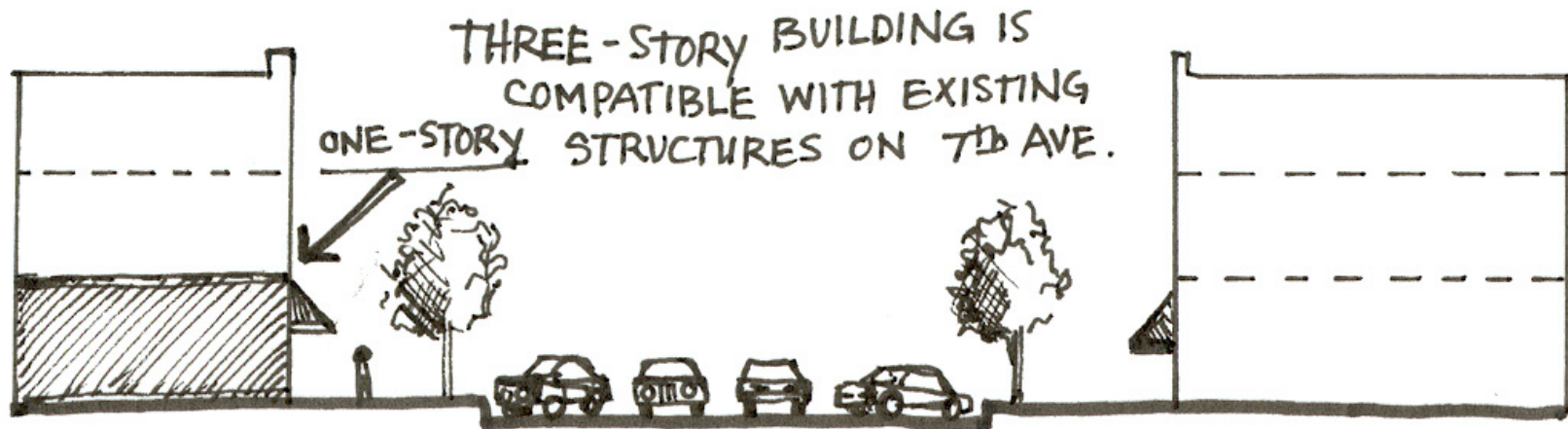


The ideal building to street-width proportion (according to some literature) is 1:2. In the case of North St. Paul, this would be a 50 foot high building or approximately four stories. (Seventh Avenue is 100' wide.) ***BUT, this is NOT the ideal proportion when all factors are considered.***

Buildings four stories in height would provide the necessary height of the streetwall to define the street and create the sense of enclosure that people desire; ***however***, this building height over-powers and appears out of proportion with the one and two-story buildings currently existing on 7th Avenue.

**Image below:** Southern streetwall of 7th Avenue between Charles and Margaret. Notice the one and two-story buildings, and the parapet on Shangri-La. The *parapet* increases the effective height of the building.

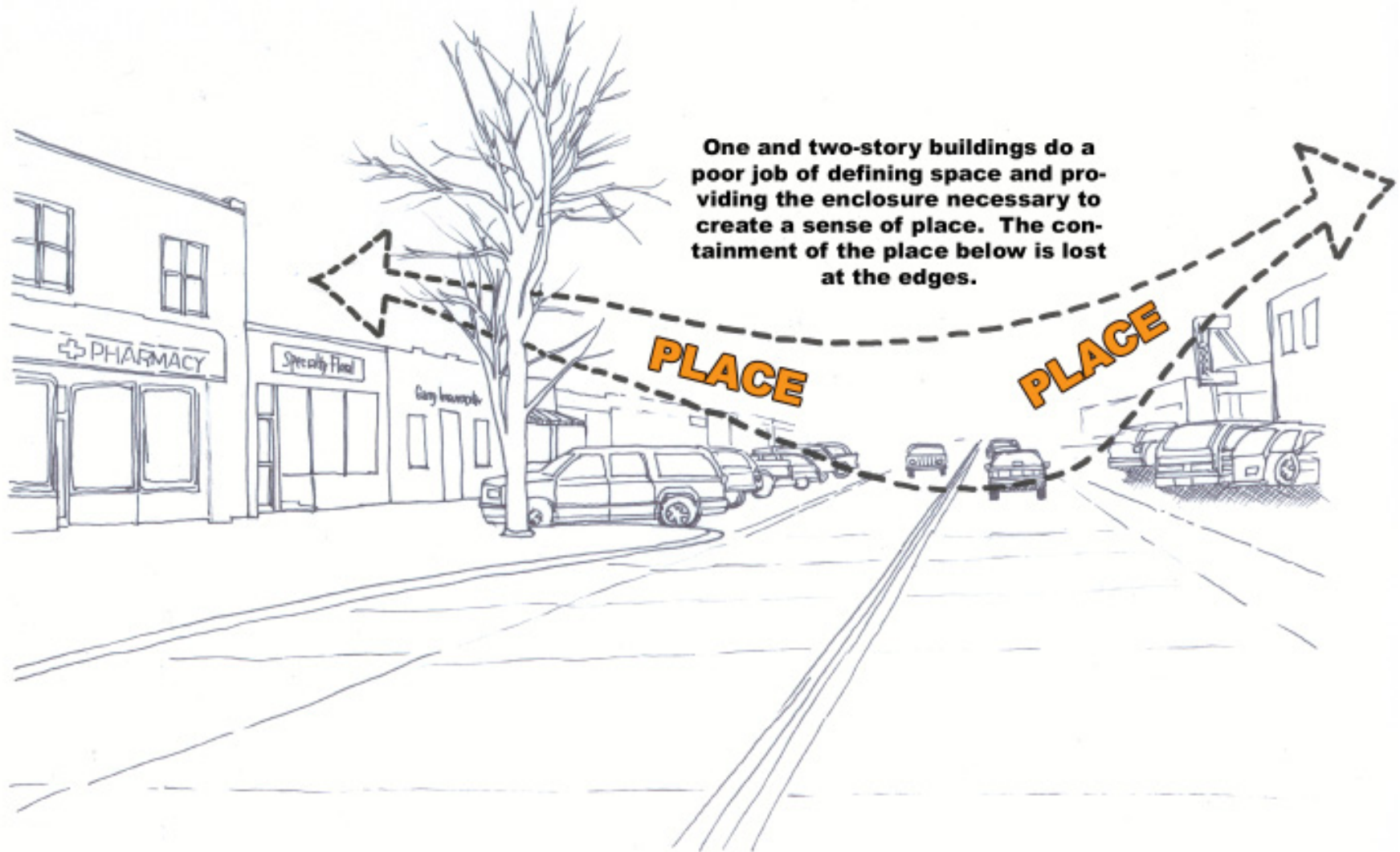




The appropriate building height when *all factors* are considered is approximately 1:3, or two to three-stories. This height is in proportion with existing structures, the width of the street, the desire of the citizens to maintain a small-town atmosphere, and the scale of the pedestrian. The approximate 1:3 proportion would allow three-story buildings up to 40 feet, a size that creates the desired enclosure to make Downtown a “place” while not dwarfing the existing structures.

Image below: Northern streetwall of 7th Avenue between Margaret and the post office. Notice the characteristic two-story buildings.





One and two-story buildings do a poor job of defining space and providing the enclosure necessary to create a sense of place. The containment of the place below is lost at the edges.

**PLACE**

**PLACE**



**This place has well defined edges.**

## **MAIN STREET AS A "PLACE"**

**The height of the buildings contains the space creating the sense of enclosure needed for place-making.**

## Design Review Defined

Design Review is an evaluation of a proposed project to determine if the proposed development will be harmonious with the desired character of the city, and if it is in conformance with the North St. Paul Code of Ordinance, the standards in this design manual, and the North St. Paul Comprehensive Plan 1998 - 2020.

**Important Note:** If there is any discrepancy between this manual and the North St. Paul Code of Ordinance, the Code of Ordinance shall govern.

The Design and Historical Review Commission conducts a design review of any proposed new construction, architectural, landscape, or elemental change (including sign changes) that may have an impact on the aesthetics of the City of North St. Paul. The review ensures that the design standards are being met by new development and that renovations make upgrades necessary to meet the standards.

## The Purpose of Design Review

The purpose of design review is to:

- Secure the general purposes of the North St. Paul Comprehensive Plan
- Maintain the character and integrity of North St. Paul's neighborhoods and commercial districts by promoting excellence of design and development
- Prevent traffic hazards
- Provide adequate services
- Encourage development in harmony with its surroundings

## **The Design and Historical Review Commission (DHRC)**

The Design and Historical Review Commission (DHRC) is a seven-member advisory commission appointed by the City Council. Each of five commissioners at large are appointed by the City Council for a two-year term. One City Council member and one city staff member fill the other two commission positions. The Commission meets the second Tuesday of every month at 4:00 P.M. at the North St. Paul City Hall. The city code governing the commission can be found under Title III – Governance, Chapter 32, Section 32.50 of the North St. Paul Code of Ordinance.

The Commission was established for the purpose of ensuring the preservation of North St. Paul’s historic landmarks and ensuring that public and private property are maintained and developed in harmony with the desired character of the city and in conformance with the North St. Paul Code of Ordinances and Comprehensive Plan 1998 - 2020. Its objectives are to:

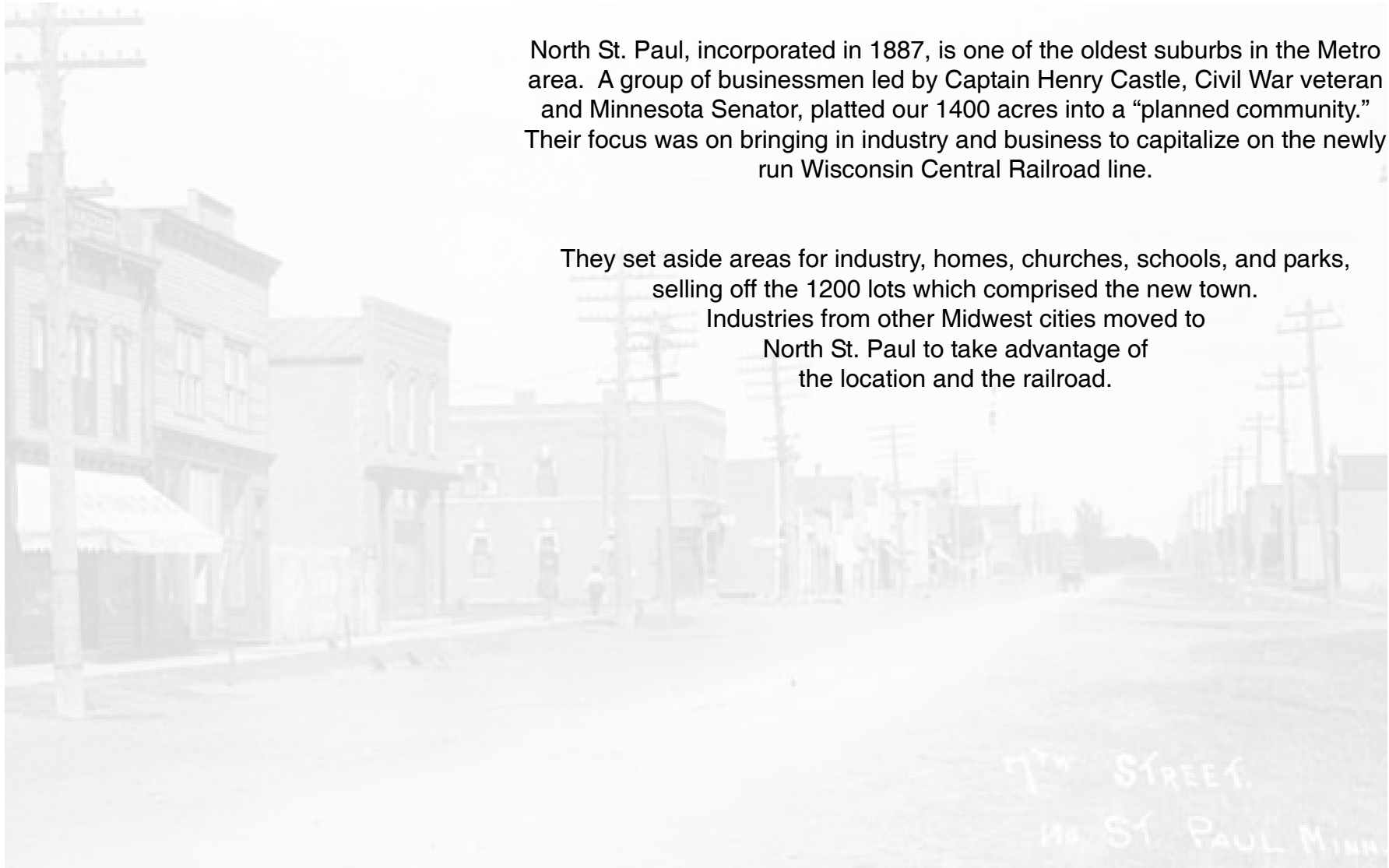
- (A) Encourage the harmonious growth and appearance of structures and property within the city;
- (B) Preserve the historical heritage of the city;
- (C) Maintain and improve property values throughout the city by insuring property owner compliance with the design regulations of the Zoning Code; and
- (D) Encourage the physical development of the city as intended by the city’s Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code.

The Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council. After reviewing proposals for new construction, renovation, facade changes, or other proposals requiring review, the Commission may recommend approval, denial, or approval with certain conditions. Upon completion of a design review, the Commission makes necessary reports and recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council. Occasionally it is necessary to have a joint meeting with the Planning Commission, which is scheduled as needed. Final decisions on proposals are made by the City Council.

## ***HISTORY OF NORTH ST. PAUL***

North St. Paul, incorporated in 1887, is one of the oldest suburbs in the Metro area. A group of businessmen led by Captain Henry Castle, Civil War veteran and Minnesota Senator, platted our 1400 acres into a “planned community.” Their focus was on bringing in industry and business to capitalize on the newly run Wisconsin Central Railroad line.

They set aside areas for industry, homes, churches, schools, and parks, selling off the 1200 lots which comprised the new town. Industries from other Midwest cities moved to North St. Paul to take advantage of the location and the railroad.



*East 7th Street*

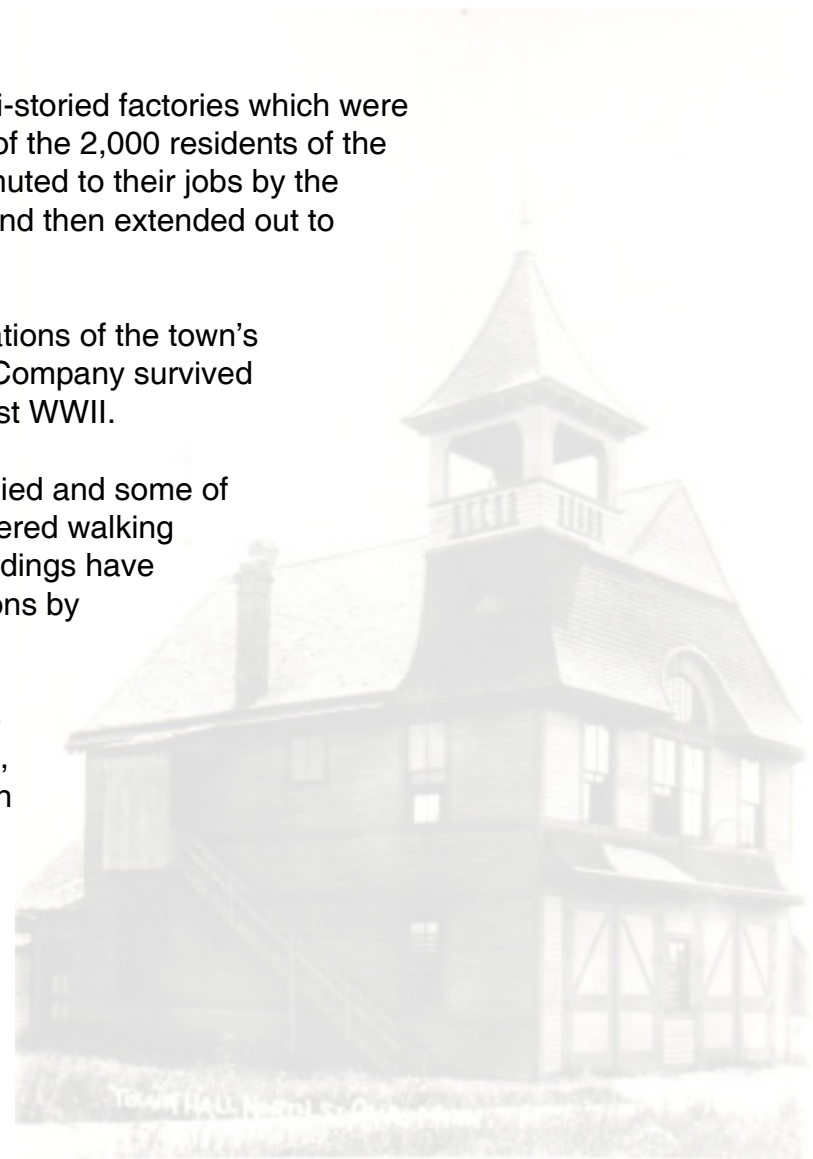
A brickyard was established to manufacture bricks for the multi-storied factories which were built to produce furniture, caskets, pianos, and organs. Many of the 2,000 residents of the town worked at the various companies in town. Others commuted to their jobs by the streetcar line which ran between St. Paul and North St. Paul and then extended out to Mahtomedi and White Bear Lake.

A national recession in 1893 dealt a severe blow to the aspirations of the town's leaders, but the Luger Furniture Company and Luger Lumber Company survived the down turn and furnished jobs and industry well past WWII.

Many of the original homes built in the late 1880s are still occupied and some of the original business buildings are still in daily use. The numbered walking tour of North St. Paul points out these sites. Some of these buildings have been identified as eligible for National Historic Site designations by Ramsey County.

Local news and information has been published weekly by the Ramsey County Review, successor to the Sentinel, since 1887, and Neumann's boasts the oldest continuously operating saloon in Minnesota.

Current industries have contributed much to the development of the industry in North St. Paul, and plans for economic development will continue to insure the future of the community.



*Old Town Hall - North St. Paul*

## **Types of Projects in the Downtown Design District That Require a Review**

- I. All new construction requires review.
- II. Proposals to construct, expand, restore, remodel, or otherwise change a building in the Central Business District require a review if the square footage involves more than:
  - a.) 400 square feet or more of a building
  - b.) 24 lineal feet of the facade of a building fronting on a street
  - c.) 24 square feet of a facade fronting on a street
  - d.) A significant architectural detail of the building
  - e.) A change in land use involving a conditional use permit
- III. All new signs larger than 15 square feet and/or numbering more than 2 per business require a review. Repair or replacement of signs that do not comply with the standards contained herein also require review. If signs are not within code, they must be brought up to code if altered, repaired, or replaced.
- IV. All new landscaping projects.

## Application Procedure and The Design Review Process

A goal of the City of North St. Paul is to provide developers and business owners with the most uncomplicated building and renovation process possible, thereby facilitating the downtown revitalization process. One of the objectives in striving for this goal is to provide developers and business owners with an efficient review process. When a change in the built environment is proposed within the city of North St. Paul, the procedure is to pick up the **Design Manual, Building Permit Application**, and the appropriate **Supplement(s) to the Building Permit Application** at the Community Services Department desk. The Community Services Department will facilitate the movement of your project to the appropriate review commission(s) and department(s) necessary to obtain approval(s) for your project. Some of the application forms can also be obtained on the web at [www.northstpaul.net](http://www.northstpaul.net), or in the appendix of this manual. The following steps comprise the review procedure:

**Step 1: File Application.** Ten (10) days prior to the next (2nd Tuesday of every month) Design and Historical Review Commission meeting, file a *Building Permit Application* **with the appropriate submittal materials and supplemental form(s)** at the Community Services Desk, North St. Paul City Hall, 2400 Margaret Street, North St. Paul, MN 55109.

**Step 2: Schedule a Review.** Contact the Community Services Department (phone: 651-747-2440) to schedule your review date(s). Most likely your application will be reviewed at the next scheduled DHRC meeting if it was received at least ten (10) days in advance of the meeting. **NOTE:** You may also have to schedule meetings with the City Building and Zoning Official and Planning Commission.

**Step 3: DHRC Review.** Your project will be reviewed by the Design and Historical Review Commission (DHRC) and you will have the opportunity to discuss it with them. If you are asked to make amendments to your application, you will be given the opportunity to make minor amendments. If changes are not that simple, you will be scheduled for a follow-up review. After review by the DHRC, your application will be forwarded as necessary to planning and/or engineering and then will be returned to the Community Services Desk. If your proposal is approved by the DHRC, they will write a report to the City Council informing them of the approval. If your proposal is not approved, you and the Council will receive a report stating the reasons it was not approved. **NOTE:** For new development, developers are encouraged to participate in review at each phase of planning, starting with design concept. This may save developers a considerable amount of time and planning expense.

**Step 4: City Council Approval.** The DHRC report will recommend **approval, denial, or approval with certain conditions** to the City Council. The City Council will take this information into consideration when they vote on your project.

**Step 5: Obtain Permit(s).** Upon City Council approval of your proposal, the Building Official will complete the review of your building plans for compliance with state building codes. Upon approval of the Building Official, you will be notified and appropriate permits may be obtained from the Community Services Department. Projects CANNOT be started without appropriate permit(s).

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Through careful consideration and planning, the City of North St. Paul has developed six guiding principles that the City believes will foster a strong local economy; and a cohesive, vibrant, and livable community. These design principles are based upon the successes of traditional city planning and the recognition that a new planning paradigm for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is imperative for sustenance of livable communities.

### The six principles are:

- 1.) The public domain (public parks, trails, town squares, civic buildings, streetscapes/sidewalks) must be reintroduced as an *important* component of suburban community planning. Stand-alone buildings and developments will not be allowed in the Central Business District.



*Private development and the public domain should mutually reinforce each other. New development should contribute to the community, be aesthetically pleasing, and physically connected to the public realm/community as a whole. Stand-alone developments break continuity and unity of the community.*



*Existing public structures should be repaired, renovated and maintained, and new development should articulate and connect to the public domain wherever possible. The public domain is that which belongs to all citizens, but which no one owns. When cared for, it is the wellspring of collective civic pride and the geographical expression of American unity and identity. The public domain is furthermore the physical form of the common good and provides the public places necessary for expression of civil liberties such as the right to assemble and speak freely in public. It is the connective tissue of healthy communities and its importance should be recognized and highlighted.*

2.) The scale of buildings and speed of cars on the streets should be in proportion to the human dimension and pace, and in proportion with the existing Downtown streetscape.

*In places that humans live and play, the size and speed of technology should not overpower the humanity that produced it, unless one is seeking a thrill. An everyday environment that overwhelms the human being can create a sense of discomfort and undermine ones sense of personal security. Automobiles tend to have the capability of overwhelming humans with their speed and size; therefore, traffic-calming techniques and design techniques that separate the pedestrian realm from that of the auto are encouraged.*

*In order to maintain and enhance the comfortable small-town atmosphere of Downtown North St. Paul, building scale should be harmonious and in proportion with our community and the people who live here. Building scale includes all elements of a proposed development: the building footprint, height, width, and associated parking.*

*Humans prefer to be in places that enclose them, and seek out places with pleasing proportions (Kunstler, 1996.) We believe that two to three story buildings in Downtown will enhance the streetscape proportion, be harmonious with the existing buildings, and provide the desired sense of streetscape enclosure without compromising the integrity of the small-town atmosphere.*

3.) The streetscape and storefronts should be designed for the pedestrian.

*The building design should help make the street enjoyable, visually interesting and comfortable. Individual buildings should be integrated with the streetscape to bring activity in the building in direct contact with the people on the street.*





*Storefronts should have a recognizable entryway and transparent display windows. A storefront that is clearly permeable is more welcoming to the potential patron and will likely be more economically successful than one that has a difficult-to-find entrance and blank walls without windows.*

*The streetscape should provide an interesting, safe and walkable atmosphere for persons of all abilities. Architectural detail, proximity of parking that is accessible but unobtrusive, traffic calming techniques and well-designed and safe walking surfaces/pathways contribute to a pedestrian-oriented environment.*

4.) Downtown properties should be diverse in use and serve a diverse population.



*Diversity and interdependence are fundamental to a healthy community ecosystem. Communities built upon a singular industry or monoculture are less likely to survive fluctuations in the economy. Buildings that provide urban living and commercial space bring people to downtown and provide easy access to the commodities and services that they need and want.*

*This type of development is a departure from traditional “zoned” development where residents live in remote locations from the places they work and shop, requiring a trip in the automobile or bus to meet the needs of everyday life. A return to urban residential living in a mixed-use environment will give new freedom to adolescents who don’t yet drive or the elderly who no longer drive.*

5.) New development and renovation projects should integrate environmentally responsible and sustainable development practices whenever possible.



*We are stewards of our earth and we must respect the delicate balance of nature. Environmentally responsible and sustainable development recognizes the need for a new design paradigm for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, a*

*paradigm that respects our environment and meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.*

*Although the rights of private property owners are recognized and appreciated, it is because of the concern for the well-being of future generations and the finite nature of our natural resources that we support environmental conservation and compact development as opposed to uncontrolled consumption and sprawl. Application of knowledge and technology that conserves water and land, and protects air quality is supported.*

- 6.) Development and renovations should strive to preserve the character, place identity, and the “small town atmosphere” of downtown North St. Paul.

*Certain characteristics that people tend to associate with small towns are becoming more desirable in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as we are beginning to recognize how much long commutes and the isolating effects of the automobile have eroded the quality of American life. The small town characteristics of accessibility and proximity of commodities, entertainment, and personalized service are being sought out by many individuals. In addition, small towns provide a sense of simplicity, stability, security, community and belonging; characteristics that North St. Paul would like to maintain and continue to provide for its citizens in future.*

*Architectural detail, proportion, spatial form and configuration should be thoughtfully considered as they contribute to community character/place identity and impact citizens’ sense of civic pride, attachment and responsibility for their community. These details also contribute to fulfillment of certain psychological needs of people, such as the need for personal security, spatial orientation and understanding, and beauty.*



*Lawson's Grocery Store  
Photo from Minnesota Historical Society  
Photograph Collection*

## PART II - DESIGN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Based upon the guiding principles, this Design Manual has been developed. The guidelines and standards that follow are the building blocks that will give the principles life and ensure harmonious design. They are also intended to move the overall design of Downtown North St. Paul toward a more successful specialty retail and service-oriented street design while at the same time maintaining a character that is compatible with the existing small-town character of Downtown North St. Paul. The guidelines and standards form a consistent framework that will guide development so that rather than ending up with a hodgepodge of disconnected design, the city may present itself as a united entity. On the following pages you will find good design examples for the layperson as well as information that will help shop owners to express their individuality through storefront design, signage, architectural features, etc.

### What are Design Guidelines?

Design **guidelines** are intended to provide business owners and potential developers with examples of and ideas for well-designed Downtown spaces. While ***some guidelines are also standards, others are merely suggestions*** for improving the appearance of Downtown. We hope that all business owners will find beneficial design recommendations that will help their businesses thrive.

### What are Design Standards?

A design **standard** is a ***specific criteria limitation*** placed on development and uses which is intended to protect the public health, safety and welfare. Development and uses include ***infill development*** and existing building renovation or alterations of the built environment including sign or lighting changes. **Standards** establish the performance requirements that must be met when renovating, rehabilitating, or otherwise making changes in the built environment. The standards also include maintenance requirements that are enforceable by code in order to prevent public nuisances. Some standards are intended to prevent and eliminate conditions which depreciate property values, that cause blight, or are detrimental to the environment.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *It is important to note that the North St. Paul Code of Ordinance is the governing document. Standards included in this manual may be in abbreviated form and are presented here for reference. If there is any discrepancy between the standards in this manual and the North St. Paul Code of Ordinance, the Code of Ordinance will govern.*

# Streetscape Elements and Materials Palette

Often when discussing design, one will hear the phrase “*variety within unity*” as a desirable design feature. When applying this to community design, the *variety* is provided by the individual expression of business owners through storefront design; while the *unity* is provided by the elements within the public realm, ie., the sidewalks, streets, benches, lights, parks, town squares, planters, bus stops, civic plazas, public buildings, and a plan for connection and arrangement of these public elements.

One way that unity is established within the public realm is through *consistency* in the palette of materials and elements that make up the public domain. The **Streetscape Materials and Elements Palette** found on the following pages includes the palette of materials and elements that North St. Paul has chosen to use whenever a repair or renovation of the streetscape is necessary. By replacing materials and elements that have fallen into disrepair with a consistent palette, and installing new elements from a given palette, greater unity will be established on 7th Avenue.



The bench, trash can, and planter are from DuMor, Inc. The color is green. The local provider is Earl F. Anderson, Inc.



The trash cans can be modified for recycling with lids that designate cans and bottles versus trash.

# Streetscape Elements and Materials Palette Continued...

**Intent:** To create a strong place identity by providing uniformity and consistency in the character of the streetscape. The streetscape is the connective framework that creates unity and continuity for the Downtown. The individual storefronts provide elements that create variety within the unity.

**Guideline:** When making improvements to private property that connects with the public domain, including the addition of bike racks, trash receptacles, parking structures, fences, or benches, property owners should match approved North St. Paul styles whenever possible.

**Standard:** When a renovation, redevelopment, or new construction damages existing public streetscape elements, those elements must be replaced with approved North St. Paul streetscape elements.



The paving pattern in front of city hall is herringbone with a soldier course perimeter. The pavers are the Holland paver from Anchor Block in the North Oaks color.



Brick planters, seatwalls, partial walls with a concrete cap or wrought iron fencing with plantings are examples of the preferred type of screening structure for private property that connects with the public realm.



Tree guards should be placed on trees that are in danger of being damaged by City plows.



Whenever possible, combining signs should be considered. The Downtown signs should have a camelback shape versus the rectangular shape of signs outside of the district.

## ***Site Design and Layout***

## Building Orientation - Setbacks

**Intent:** This guideline ensures the visibility of all business storefronts along the street and encourages business activity that is in close proximity to the sidewalk. Furthermore, this guideline helps to establish unity and continuity of the streetwall.

A building that is set back from the streetwall interrupts the continuity of the streetwall structure. It is the streetwall that creates the space or volume within the street that is a critical component of place-making which in turn is a component of many successful business districts.

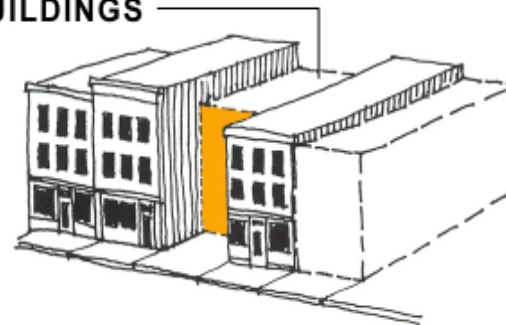
**Guidelines:** Buildings should be built flush to the sidewalk and flush with adjacent buildings.

**Standards:** Infill buildings shall be built flush to the sidewalk and flush to adjacent buildings. No side setbacks are allowed unless next to a public pedestrian way or residential district where setback is required. If the property owner applies for a variance, special provision for signage and architectural structure contiguous with the streetwall (such as a brick planter or seat wall) must be part of the design. Furthermore, the design and specified use must contribute to the activity of the street and meet all other design criteria. For example, the plan must still have a clearly identifiable entrance and pedestrian-oriented design.



**Build in Line with Adjacent Buildings**

**AVOID SETBACK FROM ADJACENT BUILDINGS**



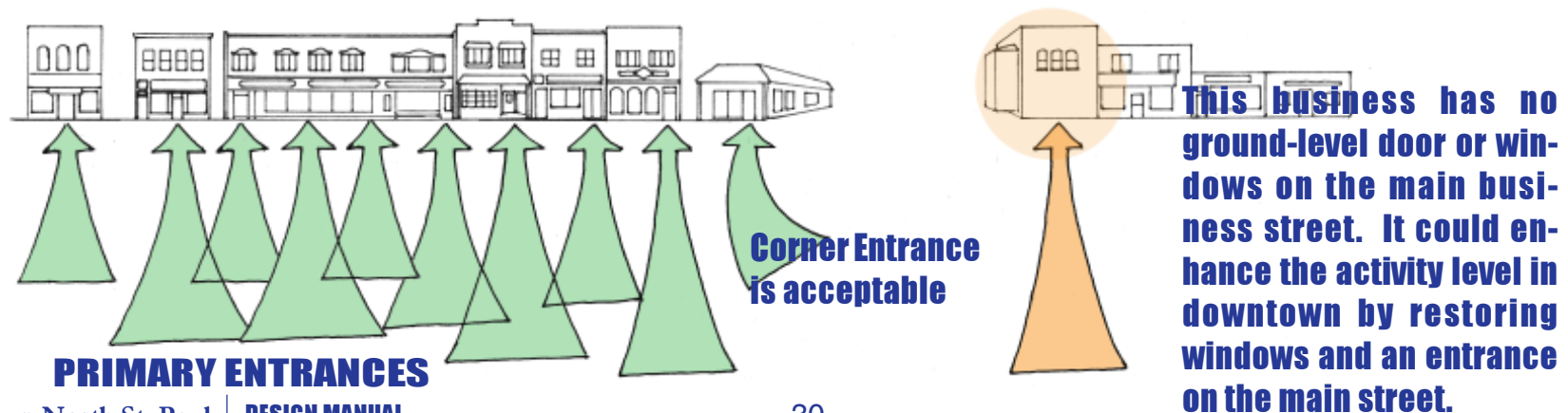
## Building Orientation - Entrances

**Intent:** To provide clearly identifiable, welcoming, and convenient primary entrances to businesses from the main business corridor(s.)

People traveling along the main streets in the central business district should be able to easily see storefronts, windows, doors, and other aspects of business activity. Primary entrances that are not easy to find or that are located “around back” or “to the side” may confuse patrons or make the shopping experience less convenient. Patrons coming and going from businesses create a vibrant shopping atmosphere. It is desirable to keep this activity concentrated on the main street.

**Guidelines:** If your building is on 7th Avenue, there should be a clearly identified primary entrance for your business opening directly onto 7th Avenue. If there is opportunity for a secondary entrance to open onto a secondary street, it should not have the same prominence as the primary entrance. If your business occupies the “back” half of a building on 7th Avenue, your primary entrance may be on Seppala Blvd. In this case, you should have a primary entrance that is clearly marked opening directly to Seppala. Businesses should consider dual access points for corner lots, a primary access on the main commercial street and a secondary one on the secondary commercial street.

**Standards:** All buildings on 7th Avenue must have a clearly marked 7th Avenue entrance opening flush to the sidewalk. The primary entrance to a business in the Downtown Design District must be at grade with the sidewalk and there shall be visibly and functionally clear access. Entrances must be ADA compliant where required. If the building is on a corner, a corner access is allowed provided it is clearly marked. A secondary access is allowed at the rear of the building or on a side street. All businesses that have a public entrance on Seppala Boulevard shall have a clearly marked entrance.



## Rear Entrances

**Intent:** To encourage the development of double street frontages and to establish rear building entrances that have a welcoming appearance.

**Guideline:** If there is a public rear entrance, it should be clean and well maintained and present a welcoming appearance. A small sign, awning, display window, or planter box can improve the appearance and make the entrance more visible and welcoming.

**Standard:** If the primary entrance to a business is in the rear portion of a building, it must be clearly marked. Trash containers must be a minimum of 12' from any entrance.

### Examples of enhanced rear entrances



## Landscaping and Impervious Surfaces

**Intent:** To reduce storm water runoff; to screen out undesirable views; to provide shade; to buffer residential districts; and to enhance the pedestrian atmosphere.

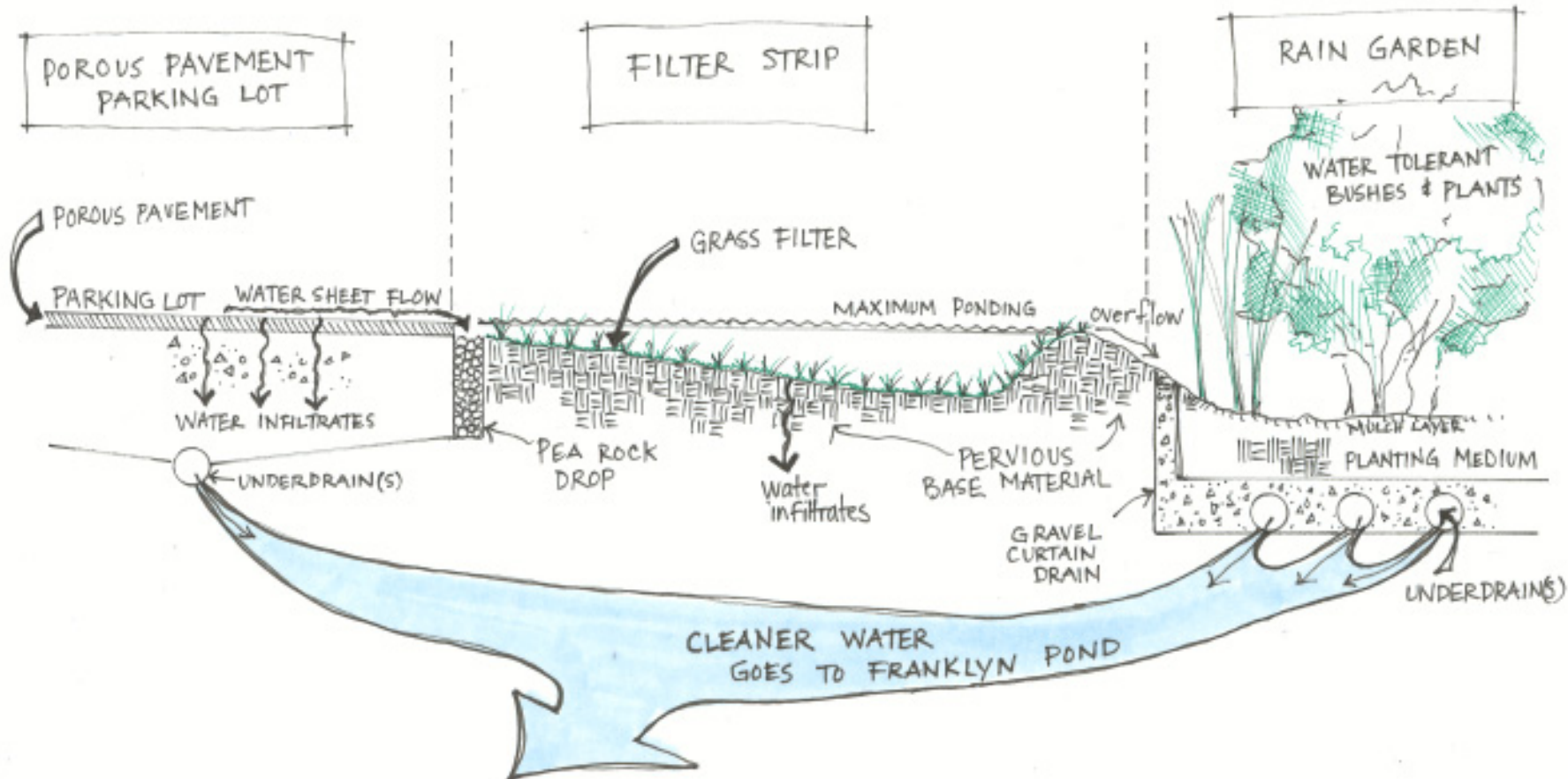
The benefit of plants and the color green has been the topic of many researchers. In the 19th Century, Central Park was built to “solve the ills of the tenements in New York City” and the new Minneapolis Public Library is using green roof technology to mitigate storm water runoff and manage rooftop temperature. Although North St. Paul is not a big city it can still do its part to be sensitive to the environment and the pedestrian experience; therefore, the following landscape guidelines are encouraged.

**Guideline:** The use of flower boxes, large flower pots, and public landscape areas in Downtown is encouraged. Surface parking lots should consider avoiding use of curbs to direct storm water; instead, consider the use of vegetated filter strips at the edge of the lot, rain gardens in below grade median islands, and porous pavements with infiltration beds below the parking surface. Landscaping can be used to mitigate impervious surfaces like parking lots and to enhance the pedestrian realm.

**Standard:** Parking lots shall have landscaping, including berming where appropriate, along the outside edge. Parking bays shall, wherever appropriate, have landscaped islands. Parking of more than 20 cars in a row shall be broken up by a landscaped island or a landscape feature having a width of at least eight feet and a depth of at least 15 feet. A minimum of 2% of the gross lot size of infill development must provide for landscaping that allows infiltration of storm water. Curb and gutter shall be used where necessary according to the Planning Commission and City Engineer.



**Examples of the use of potted plants to enhance the pedestrian experience.**



**The storm water management techniques illustrated above are just three of the many possible ways to improve water quality and reduce runoff through landscape design.**

## Parking Lots

**Intent:** To maintain a contiguous and safe pedestrian walkway along storefronts; to encourage more productive use of land; and to encourage the building of a more sustainable environment in North St. Paul.

Surface lots consume valuable land (contributing to sprawl) and create large *impervious surfaces* that contribute to excessive *storm water runoff* and the *heat island effect*. Surface temperatures on asphalt parking lots can reach up to 150 degrees and can contribute to rainwater runoff greater than 90% in some urban areas. Furthermore, when parking lots separate storefronts from pedestrians or their driveways interrupt strolling shoppers, the pedestrian shopping experience is adversely affected.

**Guideline:** When undertaking an infill development project, underground parking and/or parking ramp structures should be considered over surface parking lots. Parking structures adjacent to public right of ways should be designed using the recommended *North St. Paul Streetscape Elements and Materials Palette*. Design of entrance drives that do not cross pedestrian walkways is encouraged.

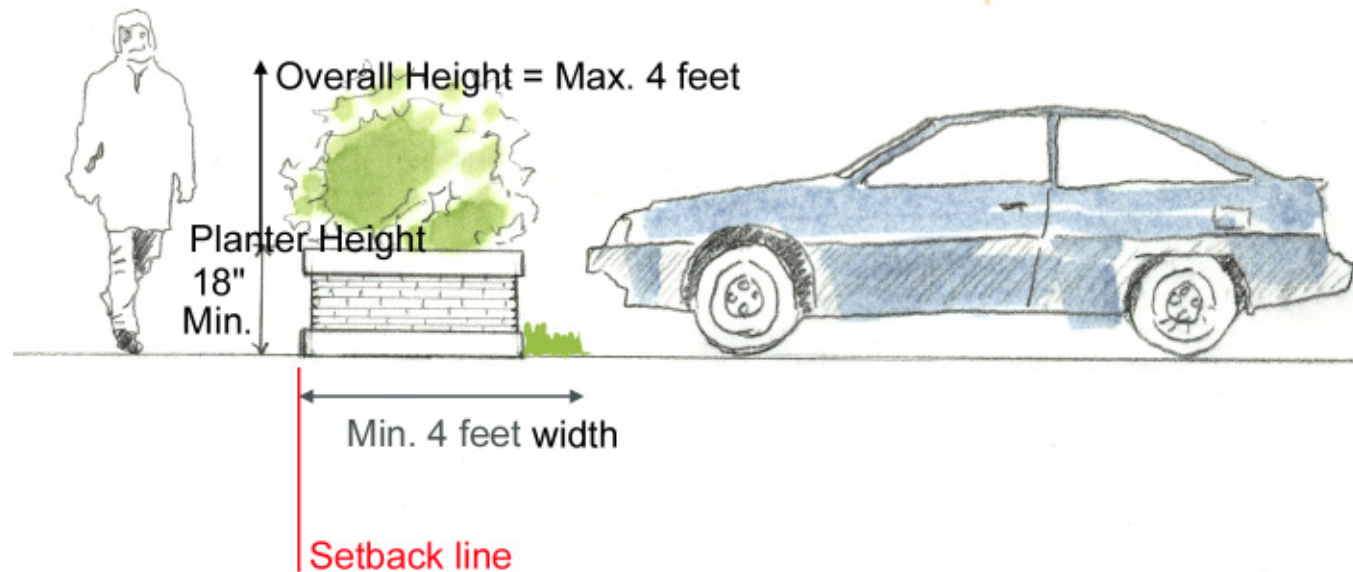
**Standard:** If parking structures are built, they must be designed to avoid blank concrete facades where visible to the public. The same materials standard that applies to building facades applies to parking structures (ie., 50% brick facade adjacent to public right-of-ways.) Entrance to parking lots between buildings and behind buildings must be provided from streets other than 7th Avenue. No private parking lot entrance drives are allowed to cross the sidewalk on 7th Avenue; however, one entrance per block is allowed for municipal lots.

## Parking Screening

**Intent:** To reduce the visual impact of parking lots; to provide convenient and sufficient parking to serve the patrons in the Downtown District without compromising the pedestrian character of the District.

**Guidelines:** *Seatwall* planters with plantings are the recommended screening structure. The property owner should consider constructing the screen with North St. Paul Streetscape Palette materials. Plantings should be some type of native vegetation that provides a mix for year-round interest and/or bird habitat in the form of evergreen vegetation, berries, or colorful stems and seed heads.

**Standards:** Surface parking lots must be screened from the public street and sidewalk by decorative fences and plantings, or brick planters with cement caps with plantings. The minimum width of the screening buffer is four feet, minimum planter height is 18 inches and maximum overall height is 4 feet. Minimum wall or fence height is three feet and maximum height is 4 feet. The parking “screen” shall be continuous, not exceeding 50 feet in length without providing a pedestrian exit/entrance point that doesn’t exceed five feet in width. The “screen” must maintain the same setback requirements as buildings in Downtown and must not encroach on public sidewalks or streets. Plantings must be properly maintained. Examples of improperly maintained plantings are: dead or brown plants, weeds or garbage in planters, excessive height or width due to lack of pruning.



## Utility Areas and Mechanical Equipment Screening

**Intent:** To enhance the pedestrian experience by blocking odors, noise and visual pollution from garbage collection areas, loading docks, HVAC and other service areas.

**Guideline:** Visually pleasing service area fencing is encouraged. Use of brick or natural stone is preferable. Wood fencing is discouraged as it is difficult to maintain. If it is used, detail for visual interest is encouraged. Co-location of garbage and recycling receptacles is encouraged.

**Standard:** Trash and storage areas, service yards, loading areas, transformers and air conditioning units, if located outside, shall be contained and screened from view of nearby streets and adjacent structures in a manner that is compatible with the building and site design. For new construction, the same architectural materials used on the building must be used to contain mechanical equipment and utility areas.

The use of non-transparent fencing is required to screen dumpsters, but only to a maximum height of 72 inches immediately enclosing the dumpster and a maximum of two additional 32-gal. garbage cans. If a common service area has been designated, it must be used and all service related items must be contained within it. If wood is used for the screen, it must be stained and maintained. Examples of poorly maintained dumpster screens are those where parts of the screen are cracked, broken, or missing; hinges are loose or broken; or wood is unfinished or weathered. All waste and recyclables shall be stored in metal dumpsters or approved plastic waste containers with secure lids that prevent intrusion by rain or animals. Waste containers must be screened on all four sides (one side gated for waste collection access) with screening material that is compatible with the principle structure of the business.



## Rooftop Mechanical Equipment Screening

**Intent:** To screen rooftop mechanical and communications equipment where visible from surrounding properties and the public right-of-way.

**Guideline:** When undertaking new construction, mechanical equipment should be integrated into the design of the building such that it is not visible from adjacent properties or to pedestrians and motorists on public right-of-ways.

**Standards:** All rooftop equipment shall be designed to minimize undesirable views when viewing rooftops from higher elevations, abutting property; and public right-of-ways. Screening shall be accomplished through the use of architectural elements and materials which are consistent with the building design and architectural controls of the area. Painting equipment, building a fence, or using screening material inconsistent with the rest of the building is not allowed.

# Fences

**Intent:** To maintain a safe, welcoming, small-town and pedestrian-oriented environment; to prevent visual blight caused by fencing maintenance issues; to promote the design of an environment of trust and one that invites people in as opposed to keeping people out.

**Guideline:** If fencing is needed, a sustainable product like wrought iron or brick should be used to prevent deterioration and maintenance problems that could arise from use of wood or another unsustainable product. Although fences constructed to serve an intended function such as containment or protection of a specific area will have certain structural requirements, property owners should also consider use of decorative elements in the construction of the fence to contribute to visual interest for the pedestrian. Good visibility of property creates a safer environment, so if fencing is necessary, it should be easily seen through or over (see photo below.)

**Standard:** Fences shall not be allowed unless absolutely necessary for a functional reason. Fencing is allowed for the following purposes:

1. To contain or protect a planted area.
2. To contain an area for sidewalk dining (must allow for a minimum of six feet free passage on the sidewalk.)
3. To separate parking areas from sidewalks.

When allowed, only sustainable fencing material shall be used such as powder coated wrought iron or anodized metal fencing. If fencing is on the public right-of-way, it must utilize the *North St. Paul Streetscape Elements and Materials Palette*. Wooden fences tend to deteriorate and lack the sustainable quality of metals; therefore, they are not allowed except in designated service areas to screen dumpsters (see *Utility Area Screening*.) Permanent bars on windows are not allowed. Solid security gates are not allowed. Fences must be no higher than necessary to serve the intended functional purpose. All fences must be easily seen through above 48 inches unless the fence is used to conceal a dumpster.

## Recommended Fence Material

*If the purpose of this fence was to merely separate diners from the sidewalk area, it should be shorter; however, this fence also secures the property located within while at the same time allowing clear visibility to the interior of the space.*



## Outdoor Seating

**Intent:** To encourage outdoor seating as an amenity that compliments the pedestrian atmosphere and activity level in the downtown district and to ensure adequate space for pedestrians to pass adjacent to sidewalk dining areas and in and out of neighboring businesses. Furthermore, guidelines below are intended to prevent automobiles from interfering with diners and to ensure that vehicles have clear traffic sight-lines at corners.

**Guidelines:** Restaurants or food service establishments in Downtown are encouraged to set up outdoor dining areas. Dining areas are especially recommended along the sides of buildings where no other use is designated. It is recommended to define the dining area with a railing and planters to enhance the dining experience.

**Standards:** Food service establishments may only use public space directly in front of or directly to the side of their storefront and must not encroach on neighboring storefronts or properties (a one foot buffer at the property line must be maintained.) The seating area must also maintain a two foot buffer distance from the curb where there is parallel or angle parking. Where there is angle parking, tire stops are required such that car bumpers will not cross the curb-line. Tire stops must be removed in the winter. At corners, and in other areas where traffic is not buffered by parking, seating must maintain a six foot distance from the curb, and again, planters are recommended within the buffer zone. Umbrellas and other such objects that may impair sight-lines at corners must be set back 15 feet from the corner. Dining areas must be defined by an ADA compliant temporary railing at the border, must be visible to pedestrians, and must maintain six feet of clearance for pedestrian passage on the sidewalk. The six-foot “clear zone” shall be designated by the city. Because of seasonal needs such as snow removal, outdoor seating is only allowed from April 15 to Oct. 15 and must be removed from the sidewalk during non-business hours.



**Outdoor seating  
is encouraged.**

## Mixed Use

**Intent:** To provide a mix of uses so that the street stays active throughout the day and into the evening; to encourage housing Downtown that will not adversely affect activity at street level, but rather contribute to activity by putting people in proximity to goods and services; to prevent street-level building uses that don't contribute to an active streetscape.

A partial list of mixed uses that are encouraged in the Downtown District includes housing, retail, services, offices, entertainment, and food service. Examples of passive uses that are discouraged include: non-service offices, housing. For a complete list, refer to the North St. Paul Code of Ordinance.

**Guideline:** Housing and office space on the second story or above is encouraged in Downtown buildings. Uses should be mixed vertically within buildings and horizontally from building to building. A vertical mix of uses might include retail or services on the ground floor and residences or offices on the upper floors. A horizontal mix of uses might include different kinds of stores and services interspersed. A door to upper-level housing may open onto the main street provided the doorway has architectural treatment(s) that distinguish the private space from the public space. The doorway may not take up more than 25% of the lineal store frontage.

**Standard:** The street-level floor of all buildings in the Downtown Design District must contribute to an active streetscape. Examples of active uses include: retail, entertainment, or service-oriented uses. Housing and non-service office space is not allowed on the ground floor.



## Franchise Architecture

**Intent:** To maintain the unique small-town character of Downtown North St. Paul and to ensure that all buildings connect to the public realm and are not stand-alone structures.

**Standard:** Trademark architecture (building design that is identified with a particular chain store and is reproduced in the same form and color regardless of location) is not allowed in Downtown North St. Paul. Franchises that wish to locate in Downtown North St. Paul must build a building that is compatible with the architectural scale and character in the district. The main entrance of the building must connect to the public realm and not to a parking lot.



**Examples of trademark architecture**



**Examples of franchise businesses that have designed storefronts that are compatible with the surrounding architecture**

## ***Proportion, Height, and Width***

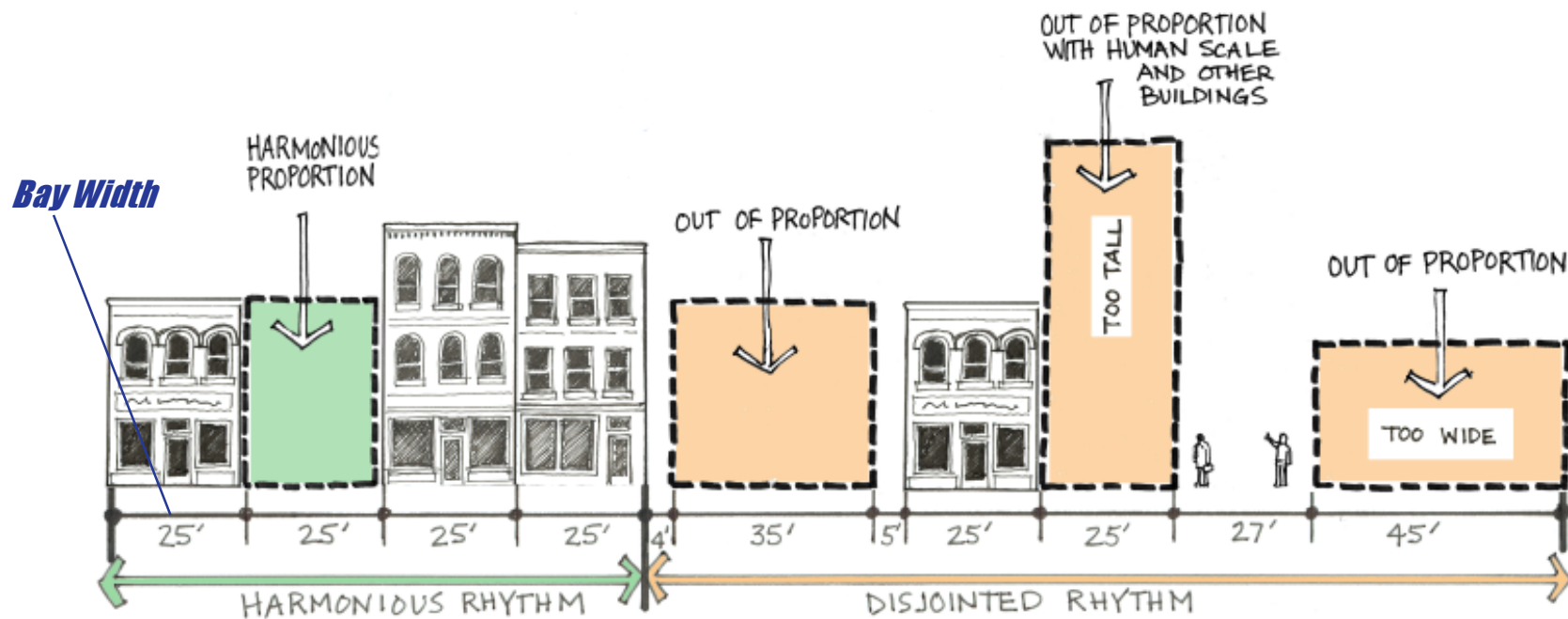
## Proportion and Rhythm

**Intent:** To ensure that development and building additions or renovations are compatible and in proportion with neighboring buildings, 7th Avenue, and human beings.

Proportion is the relationship of one object to another and often determines if a design is harmonious or not. Like proportion, rhythm often determines whether or not a design is harmonious or “out-of-sync.” As you will notice in the drawing below, the section of buildings that are harmonious have compatible proportions in all respects: height, width, window pattern, and vertical layering. The section that is not harmonious has disjointed rhythm and disproportionate building width, side setback, and height.

**Guideline:** The proportion of infill buildings should be sympathetic to the proportion of the buildings adjacent to them, to the street width, and to the human scale.

**Standard:** No building may exceed three stories or 40 feet in height, whichever is less. No building may be constructed less than two stories. No building may be more than 24 feet higher (or two stories, whichever is less,) than the building directly adjacent to it. Although the overall width of a building may be greater, *bay width* is a maximum of 25 feet.

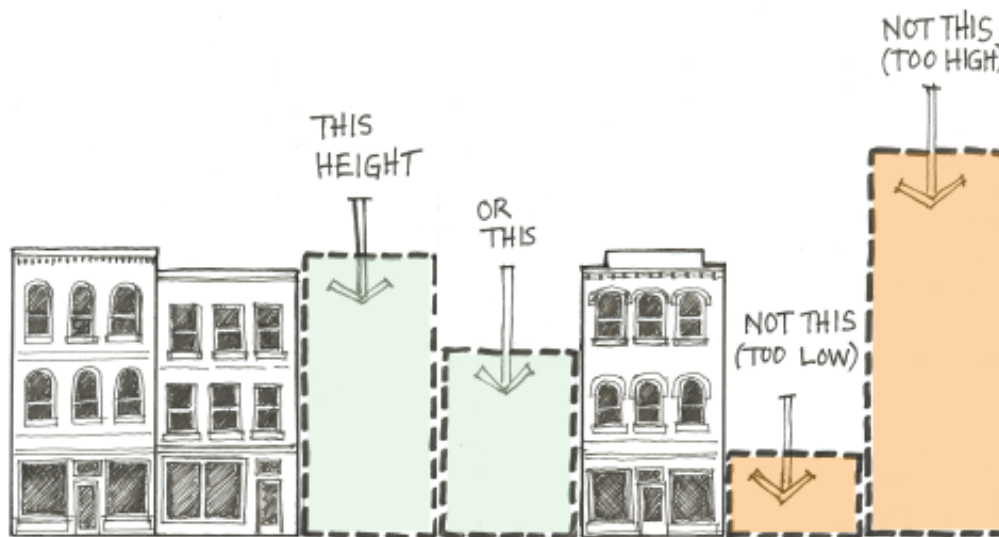


# Height

**Intent:** To promote the construction of infill buildings that is compatible with the existing character of Downtown buildings; to promote a slightly increased overall height of buildings to strengthen the sense of place and economic potential in Downtown; to prevent further construction of buildings that are too low (one story) to define the street or contribute to a mixed-use environment; and to prevent construction of buildings that are so high that they will dwarf existing buildings, detract from the small-town character, and interrupt the harmony of the commercial corridor of Downtown North St. Paul.

**Guideline:** The optimum building height in Downtown is a two or three-story with a two or three-foot parapet. Construction of three story buildings is encouraged. If an infill building is constructed adjacent to a one-story building, it should be two stories for maximum compatibility with the adjacent one-story while still complying with code. If the infill building is three stories and longer than one bay, it is recommended that it be designed to step down to two-story adjacent to the one-story. Two-story buildings should be built to accommodate a third story at a later date.

**Standard:** The heights of new buildings shall contribute to the desired character of Downtown. The height of new buildings shall enhance the small-town atmosphere *and* contribute to economic welfare of the district, therefore, no building may be less than two stories or 22 feet, whichever is greater. Maximum building height is three stories or 40 feet, whichever is less. No building may be greater than 24 feet higher than an adjacent building.



*The height of infill construction and facade renovations should contribute to the desired character for Downtown and be compatible with surrounding buildings (see “The Desired Character of Downtown” included in the Introduction of this manual.)*

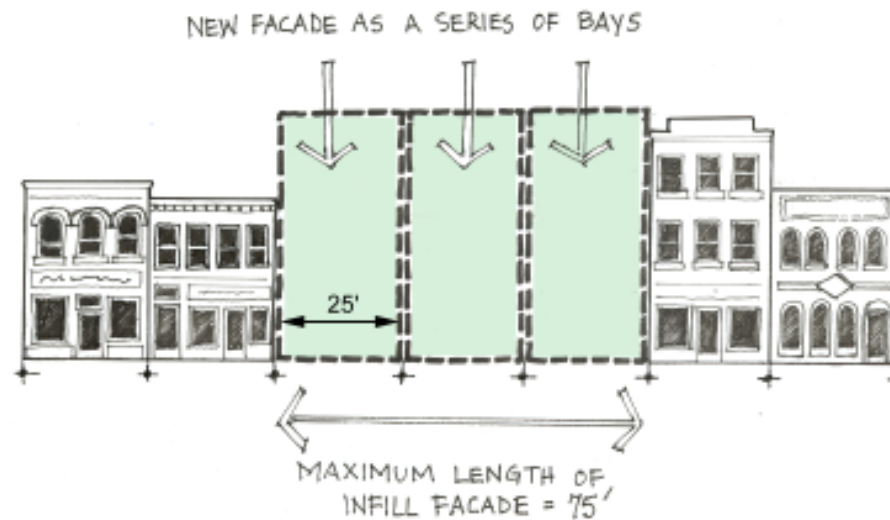
## Width (Length of the Façade on 7th Avenue & Margaret Street)

**Intent:** To encourage enhancement and development of a Downtown shopping area where people can easily stroll from storefront to storefront; to ensure rhythm and proportion of infill development is in harmony with the existing streetscape structure; to avoid long monotonous façades that have no interest value to the pedestrian.

Many buildings built today are designed for the scale and speed of the automobile. A building with a façade a full block long may be fine to pass by in an automobile, but pedestrian shoppers tend to stroll from door to door, window to window. Window shopping and pedestrian traffic is discouraged where the building façades are lacking doors and windows or if doors and windows are too far apart to catch the curious eye of the casual shopper. In the heart of Downtown North St. Paul, the typical width of a storefront is 25 feet.

**Guideline:** Infill development should consider the existing rhythm of the streetwall which is determined by building width. The ideal width of an infill development should be 25 feet wide to preserve the character of Downtown North St. Paul. As this width would generally not be a realistic expectation in today's development climate, it is recommended that those considering infill development design buildings with bays 25 feet in width and numbering no more than three.

**Standard:** A single building façade shall not be greater than 75 feet in width/length on Margaret St. or 7th Avenue E. If a building is greater than 25 feet in width, there must be bays established every 25 feet and no two adjacent bays may be blank walls.



## ***Façade***

The facade of a building is the exterior wall usually at the front of the building. The word comes from the French language meaning face or frontage and is used by architects to refer to the principle frontage of a building that is often given the greatest design consideration. Well-designed facades have a carefully considered pattern and placement of door and window openings (fenestration) and architectural details such as cornices, sills, lintels, parapets, and trim work.

## Façade - General

**Intent:** To maintain the distinguishing features of historically significant buildings and to ensure sound pedestrian-oriented design of new development; to maintain building facades so that they convey a sense of authenticity, quality of construction, welcoming appearance, and business identity; to prevent actions that close up doors and windows, “the eyes on the street.”

**General Guidelines:** It is recommended that property owners renovate and construct buildings with the pedestrian in mind. Creating visual interest value for the pedestrian through use of quality materials, architectural detail, roofline variation, and fenestration is recommended. Make sure that the person on the street has clearly visible functional and visual access to the interior of a building.

### *For Buildings on the Historical Register*

**Guidelines:** Property owners should strive to restore buildings to their original appearance.

**Standards:** The removal of architectural features on historically designated buildings is not permitted. Deteriorated architectural details shall be repaired rather than replaced. Distinctive stylistic features or examples of skilled craftsmanship characteristics are to be preserved. If changes in the use of a building are contemplated, changes must be accomplished without alterations of facade and structure wherever possible.

### *For New Construction*

**Guidelines:** Except for fenestration, architectural detail, and trim work, the façade of new structures should be constructed of 100% brick. Trim and architectural detail should be constructed of natural stone, anodized aluminum or similar metals. All publicly visible facades should be of 100% brick including side walls adjacent to pedestrian walkways or rear approaches visible to a pedestrian.

**Standards:** The design of the building and material choice must take into account the view of the building from abutting streets and from other land uses. Fifty percent (50%) of the building material must be brick. Trim and architectural detail must be constructed of natural stone, a secondary brick material, anodized aluminum or similar metals. Painted wood is limited to trim. Unacceptable facades are those using wood, veneer siding, efface, synthetic or stamped veneers or shiny materials (example: unpainted metal or chrome, polished stone, shiny plastics, etc.) Metals may only be used as an accent material if appropriately integrated into the overall building design and in the case of wood, not subject to damage caused by heavy use or exposure.

## Façade - General

### *Renovation of Buildings That Are Not Historically Significant*

**Intent:** To maintain building façades so that they convey a sense of authenticity, quality of construction, welcoming appearance, and business identity; to allow renovation to occur in stages so that the financial burden is reduced for those working on improving the appearance of their business.



**Guideline:** When making façade repairs or renovations, use of brick with compatible material for trim and architectural detail is encouraged. When brick is not feasible, the use of material that is the same as, or that compliments the existing structure is recommended. Property owners are encouraged to restore brick façades, open up covered windows and doors, and restore transom windows and quality architectural details if any. Lighting to accentuate the architectural features of the building and construction of parapets to increase the effective height of one-story buildings is encouraged. Installation of awnings that reflect the door or window beneath them is also encouraged.

**Standard:** Façade renovations that meet criteria requiring design review must submit plans for a full façade renovation even if renovating only a portion of the facade. Partial renovation may or may not be approved depending upon whether or not a smooth transition between renovation phases is possible in regard to building appearance.



**Not Recommended:** Covering any part of the building façade with false veneer materials, ie., false brick veneer (split brick, if authentic brick material is okay,) stucco, aluminum siding, or any sheet siding over the top of the an existing material; filling in doors or windows with brick, wood, or any material that obscures the original opening; creating windowless blank walls or destroying architectural detail; removing existing *quality* materials and details from a building.

**Not Recommended**

# Façade - Blank Walls

**Intent:** To limit the monotony and unwelcoming atmosphere of walls that are long, blank, and fortress-like.

**Guideline:** Blank façades can be enhanced with detailing, artwork, landscaping or other visually interesting features.

**Standard:** Murals are encouraged on blank walls; however, no brick wall may be painted unless it has been previously painted or is a pale brick that is detracting from the vitality of the street (murals must be approved by the Design and Historical Review Commission.) Murals on two walls adjacent to one another are not allowed. For infill development, walls greater than 25 feet in length must be divided into bays not greater than 25 feet in length. There may not be two bays adjacent to one another without fenestration comprising at least 70% of the wall space. In the bays where there is not fenestration, two of the following techniques must be employed to minimize the apparent mass and monotony:

- Landscaping with vines or columnar plants
- Setbacks or wall modulation not to exceed one (1) foot
- Application of architectural detail
- Mural, inlaid tile, or other artwork

**Although a first choice would be to restore display windows and doors, the photos to the right illustrate how murals can be applied to provide visual interest on blank walls of a building. Below are walls that present opportunities for improved fenestration, landscaping with vines, and/or artwork.**



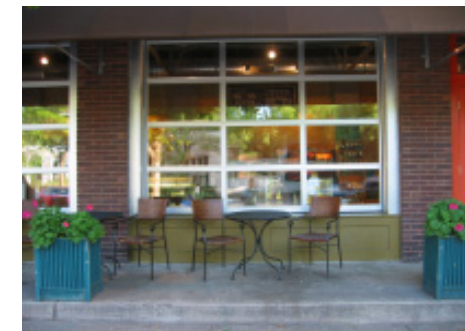
# Facade Fenestration - Windows

**Intent:** To provide a welcoming atmosphere for shoppers by ensuring that the person on the street is able to visually connect with the interior of a store; to prevent use of window materials that block visual access to the interior of a building.

Windows and doors create a pedestrian-friendly atmosphere that encourages people to stroll and shop. If there are blank walls or if windows are blocked by signs, too much merchandise, curtains, or other objects, the potential shopper is less likely to see something inside the store that would encourage him/her to enter.

**Guideline:** Transparent storefronts are desirable and encouraged. It is best if you can see all the way into the interior of the store. Empty display windows and those that are cluttered are discouraged. It is *not* recommended to use display windows for storage or to block display windows with signs. Lighting the display window at night with a light on a timer is encouraged.

**Standard:** Buildings must be comprised of 70% transparent window material on ground-level facades facing streets and there must be a minimum of 40% on second or third-story levels. The window must be made of glass and the glass must be clearly transparent. Colored, tinted, opaque, or smoked glass is not allowed, except in transom windows. Reflective glass is not allowed. Boarding up windows is not allowed. Signage must not cover more than 20% of the window. Permanent bars on windows are not allowed. Solid security gates are not allowed. Vacated shops and buildings otherwise in transition must cover windows.

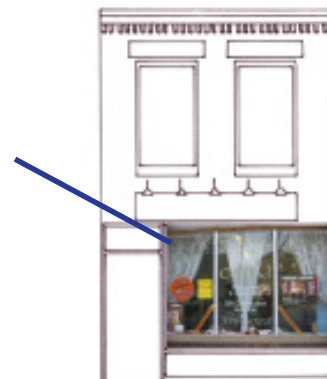


**The windows in the photos above allow nice visibility into the interior of the store. The windows in the photo directly above open up in the summer to allow a very good connection between the interior of the building and the seating outside.**



**Covering display windows with curtains or too many signs, or using the ledge for storage is not recommended.**

**Opaque windows are not permitted.**



## Facade Fenestration - Doors

**Intent:** To encourage a welcoming atmosphere by providing ease of physical access to buildings in the Central Business District for all persons; to prevent use of doors not compatible with the business district.

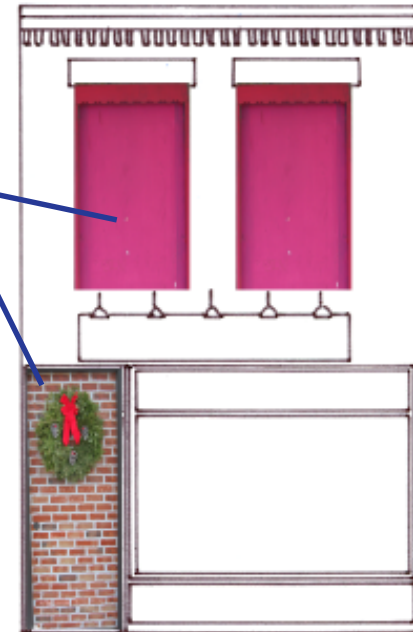
**Guideline:** Doors comprised of 70% or greater glass with visibility through the door six feet into the interior of the business space are encouraged. Lighting at night is encouraged. Choosing a door that is compatible in overall size and material of the facade is recommended. Closing one half of a double door, replacing a door with one smaller than the original, or placing merchandise behind the door is not recommended.

**Standard:** Primary entrances must allow visibility through the door a minimum of six feet. Seventy (70%) of the door size must be transparent glass and not be curtained. All doors on 7th Avenue and Margaret St. must be of a commercial grade. ADA access must be provided where required. Windows in doors must be made of glass and the glass must be clearly transparent. Colored, tinted, opaque, smoked, or reflective glass is not allowed. Boarding up doors is not allowed. Signage must not cover more than 20% of the door window. Permanent bars on windows are not allowed. Solid security gates are not allowed.



**Although the windows provide nice visibility, this business opens the door on cool summer days to improve visibility into the interior of the store.**

**Avoid infill panels. Boarding up windows and doors is not allowed.**



## Facade - Awnings

**Intent:** To enhance and encourage a pedestrian atmosphere for window-shopping by providing protection from the elements; to provide sun protection for window displays; to provide a signage panel for businesses; to prevent blight from improper maintenance.

Awnings provide protection from the elements for shoppers walking from shop to shop. For shop owners, they can help set forth the unique identity of each shop and define the storefront and entryway for customers. Awnings add color and shade to a building façade as well as providing an area for signage.

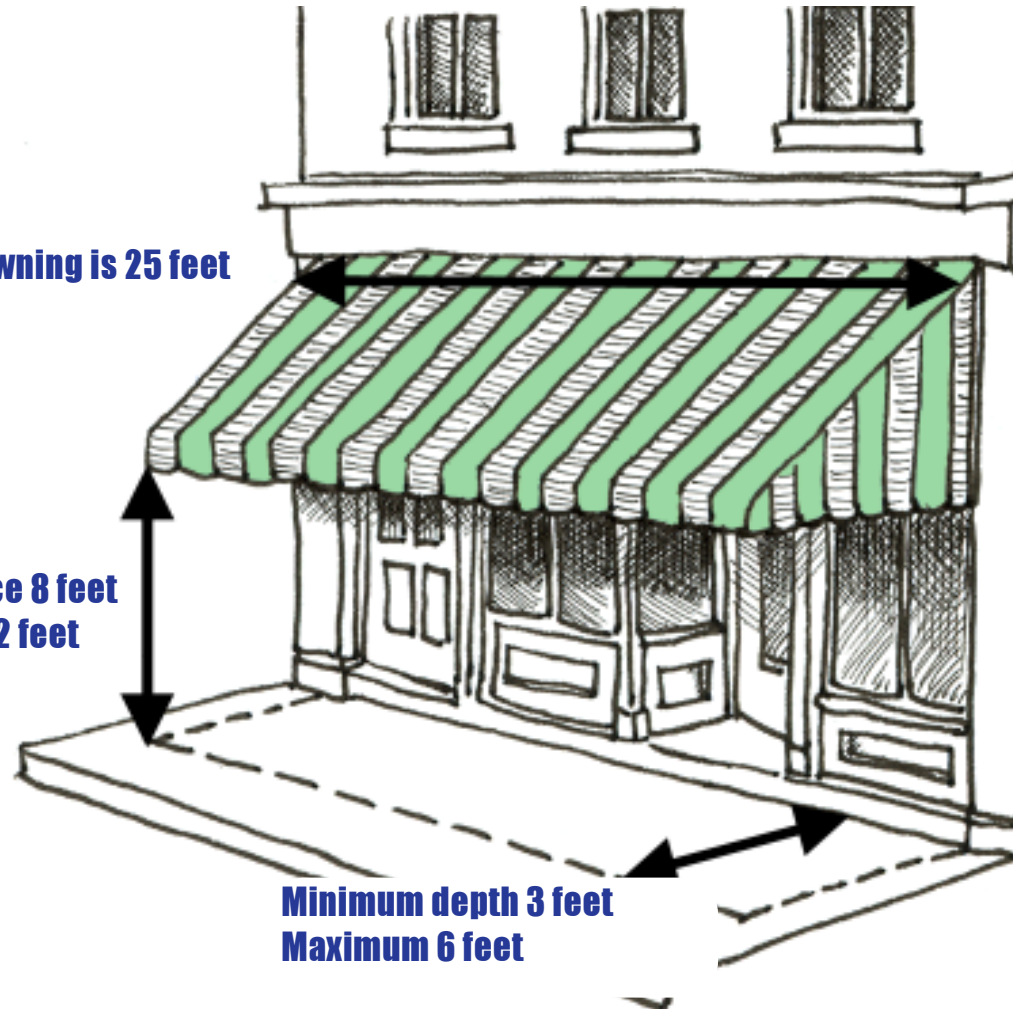
**Guidelines:** Although retractable awnings are allowed, canvas stretched on a fixed frame is less maintenance intensive than retractable and would be preferable. Awnings should be broken into segments that reflect the door or window openings beneath them. Awnings should compliment the building, shape, and color and should be in proportion to the facade.

**Standards:** Only awnings that compliment the building shape and color will be permitted. Awnings must be made of canvas or another durable, protective, and water repellant cloth-like material. Anodized metal awnings will be considered if of superior architectural design, detail, and construction. Wind and weight load calculations may be required for metal awnings. Fiberglass, wood, shingle, or plastic awnings are not permitted. If lighted, awnings must be lit from above. Internal illumination (under-lighting or back-lighting) of awnings is not allowed. Retractable canvas awnings are allowed if properly maintained. Ripped, torn, dirty, or awnings with broken framework or retraction devices are examples of improperly maintained awnings. Fixed-frame awnings must be likewise maintained. All awnings must be covered on the lateral ends. Clearance under the awning must be a minimum of 8 feet from sidewalk and a maximum of 12 feet. Minimum overhang depth from the building is 3 feet and a maximum of 6 feet. Overall canvas height maximum is 5 feet. Whatever measurements are used, they must be in proportion to one another, to the building, and the same proportion must be used across the facade of a single storefront. (See diagram.) If signage is hung below the awning, the bottom of the sign must not hang lower than 8' and therefore, the bottom of the awning must be set at the appropriate height to allow for the signage. Linear length of an awning panel must not exceed 25 feet. Awnings cannot extend across multiple storefronts, multiple bays, or more than one building and should reflect fenestration. The awning must be in proportion with the building façade and of a height compatible with neighboring storefronts. A variance will be considered if the above dimensions do not create such a proportion.

## Facade - Awnings

**Maximum length per awning is 25 feet**

**Minimum clearance 8 feet  
Maximum height 12 feet**

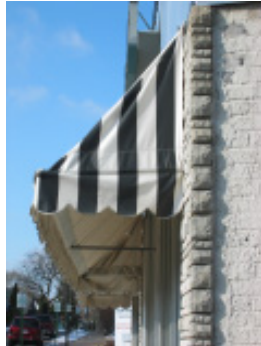


**Minimum depth 3 feet  
Maximum 6 feet**

Not recommended:

- Covering architectural detail with awnings.
- Awnings that span long distances.

## Facade - Awnings



**Awnings must be covered at the lateral ends. This one is covered.**



**The lateral ends on this one are not covered.**



**These two awnings reflect the window opening beneath them, are in proportion with the facade, and have proportionate overall length per awning.**



**Metal awnings must be of exceptional quality, architectural detail and craftsmanship.**

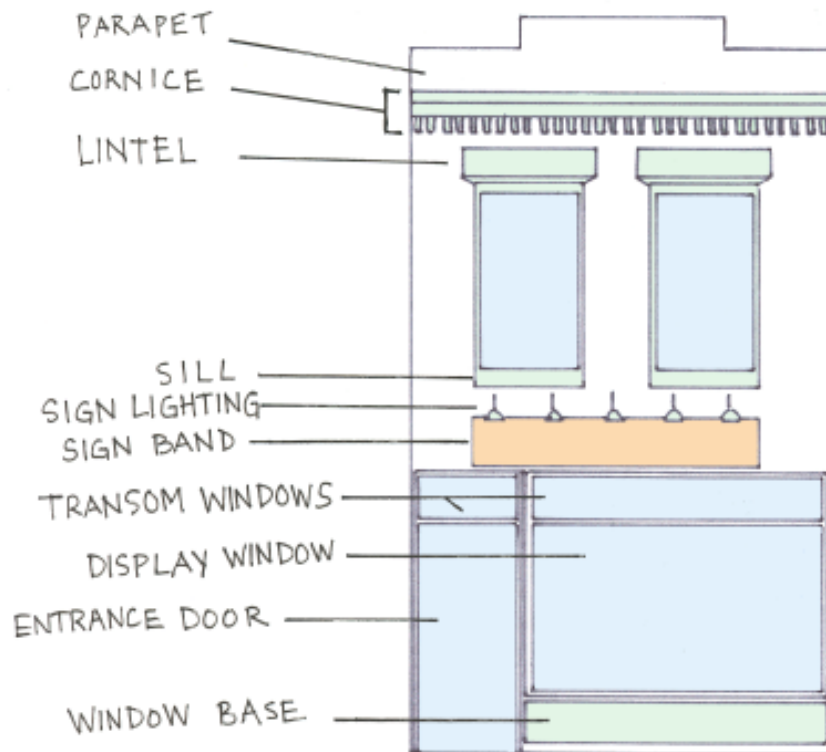


**This awning is too long and doesn't reflect fenestration.**

# Architectural Details

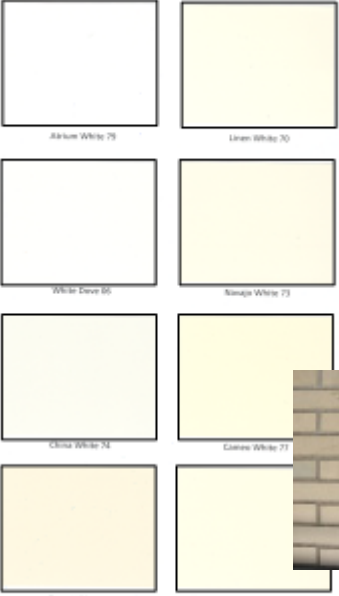
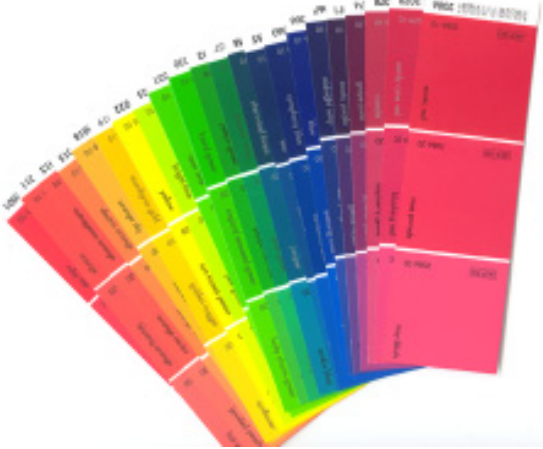
**Intent:** To restore architectural details that contribute to place identity and pedestrian-oriented environments.

**Guideline:** Building renovations of historic structures should restore architectural details of cornices, lintels, parapets, area arches, chimneys, windows, doors, and iron work of the original building as appropriate and feasible. If false facade materials have been applied, renovation should seek to uncover original building materials as feasible. If the building is not a historical structure, renovations should seek to utilize architectural detail that will contribute to visual interest for the pedestrian (see *Facade - General* for standards related to historic buildings and infill construction.)




# Color

These two color palettes are extremes that should be *avoided* as facade colors.

This palette of greys and cremes can be too bland for a business district.



This palette can be too loud.

Consider using rich earthy tones for brick facades.



Consider brighter, more saturated colors for awnings and trim.



**Not Recommended:** Colors in the neon palette and white palette are discouraged. Painting a building the same color as the adjacent building is discouraged. Crème, beige, and taupe are discouraged, but can be interesting if the building has two of the following compensatory characteristics:

1. Architectural detail that is of exceptional character. (Examples of this are: roof parapets that provide distinct identity, brick or iron work that demonstrates distinctive craftsmanship, and/or a distinctive cornice)
2. An accent color or trim that is painted with one or two complimentary colors
3. A colored awning
4. Potted plants or landscaping immediately next to the façade that fills in a minimum of 20% of the façade
5. Stained glass window work

**Not Recommended**

# Color

**Intent:** To encourage varied but harmonious use of color.

Paint color, architectural detail, and signage create the first impression of a business and therefore should be chosen carefully. Colors that are muted do not activate the streetscape. Pastels, beiges and whites create a sleepy serenity that is not desirable in a commercial district. Colors that are overly bright are difficult to look at, compete for attention, and detract from the harmony of the streetscape. When choosing paint colors for your building, it is advisable to peruse brochures at the paint store that provide pictures of professionally matched paint color combinations.

**Guideline:** Use complimentary colors. If you do choose a muted color like beige or a pastel, consider pairing it with one and preferably two accent colors for the trim. To create interest for the pedestrian and establish a distinct identity for a business, color should be used to set one business apart from its adjacent neighbor. Therefore, it is recommended that no two buildings directly next to one another be painted the same color. Generally, building facades will look better with an earthy or rich tone (see examples on following pages,) trim and awnings will stand out more with more colorful applications (see below.) Beige or bland pastels do little to activate retail streets; therefore more saturated colors are recommended.



**Adding color to this building would help to activate Downtown.**



**These three storefronts have used complimentary colors to activate the streetscape.**



**This storefront may be a bit much, but "beauty is in the eye of the beholder."**

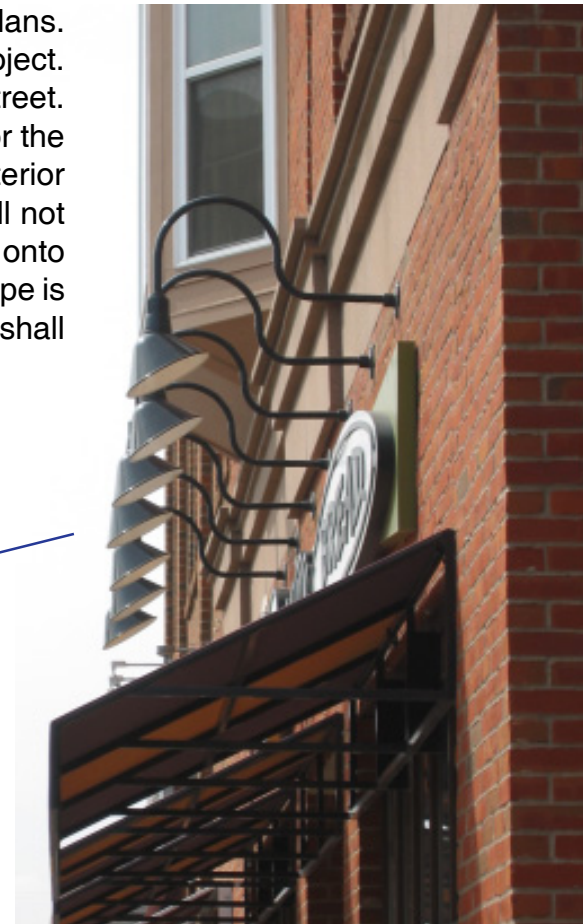
## Lighting

**Intent:** To provide a safe and “alive” Downtown atmosphere in the evening; to encourage lighting that does not disrupt adjacent business functions.

**Guideline:** Lighting adds special character to Downtown’s nighttime appearance. It can illuminate building entrances, pedestrian walkways, signage, or floodlight special buildings. Incandescent lighting is encouraged to provide maximum warmth of light. Neon lighting for sign purposes is encouraged. Fluorescent lighting is discouraged.

**Standard:** A coordinated lighting plan shall be submitted for review with building plans. Lighting fixtures shall be concealed or integrated into the overall design of the project. All outdoor lighting shall be directed away from adjoining property and from the street. Bare incandescent light bulbs shall not be permitted in view of adjacent property or the public right-of-way except decorative holiday lights having 7.5 watts or less. No exterior lighting shall exceed 0.4 foot candles at the lot line. Non-city light standards shall not exceed 20’ in height and shall include full cutoff luminaires so as not to shine onto adjacent properties or produce glare. Additional lighting on the main city streetscape is not allowed except to illuminate signs, doorways, or inside storefronts. The City shall ensure that streetscape lighting is well maintained.

**Light is projected downward onto the sign band.**



## Rooflines and Parapets

**Intent:** To enhance pedestrian experience of streetscape by promoting pedestrian scale and visual interest; to promote individuality and distinct identity that differentiates the individual stores from one another.

The roofline creates visual interest, can help strengthen the identity of your storefront, and sometimes acts as a civic landmark.

**Guideline:** Differentiating the roofline of one building from another is encouraged. It is recommended that buildings adjacent to one another not utilize the same roofline treatment. Roof edges should be related in size and proportion to adjacent buildings.

**Standard:** Infill buildings shall be flat or gently pitched and hidden behind flat parapet walls. Roof edges must be related in size and proportion to adjacent buildings. Infill buildings shall include extended parapets and architecturally detailed cornices to create a distinct edge when viewed against the sky.

**These buildings have distinctive rooflines.**



## Architectural Materials

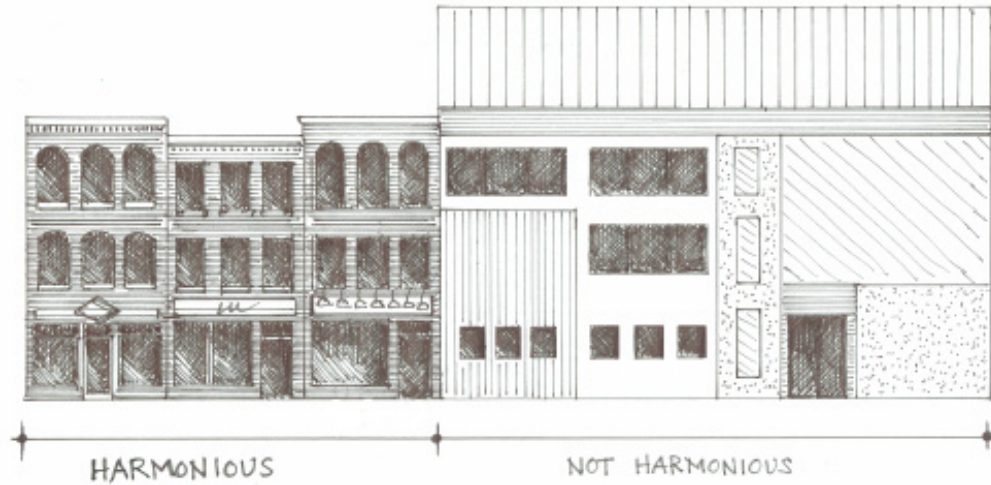
**Intent:** To ensure design authenticity and integrity and prevent hodge-podge appearance that can disrupt the unity of a place; to ensure that hodge-podge design will not cause visual blight, maintenance difficulties, or negatively impact property values.

Like architectural details, architectural materials contribute to creating visual interest for the pedestrian and harmony along the streetscape. Certain architectural materials can also contribute to the effort to restore place identity within North St. Paul's Central Business District. A harmonious materials palette can help establish unity, visual harmony, rhythm, and cohesion of physical form, desirable qualities in a pedestrian-oriented environment.

**Guideline:** An infill building and façade should be composed of earthy materials that have a pleasant and comfortable feeling. All infill facades that are visible to the pedestrian should be 100% brick with the exception of architectural detail and fenestration, which should use a complimentary but contrasting material to allow the detail to be visually interesting. The chosen primary building material and color should be consistent throughout the façade and not change from section to section of the building. Numerous building materials can disrupt the integrity of the building design and create a hodge-podge appearance that undermines the integrity of the building design and visual legibility of the structure. Numerous materials also may become a maintenance problem. The materials palette should include a singular base material for the façade and complimentary materials for fenestration, trim work, and architectural detail.

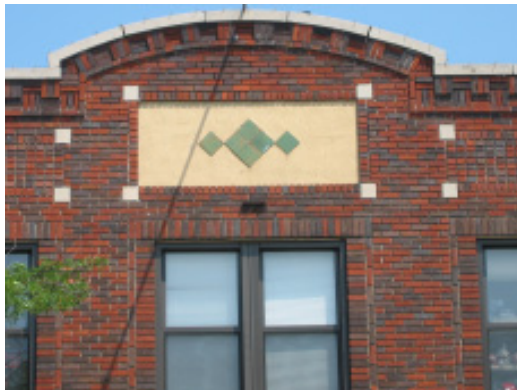
Changing brick colors, textures, and materials as part of a carefully developed architectural design is acceptable; however, using numerous materials in an attempt to diminish bulk or mass of a building, or make a building look like more than one building is not recommended. If a building is so big that several materials are used to attempt to "hide" the mass, consider this as a cue that the mass is too great and does not fit with the desired character of Downtown. This technique is somewhat like an elephant trying to hide behind a daisy. False veneers, and non-sustainable materials are not allowed on infill buildings or renovations. Unacceptable facades are also those using shiny materials (for example: shiny metals, polished stone, or plastics.) For an infill building, window and door trim should be appropriately colored painted wood or anodized metal.

**Standard:** With the exception of fenestration, architectural detail, and trim work, all facades that are visible to the pedestrian shall be comprised of at least 50% brick material. A complimentary brick, block (but not concrete,) painted wood, anodized metal or natural stone must be used as trim work, accent material, and/or architectural detail. If wood is used, it must be weatherproofed and not subject to damage caused by heavy use or exposure. Wood must be limited to trim and cornice work and must be maintained. Examples of unmaintained wooden structure includes flaking or peeling paint, faded stain, rotted areas, or cracked or broken areas. Unacceptable facade materials are those using unsustainable or imprinted veneers; synthetic, or shiny materials (example: unpainted metal, polished stone, shiny plastics, efface, etc.)

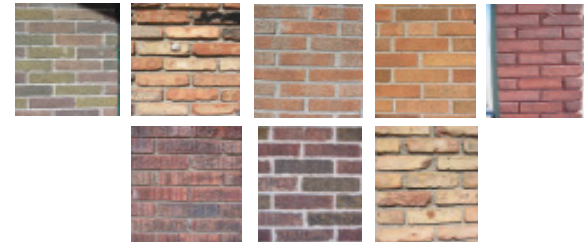


**The developer above chose harmonious materials, and divided the facade into bays to reduce the perceived mass of the building.**

**The developer of the building to the right above used numerous materials apparently in an attempt to reduce the massiveness of this condo development (this is not recommended.)**



**This building is constructed of a consistent brick for the facade and compatible materials for fenestration and architectural detail.**



**The warm colors of the brick materials above are compatible with the desired character of Downtown North St. Paul. The gray and beige colors and patterns below are not compatible with the desired character of Downtown.**



## Signs - General

**Intent:** To permit safe, effective, efficient and aesthetic means of communication using signs, while recognizing the need to maintain an attractive and appealing appearance of property in the city; to insure adequate identification of each business while minimizing the tendency for signs to compete for attention with excessive wording or flashy visual stimulation; to insure expression of a business' individuality while at the same time ensuring architectural harmony, compatibility and unity of the streetscape.

**Guidelines:**

- Three dimensional and appropriately sized projecting signs are encouraged.
- Permanently painted window signage is encouraged if compatible with the architecture of the building.
- Wall signs constructed of metal, engraved stone, inlaid tile, or painted wood are preferred.
- Signs should not cover architectural detail on the building, windows, or cornices.
- Use type fonts and colors that are legible.
- Use signage that is consistent with other signage on the commercial corridor, and that compliments a building's architecture.
- Signs should be professionally fabricated.
- Neon lights are allowed, but avoid flashing lights and bare bulb lights.
- Avoid signs on a white or neon colored background.

**Standards: (This is a general list. For more information on specific types of signs, refer to the individual sections on each sign type and the North St. Paul Code of Ordinance.)**

- If flags (with the exception of national, state, county or city flags) or banners are hung from a building, they must be included and reviewed as part of the building sign plan. Banners may not hang for a period greater than 30 days. Banners that rip, tear, or become dirty prior to 30-day limit must be removed. Decorative flags may be part of a permanent sign plan provided there is a maintenance schedule and it is observed.
- Painted window signs must not consume more than 20% of the window area.
- Neon signs are permitted on the building exterior and in display windows as long as they do not cover more than 20% of the window area or building exterior.
- If the sign is illuminated at night, the source of the light must be directed at the sign and must not be visible to pedestrians, motorists, or neighboring residents or businesses.
- Projecting signs must not be greater than 12 square feet and have a maximum width of three feet.
- Fiberglass and plastic signs are not allowed.
- Rooftop signs are not allowed unless used in a parapet fashion (see rooftop signage.)
- Maximum space between signage and building face is 1 foot.
- Temporary signage cannot consume more than 20% of the window area and must be maintained.
- Internally illuminated signs (not including neon or theater signs) are not allowed.

**Guideline:** Three dimensional and appropriately-sized projecting signs are encouraged. Permanently painted window signage is encouraged if painted on the inside and if it is compatible with the architecture of the building. Wall signs constructed of metal, engraved stone, inlaid tile, or painted wood are preferred. Use of the sign band on traditional store-fronts is encouraged.

**Use the sign band on a building**



**Recommended**

**Avoid signs that are too busy or wordy**

**Not recommended:**

- Temporary signage.
- Signage that blocks the window.
- Sale signs lasting more than 1 week.
- Signs that are excessively wordy.
- Too many signs.



**Not Recommended**

# Sandwich Boards

**Intent:** To encourage expression of the unique identity and character of individual businesses; to prevent an overabundance of these signs; to maintain clear pedestrian walkways.

**Guidelines:** Merchants are encouraged to create tent signs that uniquely express the nature of their business. The average size of a tent sign is 24 in. wide x 48 in. tall.

**Standards:** Sandwich boards or tent signs are encouraged, but must:

- Not be white or neon-colored
- Not be larger than 30” wide and 48” high or smaller than five square feet
- Not be more than **one** per business
- Leave a minimum of six feet of clear walkway on the sidewalk
- Not be left on the sidewalk overnight



**Some examples of unique sandwich boards**





**This business has too many signs, and they are all white and lack visual interest.**

**This sign is too big (as tall as a person and can block views.)**



**This sign is too small and could be a tripping hazard.**



**Avoid white**

**Not Recommended**

# Projecting or Hanging Signs



**Intent:** To improve the ability of a merchant to advertise the location of his/her business to a person walking on the sidewalk; to make sure the sign provides sufficient clearance for pedestrians passing on the sidewalk; to prevent signs from blocking second story windows and keep them in proportion with store fronts; to ensure maintenance for a safe pedestrian environment.

Pedestrians walking on the sidewalk are not able to see signs that are flush with the front of a building without stepping out toward the street or waiting until they are directly in front of the store; therefore, to improve visibility of a business, signage perpendicular to the sidewalk is encouraged.

**Guideline:** The sign should be in proportion to the storefront and should have lettering that is easily read. Signs may be hung from awnings, but make sure there is at least eight feet of clearance from the bottom of the sign to the sidewalk. Signs should not block or obliterate architectural or design details, windows, or cornices of the building upon which they are placed.

**Standard:** Projecting signs must be no greater than 12 square feet, have a maximum width of three feet, and cannot extend more than five feet above the first story. The sign must have at least eight feet of clearance between the sidewalk elevation and the lowest portion of the sign. Maximum distance between sign and building face is one foot. The sign must be in proportion with the building and the architecture of the building.



# Monument signs and Billboards

Monument signs and mobile monument signs are not allowed in the Central Business District except for civic uses.



*Monument Sign*



Billboards and rooftop billboards are not allowed.

# Rooftop Signs

**Intent:** To provide an alternative means for signage for one story buildings; to use rooftop signs in a parapet-like fashion to increase the visual height of a building (to enhance the sense of place in Downtown;) to prevent visual blight caused by competing advertising, signage that is out of scale and proportion with the character of Downtown, and from poor maintenance of rooftop signs.

**Guideline:** If your building is one story and you would like your signage to be more visible, consider use of a rooftop sign that is no taller than three feet from the top of the roofline of your building.

**Standard:** Rooftop signs are allowed within the following limitations: Rooftop signs may only be placed upon one-story buildings. The purpose of the rooftop sign must be to identify the business atop whose roof the sign is located. The sign may only include the name of the business, a tagline, and/or a logo if any. Signs placed upon the roof for the purpose of advertising are not allowed. The sign must be integrated and compatible with the overall design and color scheme of the building or facade renovation plan and must be owned by the building owner or business owner occupying the storefront space. The sign may not be taller than three feet from the roofline and the separation of the sign from the roofline to the bottom of the sign may not be greater than one foot.



**The rooftop sign in the photo to the left is acceptable.**



**The one in the photo to the right is not.**

## Decorative Flags, Pennants, and Balloons

**Intent:** To encourage individual expression and advertising that adds motion to the street.

**Guidelines:** Flags and pennants are encouraged; however, use of balloons is discouraged.

**Standards:** Decorative flags are allowed, but limited to a maximum of two per business. They must not interfere with pedestrian or vehicular sight-lines or mobility. In the case of grand openings (the initial commencement of business) and special events, balloons shall be allowed for the week (maximum ten days of the grand opening.) For special events, a permit shall be issued for ten day periods, but limited to three times per year per business. A separate occasion begins no sooner than 30 days after the expiration of the previous approval and removal of the previous sign, whichever is longer.

## Temporary Signs

**Intent:** To ensure signage is constructed of quality materials and that temporary signs don't become permanent fixtures.

**Standards:** Temporary signs announcing any public, charitable, educational or religious event or function must be located entirely within the premises of that institution and set back no less than ten feet from the property line. The sign may be up to an area of 30 square feet. Such signs shall be allowed no more than 21 days prior to the event or function and must be removed within three days after the event or function. Event signage is limited to three times per year. A separate occasion begins no sooner than 30 days after the expiration of the previous approval and removal of the previous sign, whichever is longer. Signs may be illuminated in accordance with the restrictions set forth in the North St. Paul Code of Ordinance book. If building mounted, these signs shall be flat wall signs and shall not project above the roof line. If ground mounted, the top shall be no more than six feet above ground level.

## Street Banners

**Intent:** To prevent temporary banners from becoming permanent fixtures.

**Standards:** Street banners advertising a public or civic event may be displayed 21 days prior to the event and three days after the event. The number of annual civic events are not limited.

**Note:** None of the guidelines or standards apply to national, religious, or local governmental flags. All freedoms provided by federal and/or state law shall take precedence over this document.

# PART III - APPENDICES

## Appendix A

Glossary	72 - 76
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## Appendix B - Permit Applications and Supplemental Forms

- Section B:1 - Building Permit Application
- Section B:2 - Signs
- Section B:3 - Facade Renovations
- Section B:4 - New Construction Phases I - IV

## Appendix C - Checklist

- Section C:1 - Design Review Application Checklist

# ***APPENDIX A***

# Glossary

## **Architectural detail**

Architectural elements that are integral to the design of the building. Details are often integrated into the architectural design for a decorative, symbolic, or functional purpose and add visual interest to the building façade.

## **Architectural materials or palette**

The materials that are used in the construction of a building.

## **Blank Wall**

A wall that lacks doors or windows.

## **Civic esteem/pride**

The collective self-respect, dignity or honor of the citizens of a location such as a town, city or community.

## **Community ecosystem**

The complex network of all the elements that must interact to comprise a society.

## **Cornice**

(See page 55)

## **Façade**

The facade of a building is the exterior wall usually at the front of the building. The word comes from the French language meaning face or frontage and is used by architects to refer to the principle frontage of a building that is often given the greatest design consideration. Well-designed facades have a carefully considered pattern and placement of door and window openings (fenestration) and architectural details such as cornices, sills, lintels, parapets, and trim work.

## **Fenestration**

Door and window openings in a façade.

## **Frontage**

The portion of a building facing a street.

**Heat island**

A geographical area that is heated by the sun and stays warmer than surrounding areas because of the presence of black tar, rooftops, or other materials that retain heat.

**Historically designated building**

A building that has been placed on the historical register.

**Historically significant building**

A building identified as being historically important, but not designated as such by historical registration.

**Impervious surface**

A surface that does not allow anything to filter through it. This term is generally used in reference to parking lots, rooftops, and other landscaping materials that do not allow rainwater to infiltrate into the ground.

**Infill development**

The creative recycling of vacant or underutilized lands in cities and suburbs

**Lintel**

(See page 55)

**Mixed-use development/building**

A development/building that mixes uses such as housing, retail, entertainment, and office spaces all within one building or within a small geographical area.

**Monoculture**

A culture made up of only one demographic of people or crop of plants.

**Parapet**

(See page 55)

**Pedestrian-friendly atmosphere/environment**

An environment that provides safe surfaces and areas for people to walk; physically non-taxing topography and reasonable distances to walk; visually interesting elements to look at; and surroundings that don't adversely affect the human senses, but rather provide them with elements that please the human senses.

**Pedestrian character**

An area with pedestrian character is designed such that it has areas of visual interest, safe street crossings and low speed traffic, well lit signs and walkways, appropriate scale and mass of buildings, planted areas, and comfortable, clean seating areas.

**Pedestrian-oriented environment**

An environment designed with the pedestrian in mind. (See pedestrian character.)

**Pedestrian scale**

Environmental scale that does not overwhelm the human being spatially or in regard to human endurance or pace. The five-minute walk or 1/3 of a mile is often referred to as the acceptable maximum distance most people will walk. In regard to spatial proportion, building size and façade detail should be designed in proportion to the human body and walking pace rather than to be viewed from a speeding auto.

**Place identity**

The consistent character of a place that creates the singularity of that place at all times or in all circumstances; the elements and conditions that make a place someplace not found anywhere else; the distinguishing characteristics that set it apart from other places, make it unique or distinct from another place.

**Public domain/Public realm**

Public land that belongs to everyone, but that no one person owns. This would include our sidewalks, streets, public schools, civic buildings, parks, town squares, etc.

**Public right-of-way**

Areas that are publicly owned where the public is allowed to pass.

**Rehabilitate/rehabilitation**

To return a building to functional use.

**Re-develop / re-development**

To make improvements, enhancements, or enlargements on existing properties.

**Remodel**

To refashion, modernize, amend, alter, or otherwise modify an existing structure.

**Restore/restoration**

To refurbish or return a building to its original state.

**Revitalize/revitalization**

To refresh, invigorate, rejuvenate or regenerate.

**Runoff**

(See *storm water runoff*)

**Seatwall**

A wall constructed such that a person could easily sit on a portion of it.

**Small-town atmosphere**

An atmosphere that has the characteristics of a small town. These characteristics have to do with smaller scale buildings, a variety of stores on a main street, convenient services often provided by local merchants, safe and walkable streets, and well-maintained public areas. (See page nine in this manual.)

**Sprawl**

Haphazard real estate expansion around the outskirts of a city or along major highway corridors. It is generally a default result of a lack of form-based comprehensive planning or from zoning ordinances that necessitate a region's inhabitants to drive to fulfill daily needs for housing, work, food, education, etc.

**Storm water runoff**

Water that runs overland and into storm sewer systems after a rainfall.

**Streetscape**

The environment or surrounding components that make up a setting, scene, or location centered around a street. These components include, but are not limited to: the sidewalk, benches, lighting fixtures, street trees, plantings, parking configurations, building frontages, etc.

### **Streetwall**

Just like a room has walls, so does a street. The walls of the street are formed by the structures that line the street, most often buildings.

### **Sustainable development**

Development that meets the needs of today while ensuring that the needs of future generations will be met as well.

### **Transom window**

(See page 55)

### **Transparent storefront window**

A display window at the front of a store that can easily be seen through to the interior of the store.

### **Trim**

(See page 55)

### **Visual interest (items of)**

Architectural details, art, window displays or other visible items that catch the eye of passersby without causing visual alarm by being excessively flashy or competing for attention via loud color, light, or rapid movement.

### **Welcoming appearance**

Visible details that make one feel welcome such as: open doors, open gates, windows that can be easily seen through, a clear path, lighted walkways, welcome signs, etc.

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# ***APPENDIX B***



**COMMUNITY SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT**

**BUILDING PERMIT**

2400 Margaret Street N., North St. Paul, MN 55109  
Ph: 651-747-2407 Fax: 651-747-2435  
www.ci.north-saint-paul.mn.us

**PERMIT NUMBER**

<b>JOB ADDRESS:</b>		<b>Block:</b>		
<b>LEGAL DESCRIPTION:</b>	<b>Lot:</b>	<b>PIN:</b>		
<b>Addition:</b>				
Property Owner	Name	Phone		
	Mailing Address	Cell Phone		
Contractor	Company	License No.		
	Contact Person	Phone		
	Address	Cell Phone		
	City	State	ZIP	
<b>JOB VALUATION:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>ESTIMATED</b>	<b>Is there an unimproved driveway on this property? YES NO</b>	
<b>WORK DESCRIPTION:</b>		<b>COMPLETION DATE:</b>		
<b>INDICATE SQUARE FOOTAGE:</b>	Basement:	Attached Garage:	Height of SFD	
	1 <sup>st</sup> floor:	Detached Garage:	Height of Det. Gar.	
	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor:	Deck:	Other:	
<b>Acknowledgement and Signature:</b> Issuance of a permit or approval of plans and specifications shall not be construed to be a permit for, or an approval of any violation of any of the provisions of the MN State Building Code or any other ordinance or jurisdiction.				
<b>Print Name:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>			
<b>SEPARATE PERMITS REQUIRED FOR Electrical Mechanical Plumbing Sprinklers Water Sewer Signs</b>				
		<b>APPROVALS</b>		
Building Inspection Fee		DATE	SIGNATURE	
Plan Review Fee				
Fixed Fee Permit Cost		Building Official		
State Surcharge		Engineer		
State License Check Fee				
Drain Tile System Fee		Fire Chief		
Electric Service Fee				
Curb Deposit		REMARKS:		
Metro SAC Charge				
Metro SAC Credit				
Deferred Assessments				
Other		* For inspection call: 651-747-2407		
<b>TOTAL FEE</b>		* BEFORE DIGGING – Call Gopher State One at 651-454-0002		
		* Property Owners are responsible for locating property lines.		
<b>RECEIPT DATE</b>		* DO NOT Disturb Natural Drainage		

Section B:1

Finance Code 1.3301

By mail

In person

Date Received In Office:



Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Name of Applicant's Business \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address Where Sign Will Be Located: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Code

**New Sign Installation Sign Type:**

- Façade/Wall     Painted Window     Projecting     Rooftop (Variance Required)\*
- Sandwich Board\*     Directional     Awning Appliqué     Hanging from Awning
- Temporary     Banner     Other \_\_\_\_\_

\*Rooftop signs that are not for the specific purpose of identifying the business are not allowed.  
\*Sandwich Boards do not need a permit if they are within the guidelines.

**Plans and Specifications**

**Written Description:** On a separate piece of paper, please explain the method of construction or attachment to the building.

**Photos:** Include two (2) photos, one of the proposed sign location including the adjacent properties, and one close-up of the proposed location of the sign.

**Drawings:** Include two (2) scaled drawings, one showing the sign with dimensions and the second showing the location of the sign in reference to your building and the adjacent properties. Include building façade dimensions. Please indicate the wattage, type and color of lights if any, and details of any light shields or shades. (Please note that flashing lights are not permitted and light must not shine onto adjacent properties or the street.)

**Please answer the following:**

- |                      |                 |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                      | <b>Sign 1</b>   | <b>Sign 2</b>   |
| 1.) SIGN DIMENSIONS: | _____ Ft.       | _____ Ft.       |
|                      | x _____ Ft.     | x _____ Ft.     |
|                      | = _____ Sq. Ft. | = _____ Sq. Ft. |

2.) TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGN SURFACES: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section B: 2**

- 3.) SETBACK FROM PROPERTY LINES (measure from the closest point to property line):  
FRONT = \_\_\_\_\_ FT.    SIDE = \_\_\_\_\_ FT.    REAR = \_\_\_\_\_ FT.
- 4.) HEIGHT OF SIGN: \_\_\_\_\_ Ft. above grade    \_\_\_\_\_ Ft. above first story
- 5.) IS AN ELECTRICAL PERMIT REQUIRED? (Will the sign need new electrical work for lighting?)  
 Yes     No

**For Changes to Existing Signs (the photo requirement applies)**

Please reply to the following:

- I am ONLY changing the lettering on the sign.     Yes     No
- I will be using the same color(s) as previously used.     Yes     No
- I will be using the same sign surface.     Yes     No
- Is the existing sign surface in compliance with the code?     Yes     No
- Will the renovated sign be in compliance with the code?     Yes     No
- The lettering size on the sign will stay the same.     Yes     No
- The lighting of the sign will remain the same.     Yes     No
- If you answered "No" to any of the above, please explain here:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Recommendation to the City Council:**  
(AREA BELOW FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Commissioners' Initials: \_\_\_\_\_



# Supplement to Building Permit Façade Renovation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Name of Applicant's Business or Development \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address Where  
Façade will be Renovated: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Code

**Photo Requirements**

A minimum of **TWO (2)** clear photographs is required. One should show the area of the building to be renovated and the other should be a *zoomed-out* photo of your *entire* building and the one to the right and the one to the left. If there is an empty lot next to your building, try to zoom-out to capture neighboring buildings.

**Materials Requirements**

Applicants are required to bring samples of façade materials and color swatches to the review.

**Brief Letter Describing the Project**

Please write a concise letter describing the project. The letter should include statements that explain the following:

1. Why the renovation is being undertaken and what part of the building façade is being renovated (ie., lower portion of façade facing 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, etc.)
2. Describe how the renovation will contribute to the pedestrian atmosphere and connect the business entrance to the sidewalk.
3. Describe how the *scale* of the proposed renovation relates to surrounding development, particularly buildings directly adjacent to it. Is it harmonious with its neighbors in height, width, and architectural detail?
4. Describe how the position and size of windows, doors, awnings, seating areas, and *architectural detail relate to the pedestrian*.
5. Describe how the project integrates *sustainable building* practices if any.
6. Describe how the renovation will *enhance the unique local assets*, or preserve the character, place identity, or “small-town” atmosphere of Downtown North St. Paul.

(The **GUIDING PRINCIPLES** section of the North St. Paul Downtown Design Manual is a good reference when writing this letter.)

## Supplement to Building Permit Façade Renovation

**Drawing Requirements:**

On separate pieces of paper, please include two (2) *scaled* drawings. The first one must show the plan for the building façade to be renovated with dimensions clearly labeled. The second drawing must show the plans for façade renovation relative to the adjacent properties. You may trace over a photograph of all the buildings to do the second drawing. Please include the photo with your submittals.

**Please answer the following:**

- 1.) What material will you be using to renovate the façade? (please clearly describe the material, its color, texture, manufacturer, and method of application)
- 

2.) Is this the same material that is on the rest of the façade?  Yes  No

3.) What color will the façade be? (attach swatch – write FAÇADE on the back)

4.) What color will the trim be? (attach swatch – write TRIM on the back)

5.) What color will the door be? (attach swatch – write DOOR on the back)

6.) Will there be any special architectural detail such as tile work, special brick design, cornice work, or parapet work?  Yes  No

7.) Will transparent windows and doors make up a minimum of 70% of the façade?  Yes  No

8.) Will the renovation be compatible with the rest of the façade?  Yes  No

9.) Will the renovation be compatible with neighboring buildings?  Yes  No  
If so, how? \_\_\_\_\_

10.) Will you be using a commercial grade door?  Yes  No

11.) Will the door be 70% transparent glass?  Yes  No

12.) Will you be adding a sign band?  Yes  No

13.) Will the door be flush with the façade when you are done?  Yes  No

14.) Will you be using any opaque, smoked, or tinted glass?  Yes  No

15.) Will you be filling in or covering up any existing doors or windows?  Yes  No



## Supplement to Building Permit Façade Renovation

- 16.) Will you be reducing the window size or door opening to a size smaller than currently existing?  Yes  No
- 17.) Will you be removing any existing architectural details?  Yes  No
- 18.) Will you be moving a door or a window?  Yes  No
- 19.) Does this building have a veneer layer on the facade?  Yes  No  
If yes, will you be removing it?  Yes  No
- 20.) Will you be removing any lighting elements?  Yes  No  
If yes, will you be replacing them and with what? Include wattage, light type and color, direction of lighting, and details of any light shields or shades.
- 21.) Will lighting fixtures be compatible with the architectural style of the building?  Yes  No
- 22.) IS AN ELECTRICAL PERMIT REQUIRED? (Will the sign need new electrical work for lighting?)  Yes  No

If you answered "Yes" to any of the questions in the gray area above, please explain here:

### Recommendation to the City Council: (AREA BELOW FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY)

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Commissioners' Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# **Supplement to Building Permit Façade Renovation**



**New Construction**  
**Design and Historical Review Application**  
**Part I: Concept Plan Review**  
**(Part 1 of 4 Required Reviews)**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Name of Applicant's Proposed Development \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address Where  
Development will be located: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City

**Brief Letter Describing the Project**  
*(Please provide eight (8) copies of your narrative.)*

Please write a concise letter describing the project concept in regard to site design and building design. The letter should include statements that explain the following:

1. Describe the project concept.
2. Describe how the project will connect to and relate to the public domain, ie., trails, sidewalks, parks, civic buildings, schools, etc.
3. Describe how the development will contribute to the pedestrian atmosphere.
4. Describe how the *scale* of the proposed development will relate to surrounding development, particularly buildings directly adjacent to it. Is it harmonious with its neighbors in height, width, and architectural detail?
5. Will the project be mixed-use and what business functions and/or housing demographic will be served by the development?
6. Describe the conceptual orientation of building entrances and exits, parking and auto circulation, proposed service areas, pedestrian circulation and the overall project *as it relates to the pedestrian*.
7. How will the project integrate *sustainable building* practices?
8. How will the project *enhance the unique local assets*, or preserve the character, place identity, or "small-town" atmosphere of Downtown North St. Paul?

(The **GUIDING PRINCIPLES** section of the North St. Paul Downtown Design Manual is a good reference when writing this narrative.)

**Concept Drawing:** The concept drawing must show the entire site with the proposed location of structure(s.) site circulation, parking, landscaping, service areas, etc. *(Please provide eight 11 X 17 copies of the concept drawing. Base map must be to scale!)*

**Photo Requirement:** Photos of the development site are required. Make sure photos show the adjacent buildings and those across the street or behind the development. Photos from all cardinal directions are required.

Design and Historical Review Commission recommendations are on the reverse side of this page.





**New Construction**  
**Application For Design and Historical Review**  
**Part II: Schematic Design Review**  
**(Part 2 of 4 Required Reviews)**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Name of Applicant's Proposed Development \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address Where  
Development will be located: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City

**Brief Letter Describing the Project**

*(Please provide eight (8) copies of your letter. If this letter was written for the concept design and has not changed, there is no need to write a new letter.)*

If this project is beyond the concept phase and was not reviewed, a letter must be provided that describes the project concept in regard to site design and building design. The letter should include statements that explain the following:

1. Describe the project concept.
2. Describe how the project will connect to and relate to the public domain, ie., trails, sidewalks, parks, civic buildings, schools, etc.
3. Describe how the development will contribute to the pedestrian atmosphere.
4. Describe how the *scale* of the proposed development will relate to surrounding development, particularly buildings directly adjacent to it. Is it harmonious with its neighbors in height, width, and architectural detail?
5. Will the project be mixed-use and what business functions and/or housing demographic will be served by the development?
6. Describe the conceptual orientation of building entrances and exits, parking and auto circulation, pedestrian circulation and the overall project *as it relates to the pedestrian*.
7. How will the project integrate *sustainable building* practices?
8. How will the project *enhance the unique local assets*, or preserve the character, place identity, or "small-town" atmosphere of Downtown North St. Paul?

(The **GUIDING PRINCIPLES** section of the North St. Paul Downtown Design Manual is a good reference when writing this narrative.)

**A Project Update:** Please write a short letter describing the progression of this project since the conceptual design phase. If the project was approved with certain conditions, please address how each of the conditions of approval has been met.

**Photo Requirement:** Photos of the development site that show the adjacent buildings and those across the street or behind the development are required. Photos from all cardinal directions are required.  
(Please disregard if photos have already been submitted.)

Section B:4(b)

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SCHEMATIC DESIGN REVIEW.doc

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**New Construction**  
**Application For Design and Historical Review**  
**Part III: Design Development Review**  
**(Part 3 of 4 Required Reviews)**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Name of Applicant's Proposed Development \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address Where  
Development will be located: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City

**Brief Letter Describing the Project**

*(Please provide eight (8) copies of your letter. If this letter was written for an earlier design phase and has not changed, there is no need to write a new letter.)*

If this project is beyond the concept phase and was not reviewed, a letter must be provided that describes the project concept in regard to site design and building design. The letter should include statements that explain the following:

1. Describe the project concept.
2. Describe how the project will connect to and relate to the public domain, ie., trails, sidewalks, parks, civic buildings, schools, etc.
3. Describe how the development will contribute to the pedestrian atmosphere.
4. Describe how the scale of the proposed development will relate to surrounding development, particularly buildings directly adjacent to it. Is it harmonious with its neighbors in height, width, and architectural detail?
5. Will the project be mixed-use and what business functions and/or housing demographic will be served by the development?
6. Describe the conceptual orientation of building entrances and exits, parking and auto circulation, pedestrian circulation and the overall project as it relates to the pedestrian.
7. How will the project integrate sustainable building practices?
8. How will the project enhance the unique local assets, or preserve the character, place identity, or "small-town" atmosphere of Downtown North St. Paul?

(The GUIDING PRINCIPLES section of the North St. Paul Downtown Design Manual is a good reference when writing this narrative.)

**A Project Update:** Please write a concise letter describing the progression of this project since the conceptual design and/or schematic phase. If the project was approved with certain conditions, please address how each of the conditions of approval has been met.

**Photo Requirement:** Photos of the development site that show the adjacent buildings and those across the street or behind the development are required. Photos from all cardinal directions are required.  
(Please disregard if photos have already been submitted.)

Section B:4(c)

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9/14/2006





**New Construction**  
**Application For Design and Historical Review**  
**Part IV: Final Plan Review**  
**(Part 4 of 4 Required Reviews)**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Name of Applicant's Proposed Development \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address Where  
Development will be located: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City

**Brief Letter Describing the Project**

*(Please provide eight (8) copies of your letter. If this letter was written for the concept design and has not changed, there is no need to write a new letter.)*

If this project is beyond the concept phase and was not reviewed, a letter must be provided that describes the project concept in regard to site design and building design. The letter should include statements that explain the following:

1. Describe the project concept.
2. Describe how the project will connect to and relate to the public domain, ie., trails, sidewalks, parks, civic buildings, schools, etc.
3. Describe how the development will contribute to the pedestrian atmosphere.
4. Describe how the scale of the proposed development will relate to surrounding development, particularly buildings directly adjacent to it. Is it harmonious with its neighbors in height, width, and architectural detail?
5. Will the project be mixed-use and what business functions and/or housing demographic will be served by the development?
6. Describe the conceptual orientation of building entrances and exits, parking and auto circulation, pedestrian circulation and the overall project as it relates to the pedestrian.
7. How will the project integrate sustainable building practices?
8. How will the project enhance the unique local assets, or preserve the character, place identity, or "small-town" atmosphere of Downtown North St. Paul?

(The GUIDING PRINCIPLES section of the North St. Paul Downtown Design Manual is a good reference when writing this narrative.)

**A Project Update:** Please write a concise letter describing the progression of this project since the conceptual design phase. If the project was approved with certain conditions, please address how each of the conditions of approval has been met.

**Photo Requirement:** Photos of the development site that show the adjacent buildings and those across the street or behind the development are required. Photos from all cardinal directions are required.  
(Please disregard if photos have already been submitted.)

Section B:4(d)

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FINAL PLAN REVIEW.doc

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**New Construction**  
**Application For Design and Historical Review**  
**Part IV: Final Plan Review**  
**(Part 4 of 4 Required Reviews)**

**Drawing Requirements:**

*(Please provide eight 11 X 17 copies of the final scaled drawings and materials listed below.)*

- Final site plan
- Final landscape plan
- Final building plan
- Section Drawings
- Section / Elevation Drawing(s)
- Perspective(s) that show the new development or infill building in context of other buildings existing on the site
- Architectural detail drawings
- Final plans for any artwork
- Final circulation plan
- Final grading plan
- Final lighting plan
- Final sign plan
- Final parking plan
- Final façade materials (bring samples to your review)
- Final color palette (bring swatches)
- Final outdoor ground plane materials list (bring samples to your review)
- Final window and door material (bring samples)

**Recommendation to the City Council:**

(AREA BELOW FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY)

- Approve Project**
- Denial of Project**
- Approve With Certain Conditions:**

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Commissioners' Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# ***APPENDIX C***



- The “Building Permit Application” form is completed and signed by the property owner and the applicant or representative. (This is in Appendix Section B:1.)
- The *appropriate* “Design Review Supplement to the Building Permit Application” is attached. There are supplemental application materials required for:
  - Signs (Appendix Section B:2)
  - Building façade renovation (Appendix Section B:3)
  - New Construction/Development (Four Reviews are Required: Phase I – IV found in Appendix Section B:4)
- The appropriate forms are submitted to the Community Services Department at City Hall **ten (10)** days prior to the next scheduled Design and Historical Review meeting. (DHRC meets the second Tuesday of each month at 4:00.)
- All materials listed on the building permit application ***Design and Historical Review supplemental application*** have been submitted with the building permit application form (this includes the “Design Review Letter,” **SCALED** drawings, photos, and any other required materials.)
- The Review Application Letter:** In supplements where requested, this letter is required before approval of a new construction will be given by the Design and Historical Review Commission. Each of the eight (8) questions (Q.) listed in the supplemental application(s) should have corresponding answers (A.) numbered in the letter. For example:
  - Q. #1.) Describe the project concept.
  - A. #1.) The project concept is to build a three-story building with offices on the second floor and retail bays on the first floor. *This narrative should continue as appropriate....*If a particular question does not apply, please write N/A next to the number in your letter. The “Design Manual” may be a helpful resource for you in answering these questions.

**\*For new development, drawings must be submitted at the following phases:**

- Concept phase* (Concept diagram base map must be to scale.)
- Schematic plan phase* (Schematic plan must be to scale.)
- Design development* (Plan, section, and elevation drawings must be to scale)
- Final phase* (Construction documents should be presented.) If all prior phases have been successfully reviewed, there *should* be no surprises or hold-ups when final phase drawings are reviewed.

**Design development and final phase drawings:**

- The **site plan** shows exterior boundary lines of the property indicating easements, dimensions and lot size (a survey may be required.)
- The plans show the location, elevation, size, height, dimensions, materials, and proposed use of all buildings and structures (including walls, fences, signs, lighting, and screening devices) existing and intended to be on the site.
- Scaled **plan, section, elevation, and/or section/elevation drawings** of the building are included as required.
- The **landscape plan** has a list all existing trees on the site, giving type and location and any other significant plant material. It also delineates any existing significant natural features such as rock outcroppings or water courses; proposed landscaping includes quantity, location, varieties and container sizes for plants, and it is to scale.
- The **parking plan** is to scale and shows location, number of spaces and dimensions of off-street parking spaces, loading docks and maneuvering areas; pedestrian, vehicular and service points of ingress and egress; driveway widths; and distances between driveways.
- Proposed **grading plan** (for sites having over 5-foot grade differential) shows direction and path of drainage on, through and off the site and indicates any proposed drainage channels or facilities.
- Plans show the required and existing street dedications and improvements such as sidewalks, curbing and pavement.
- This application includes all items requested in the supplemental application forms. Other items or data as requested by the DHRC have been provided. This application has been prepared as complete as possible to allow the reviewing commissions to make the required findings for approval of the specific type of application.

**IMPORTANT!**

ALL DRAWINGS **MUST** BE LABELED APPROPRIATELY AND TO SCALE!



To	Date
Executive Director and Authority Members	September 10, 2024

**Agenda Placement # VI.B**  
EDA Discussion and Action Items

**Subject**  
Facade Improvement Program

**Background/Facts**  
See attached draft of Facade Improvement Program and Application

**Recommended Action**

**Attachments**

1. Facade Program
2. Facade Application

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel Winek, Finance Director



## City of North St. Paul Economic Development Authority

### Façade Improvement Program

## Purpose

The City of North St. Paul recognizes the important role that a vibrant, Downtown plays in the city's vitality. Strategic planning efforts of the Economic Development Authority (EDA) identify Downtown Revitalization as an important objective. A well-maintained and attractive public realm reflects community pride and contributes to urban vitality. Building façades are critical elements of the public realm and in a Downtown District, the need for on-going maintenance is crucial to preserving a character and experience known to visitors of downtown North St. Paul. The Façade Improvement Grant Program aims to strengthen, revitalize and sustain the Downtown by encouraging and assisting property owners to make improvements to buildings within the Downtown area. By providing a financial incentive, the program will stimulate private investment and support stabilized and increased property values. The EDA is funding this program over the course of three years. Each year, the EDA will review the program outcomes and make adjustments as necessary.

## Who can apply for a matching grant?

The program extends to all commercial buildings along 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Margaret Street to Highway 36 to Sixth Street, except for the postal office (Program Area). Building owners and commercial tenants (with property owner's approval) of commercial properties within the project area can apply for a Façade Improvement Grant. For-profit and not-for-profit entities are eligible to apply, as long as the grant is used for a commercial building.

## How much are the matching grants?

Grants will pay for 50% of the total project costs, up to a maximum grant amount of \$20,000 per property. Grant funds must be matched 1:1 with private dollars. Owners of multiple properties can apply for separate grants for each property, as long as the cumulative grant amount awarded does not exceed the maximum grant amount. The minimum grant amount is \$5,000 (\$10,000 total project cost). Total façade program grant amount is limited to \$200,000.

This is a reimbursement program. Applicants must complete all improvements and pay for the total project cost or total private match, prior to receiving a reimbursement check from the City.

## When are grants available?



## City of North St. Paul Economic Development Authority

### Façade Improvement Program

Applications will be accepted at any time throughout the year.

## What will the matching grant dollars pay for?

Façade Improvement Grants can pay for a variety of exterior building façade improvements. The work must be visible from a public street or sidewalk. The following types of improvements are eligible for grants:

- Restoration of exterior finishes and materials
- Masonry repairs and tuckpointing
- Exterior painting or re-siding
- Removal of architecturally inappropriate or incompatible exterior finishes and materials
- Repair or replacement of windows and doors (replacement must be architecturally appropriate)
- Contracted labor related to any of the above improvements, including design work for improvements that are to be completed (up to 25% of total project cost eligible)
- Other improvements similar in nature to the above
- Grant funds may be used to pay for materials

Some projects may require prior approval from the Historic Preservation Commission.

The City of North St. Paul requires permits for most of the eligible improvements listed above. For questions about permits, please contact the Community Development Department.

Community Development Department  
651-747-2407

## What will the matching grant dollars NOT pay for?

The following activities are not eligible for matching grants:

- Improvements already in progress or completed prior to contract approval



## City of North St. Paul Economic Development Authority

### Façade Improvement Program

- Improvements to a building interior, rear, or side not visible from a public street or sidewalk
- Improvements to non-commercial buildings
- Roofing
- HVAC systems, building mechanicals, or security systems
- Fencing (excludes decorative fencing as part of landscaping improvement)
- Parking areas
- Billboards, roof signs, or temporary signs
- Dynamic display or electronic message signs
- Nonconforming signs or awnings, other than to bring them into compliance with the Zoning Code
- Purchase or rental of tools and equipment, or for labor performed by the building or business owner, family members, employees, or any other person with a financial interest in the property or business.
- Any other improvement not deemed eligible

## Eligible properties

All commercial buildings along 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Margaret Street to Highway 36 to Sixth Street, except for the postal office.

## How do I receive a grant?

### Step 1: Meet program requirements

- The property is a commercial building along 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Margaret Street to Highway 36 to Sixth Street, except for the postal office is located in the program district.
- The property is up-to-date on all property taxes.
- All construction management is your responsibility.
- This is a reimbursement program; you must complete and pay for the private match for the work before the program administrator will issue a reimbursement check. See step 5 for further information.

### Step 2: Contact the Community Development Department



## City of North St. Paul Economic Development Authority

### Façade Improvement Program

Contact the Community Development Staff to set up a meeting to discuss your project. Historic buildings may require prior approval from the Historic Preservation Commission.

### **Step 3: Submit the application and agreement**

Submit the Façade Improvement Matching Grant Application and Participation Agreement to the program administrator, including:

1. A written description of the project, including drawings, before photographs of the building, and other supporting materials that accurately represent scope and intent of project improvements.
2. A contractor's bid that meet the following guidelines.
  - a. Matching grants may only be used for eligible costs as identified in this document.
  - b. If qualified to do so, you may perform the work yourself; however, grant funds can only be used to compensate for materials, not for labor or the purchase or rental of tools and equipment. Sweat equity labor includes that of a friend, relative, or anyone with a financial interest in the business or property.
  - c. Evidence that contractor is bonded and/or insured.
  - d. The EDA reserves the right to request a second bid from the applicant.

### **Step 4: Review and select grant**

Proposal review and grant selection will be conducted by Community Development Staff and the Economic Development Authority and will be evaluated through a competitive process. Selection will take into account the following:

- Total value of project
- Current conditions of building
- Aesthetics of finished work
- Available funds for grant
- Preference given to projects proposing structural repairs.

### **Step 5: Secure a signed copy of the application and participation agreement**

Secure a signed copy of the Façade Improvement Matching Grant application and participation Agreement from the program administrator after the project has been approved. The Participation Agreement authorizes you to proceed with the project.



## City of North St. Paul Economic Development Authority

### Façade Improvement Program

Before you begin, be sure to obtain all the necessary City permits for the project or ensure your contractor pulled the necessary permits.

Permit and taxes paid verification is required prior to grant disbursements.

### **Step 6: Complete the project and submit documentation**

Complete the project and submit documentation to the program administrator within 9 months of the date on the signed Participation Agreement. The program administrator will disburse to you or to your contractor the grant funds after they have received ALL FOUR (4) of the following items (if more than one contractor is used, you must submit all four items for each contractor):

1. Proof of completion by the City of North St. Paul Community Development Department. Staff will tour the property before and after the project to confirm project completion.
2. Final invoice from the contractor showing the total project cost.
3. Before and After Photographs highlighting the improvement project from the same vantage point.
4. Proof of payment paid to contractor in one of the following two forms. You should be totally satisfied with the work before paying.
  - a. A lien waiver - a statement issued by the contractor that advises the client that they, the contractor, (a) have been paid in full for the total project cost, (b) are satisfied with the compensation for the work they performed, and (c) waive their right to place any liens on the property for the work completed. (If there are significant material costs, we advise you to obtain a lien waiver from the materials supplier, advising that the contractor paid them in full.)  
OR
  - b. A cancelled check AND a signed receipt - if you only paid the matching funds (private match) portion of the contract and the contractor will wait for the final payment. You will need a copy of the actual cancelled check(s), returned to you by the bank you used to pay the contractor. Both the front and back of the check must be copied and must be made payable to the contractor for a minimum of the private match. You will also need a properly executed receipt, signed by an authorized officer of the contracting firm that includes the contractor's name, address, telephone number, and notation that a minimum of the private match was paid in full.



**City of North St. Paul Economic Development Authority**  
**Façade Improvement Program**  
**Application**

**Applicant contact information**

Business/organization name field type single line

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Property address

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Building owners

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Contact person

---

Contact title

---

Contact phone number

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Contact email address

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**Applicant information**

Is the building within the Program Area?

Yes

No



**City of North St. Paul Economic Development Authority**  
**Façade Improvement Program**  
**Application**

**Is the building commercial?**

\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_ No

**Is the building Historic?**

\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_ No

**Project description**

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**Amount of funds requested**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional description of proposed improvement**

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**City of North St. Paul Economic Development Authority**  
**Façade Improvement Program**  
**Application**

**Have you attached photos of current façade or areas to be improved?**

Yes

No

**Signature**

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**Date**

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To	Date
Executive Director and Authority Members	September 10, 2024
<b>Agenda Placement # VI.C</b>	
EDA Discussion and Action Items	
<b>Subject</b>	
EDA Project Updates	
<b>Background/Facts</b>	
See attached report on EDA Project Updates.	
<b>Recommended Action</b>	
N/A	
<b>Attachments</b>	
1. Project Updates Report 09-10-2024	

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Frandle, City Manager

# City of North St. Paul

## Economic Development Authority Report

From: Brian Frandle, Executive Director  
Meeting Date: September 10, 2024  
Agenda Item: Project Updates



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### A. ARTICLE NO. 7

Construction is well underway and the developers are right on track for their opening on December 1, 2024. A temporary leasing office is currently being set up on the NW corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Ave E and Margaret St N (2543 7<sup>th</sup> Ave E). Article No. 7 is now pre-leasing and offering hard-hat tours to prospective tenants.

### B. DELAWARE PLACE PLAT (2329 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE)

Doug Andrus of Andrus Built, LLC entered into a contract for private development with the City to build 10 townhouse units on the City-owned property at the NE intersection of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Delaware Avenue. A preliminary plat, planned unit development and rezoning application was submitted on March 26, 2024 for staff review. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposal on May 2 and the City Council approved on May 21. The Applicant has received approval from the City Council at their July 16, 2024 meeting for their final plat, final PUD, and stormwater management agreement. The property was purchased by Andrus Built, LLC on August 26. Next steps for this project include building permit applications and review.

### C. MARGARET STREET COMMONS

The City has received some interest for redeveloping the Margaret Street Commons site, located across Margaret Street from City Hall. Given the interest in the site from some local developers, the Planning Commission at their August 1, 2024 meeting directed staff to prepare a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for development proposals on the site. An RFP would allow for a fair and transparent process for the City to review proposals. Staff presented a draft RFP document to the Planning Commission on September 5, 2024. Based on their recommendation, the RFP will be presented to City Council for their review and consideration at their September 17, 2024 meeting.

### D. TACO BELL (FORMERLY OIL CAN HENRY'S)

A site plan was approved in the fall of 2023 to develop a Taco Bell at the site of the former Oil Can Henry's at 2371 McKnight Road N. Demolition of the building has occurred and construction is well underway. The project is expected to be completed in the fall of 2024.

### E. PINE TREE CENTER

Fire inspectors had some activity at Pine Tree Center within the last few weeks as it relates to code compliance with some people dumping debris on the north side of the building. That debris has since been cleaned up. The building is locked and secure. Buddy's Pizza Factory is still operating out of the building. The building is in the same condition as it was a year ago when a full fire inspection was done. The City's Code Compliance Department have learned from the son of the property owner that Buddy's Pizza Factory has a 6-month lease, and they may be out of the building by January 1, 2025. Code Compliance have also heard from the property owner that they may be submitting demolition permits to take the building down in 2025. Once vacant, they could either sell it as a vacant lot or come to the city with ideas of what to do for redevelopment. Staff note that no official action has been taken at this property, and this update is based on code compliance conversations with the property owner. Staff have since attempted to reach the property owner on multiple occasions but have not been successful in getting a hold of him.

## **F. EDA CONSULTANT**

Staff have reached out to Baker Tilly to learn more about potential consultant services for the EDA. Baker Tilly indicated that they would send information and details, however that information has not been sent and staff have not heard back.