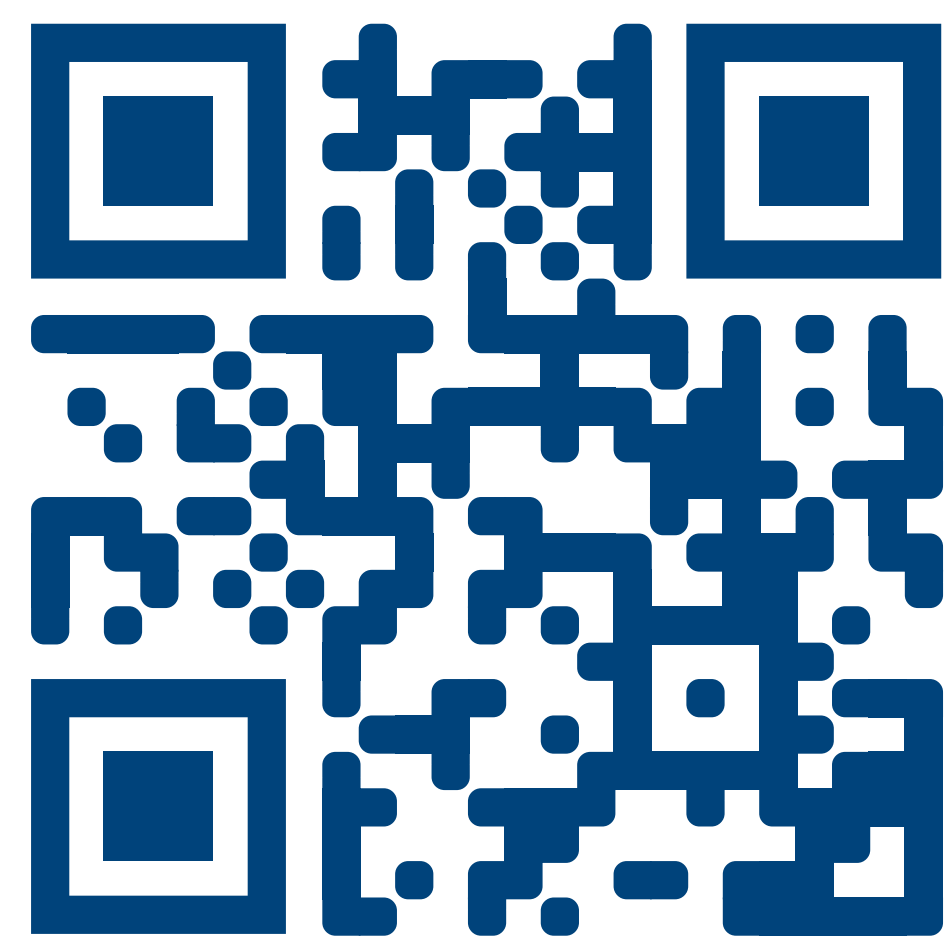


WELCOME TO THE

# RICE STREET CAPITOL AREA RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT OPEN HOUSE

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*Scan me!*

Share your vision for  
the future of Rice Street!

[ramseycounty.us/  
CapitolRiceStreet](https://ramseycounty.us/CapitolRiceStreet)

# Rice Street

## Capitol Area Reconstruction



### Project Summary & Goals

Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul are working in partnership with the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board to design and construct a community-driven vision for Rice Street near the Minnesota State Capitol from John Ireland Boulevard to Pennsylvania Avenue. This project is also being coordinated with Metro Transit's METRO G Line project.

### Project Goals



Improve pedestrian safety and access



Improve transit and multimodal operations



Improve vehicle safety and operations



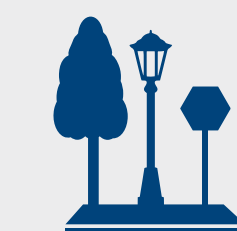
Design for existing and changing land uses



Improve bicycle safety and access



Develop mobility hub



Design an enhanced, sustainable public realm



Utilize partnerships and have a transparent process

### Timeline

WE ARE HERE

**Gather feedback on Rice Street**

August – December 2024

**Share potential designs**

January – December 2025

**Introduce recommended design**

January – December 2026

**Share construction timeline**

January – April 2027

**Construction start**

Anticipated start Spring 2027

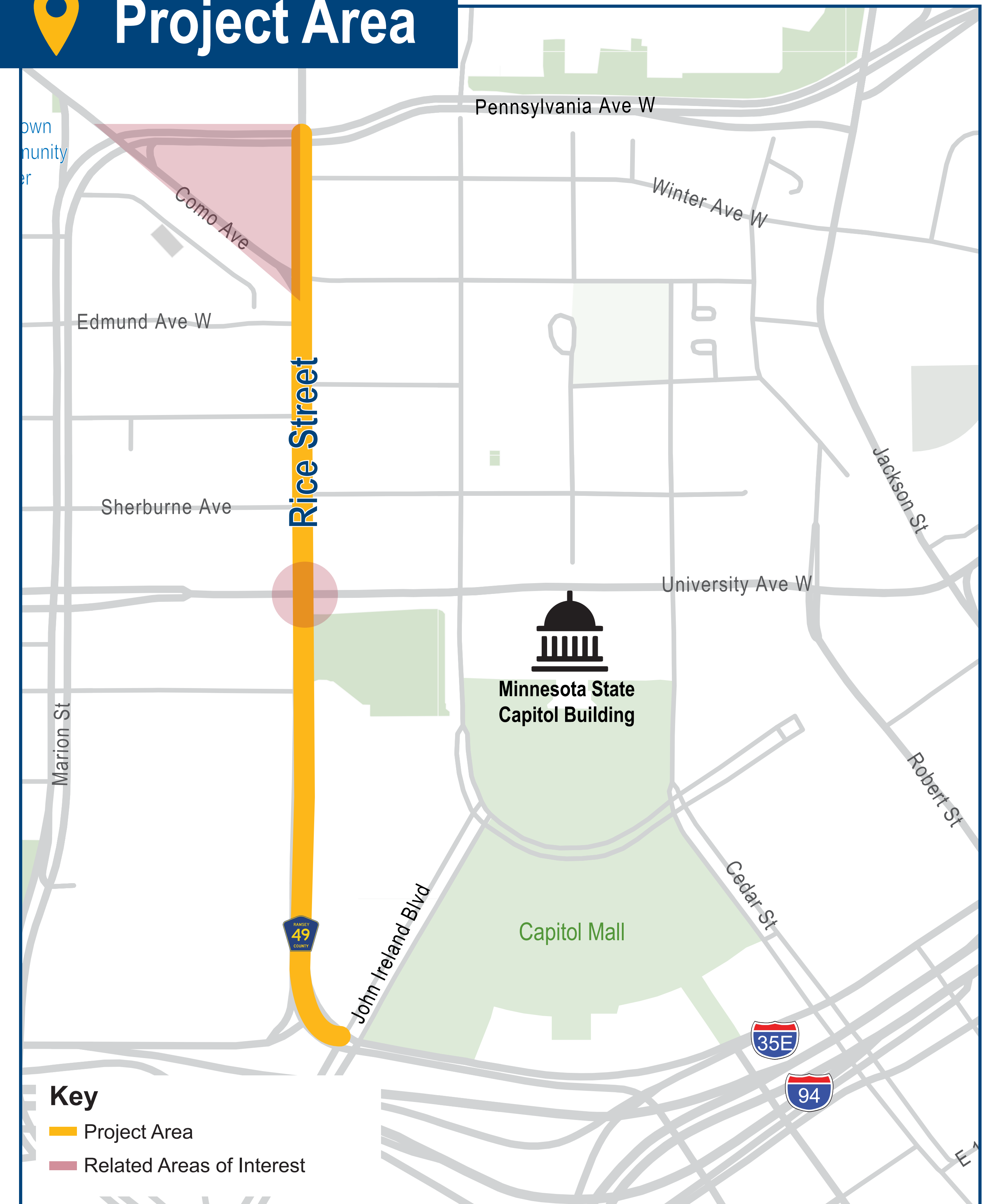


Share your vision for the future of Rice Street!

[ramseycounty.us/  
CapitolRiceStreet](https://ramseycounty.us/CapitolRiceStreet)

Scan me!

### Project Area



# Rice Street Capitol Area Reconstruction

## Count process

Parking Observations were conducted in October 2024. Utilization on this map shows parking on weekdays between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.

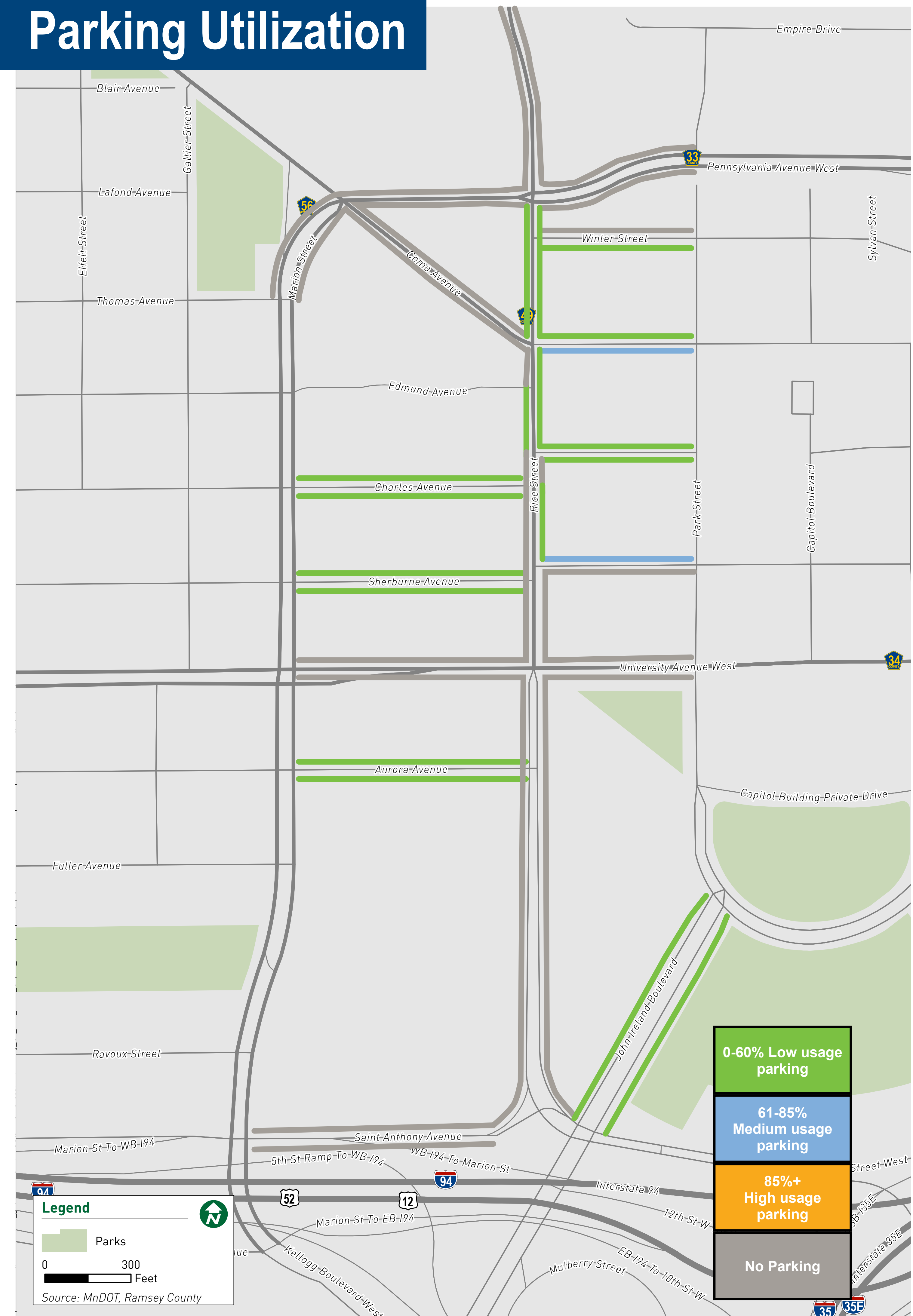
### *How many on-street parking spaces are on the corridor?*

- Approximately **262** parking spaces on Rice Street and side streets.
- Approximately **29** parking spaces on Rice Street.

### *How much parking is used here?*

- This study showed low parking utilization on most roadway segments where parking is allowed.
- The segments with the most parking usage were near storefront businesses located on Rice.

## Parking Utilization



# Rice Street

## Capitol Area Reconstruction

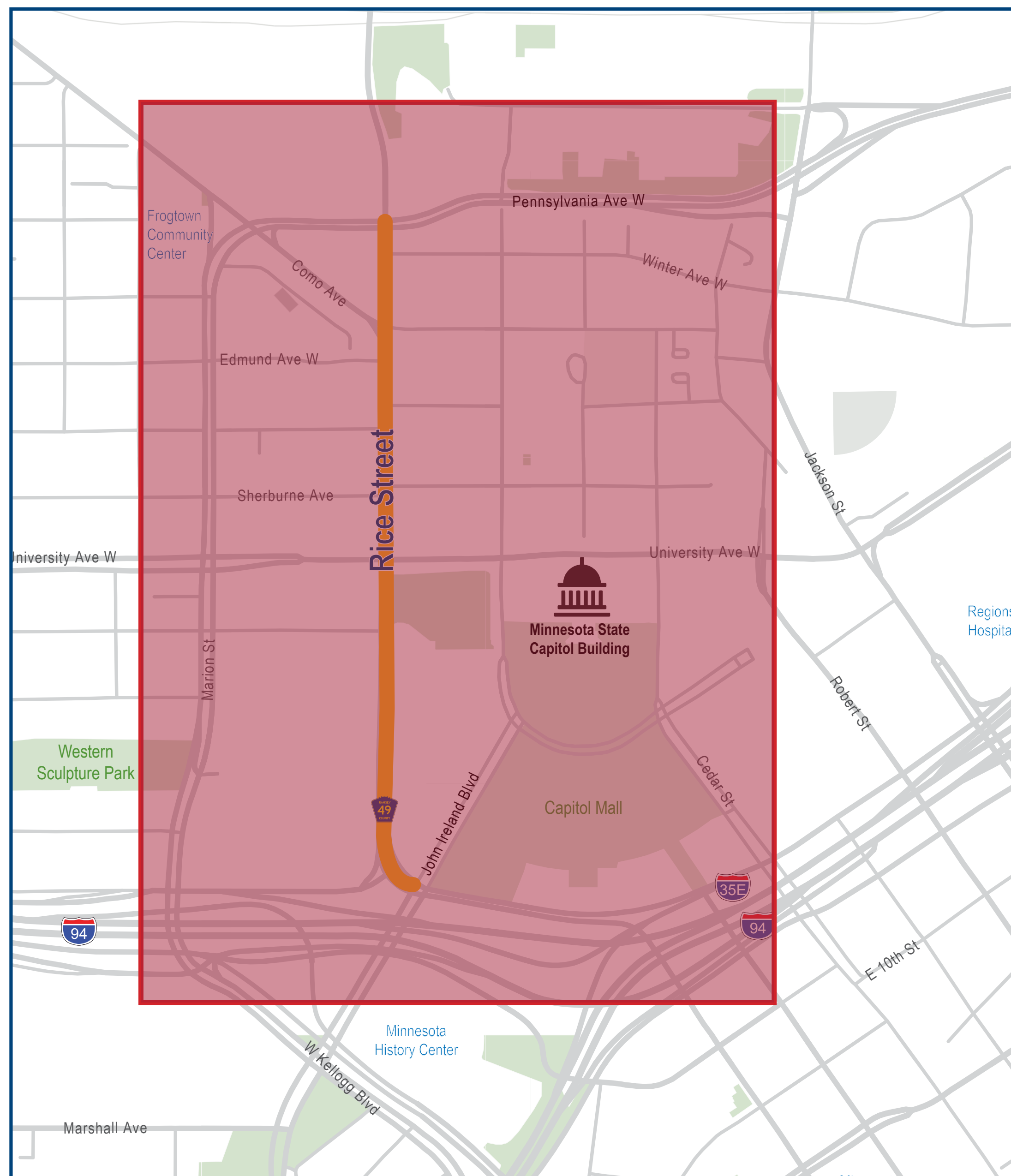


RAMSEY COUNTY



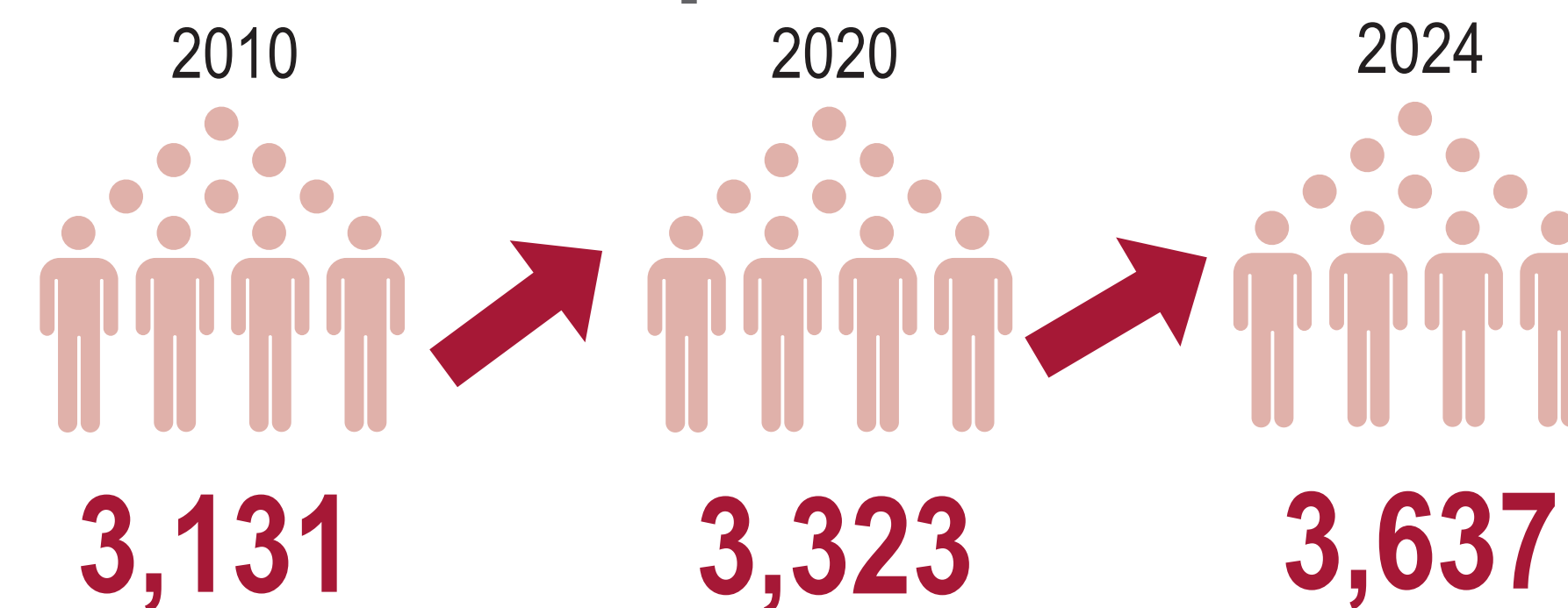
SAINT PAUL  
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### Project Area Demographics

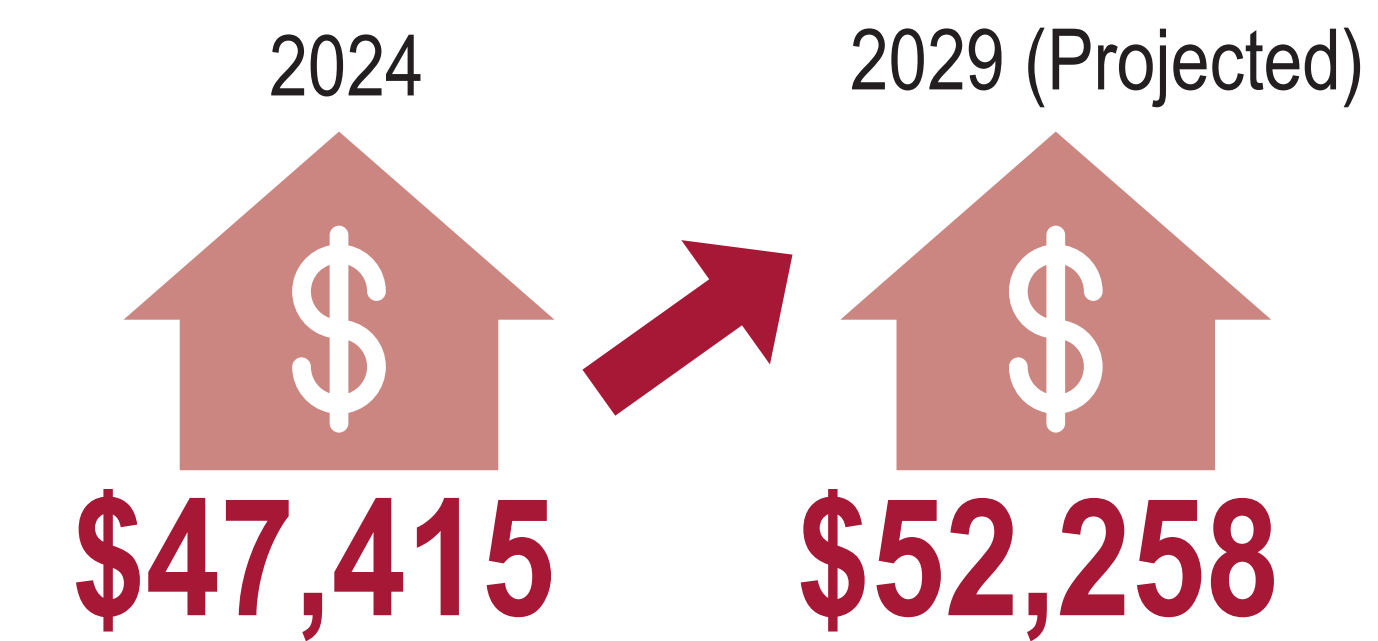


The study area is a diverse community, representing a range of race, ethnicity, age, income, and tenure.

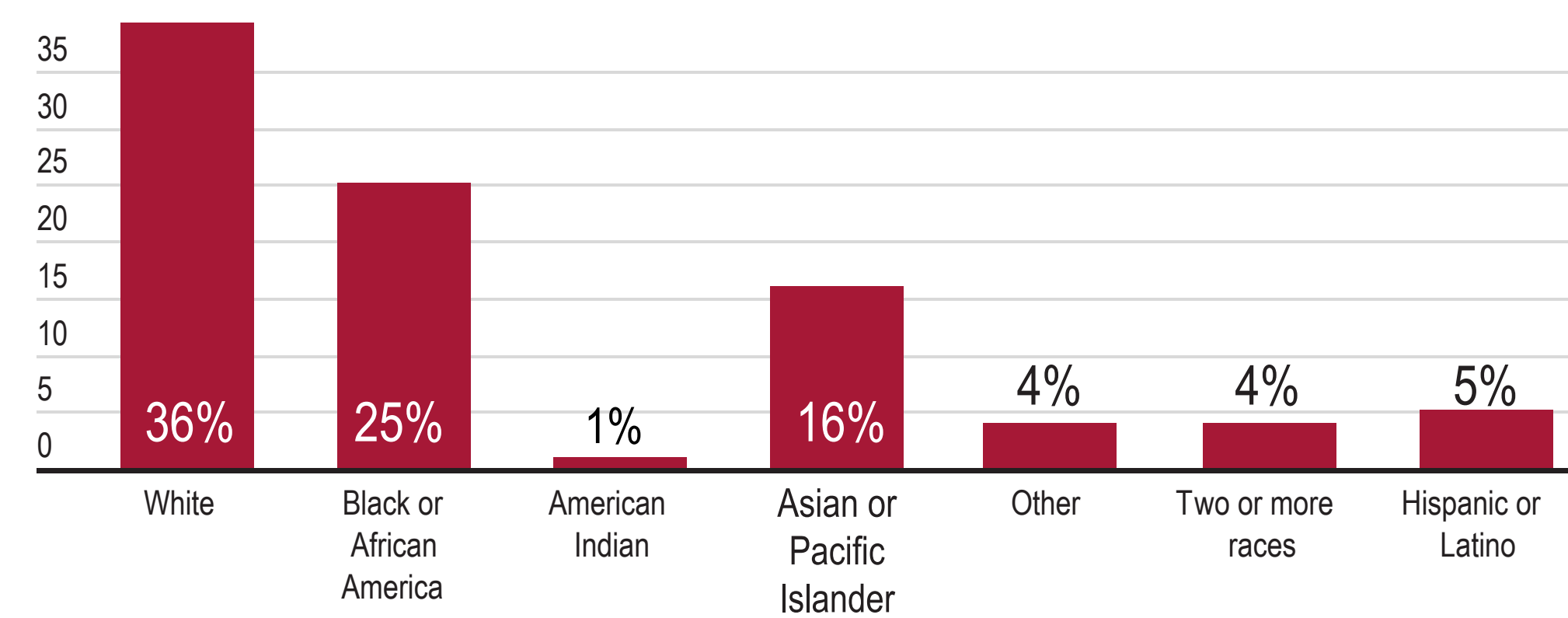
### Population



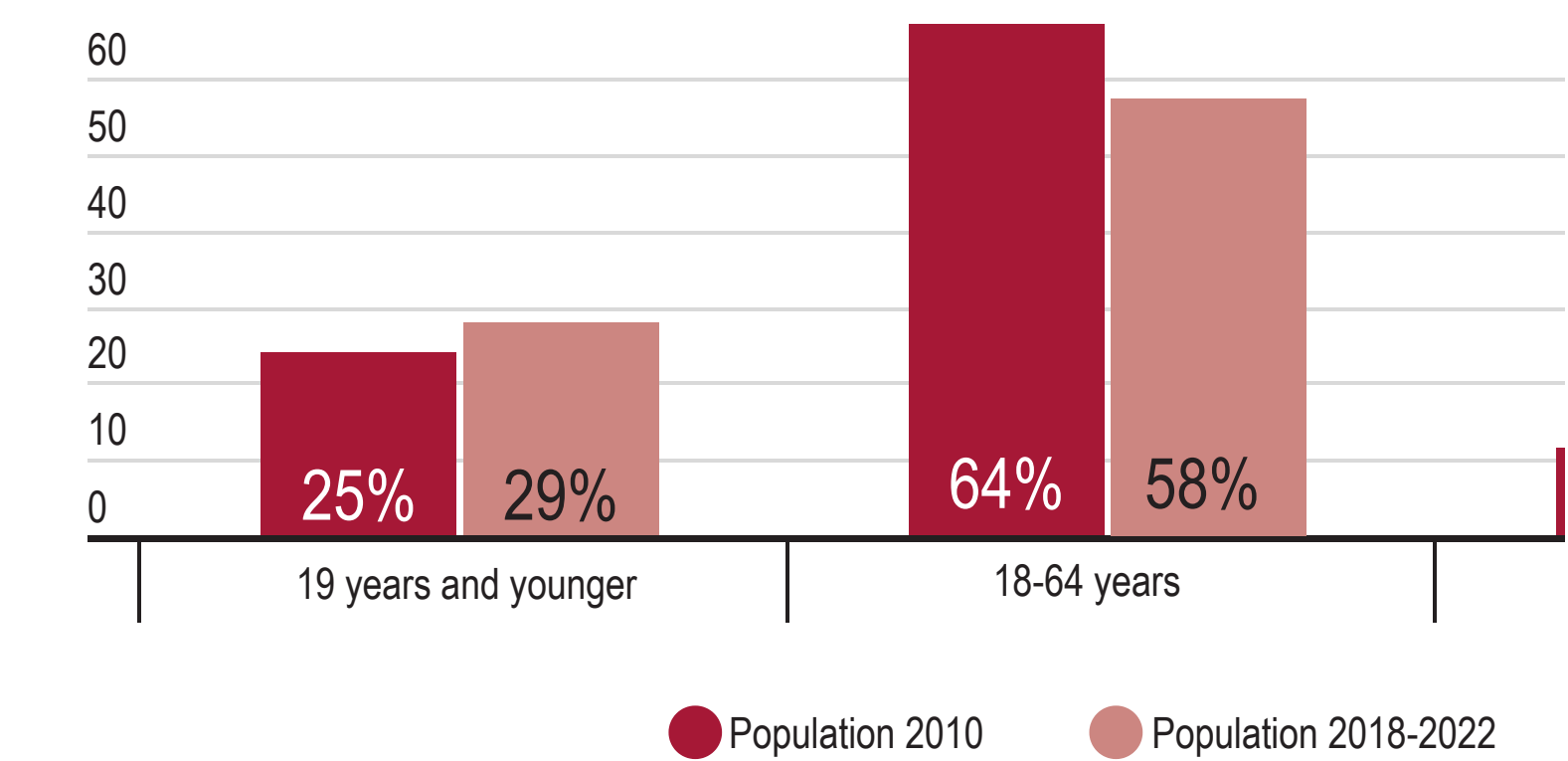
### Average Household Income



### Population by Race and Ethnicity



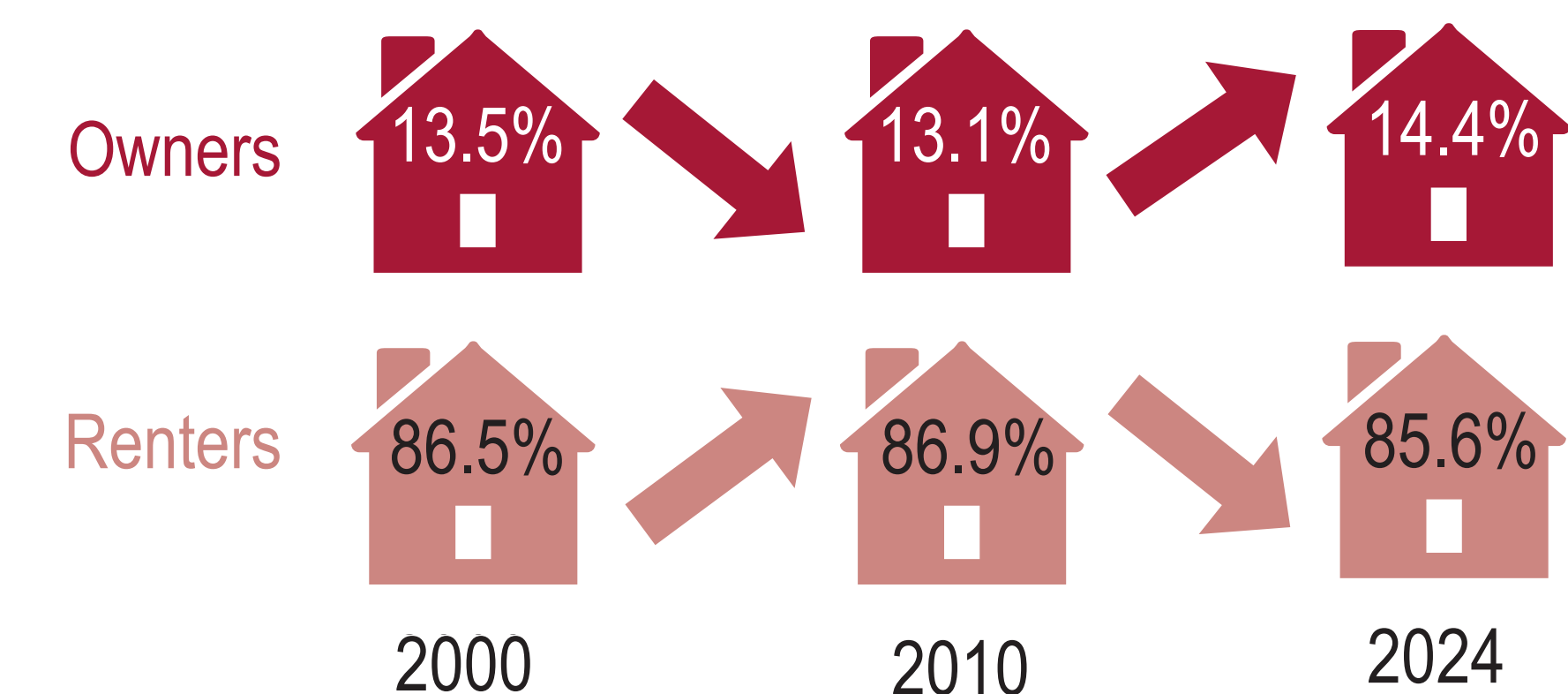
### Population by Age



### Households by Income 2022

Range	Percent
<\$35,000	56%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	8%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	13%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	10%
\$100,000 +	12%

### Households by Tenure

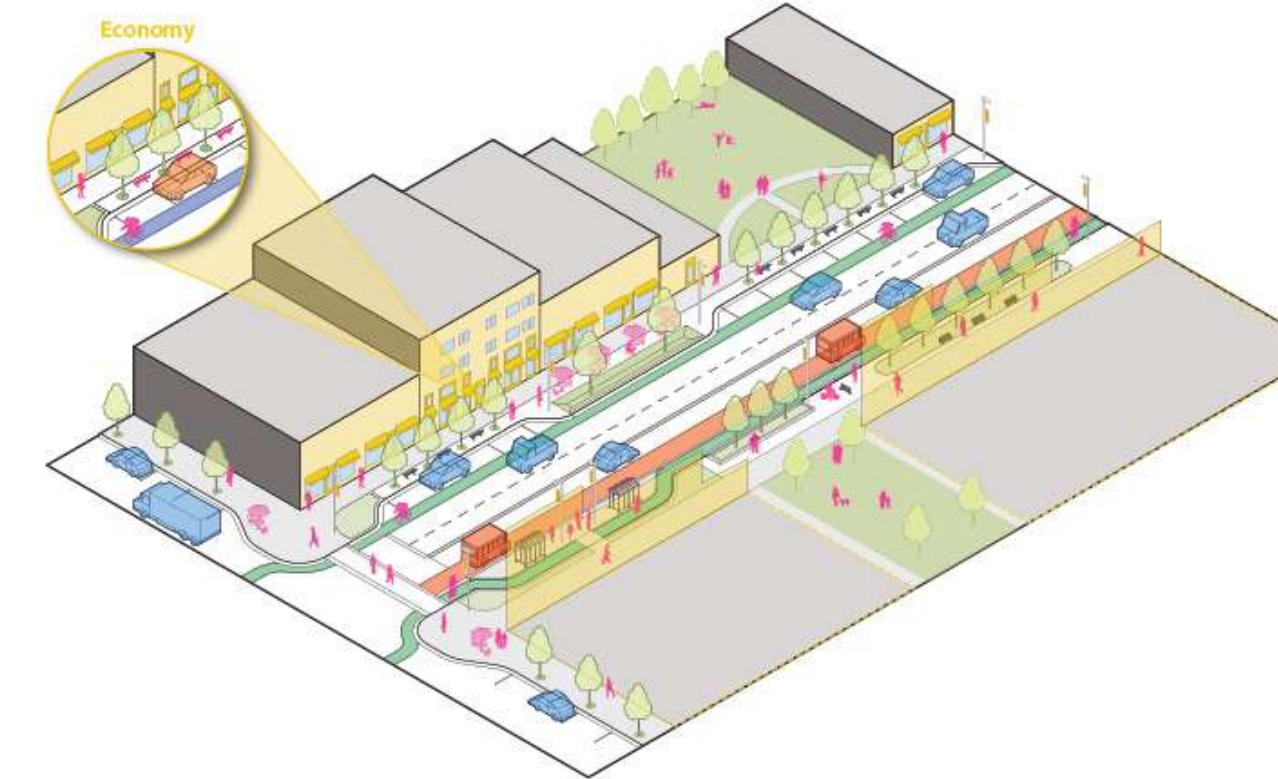


# Rice Street

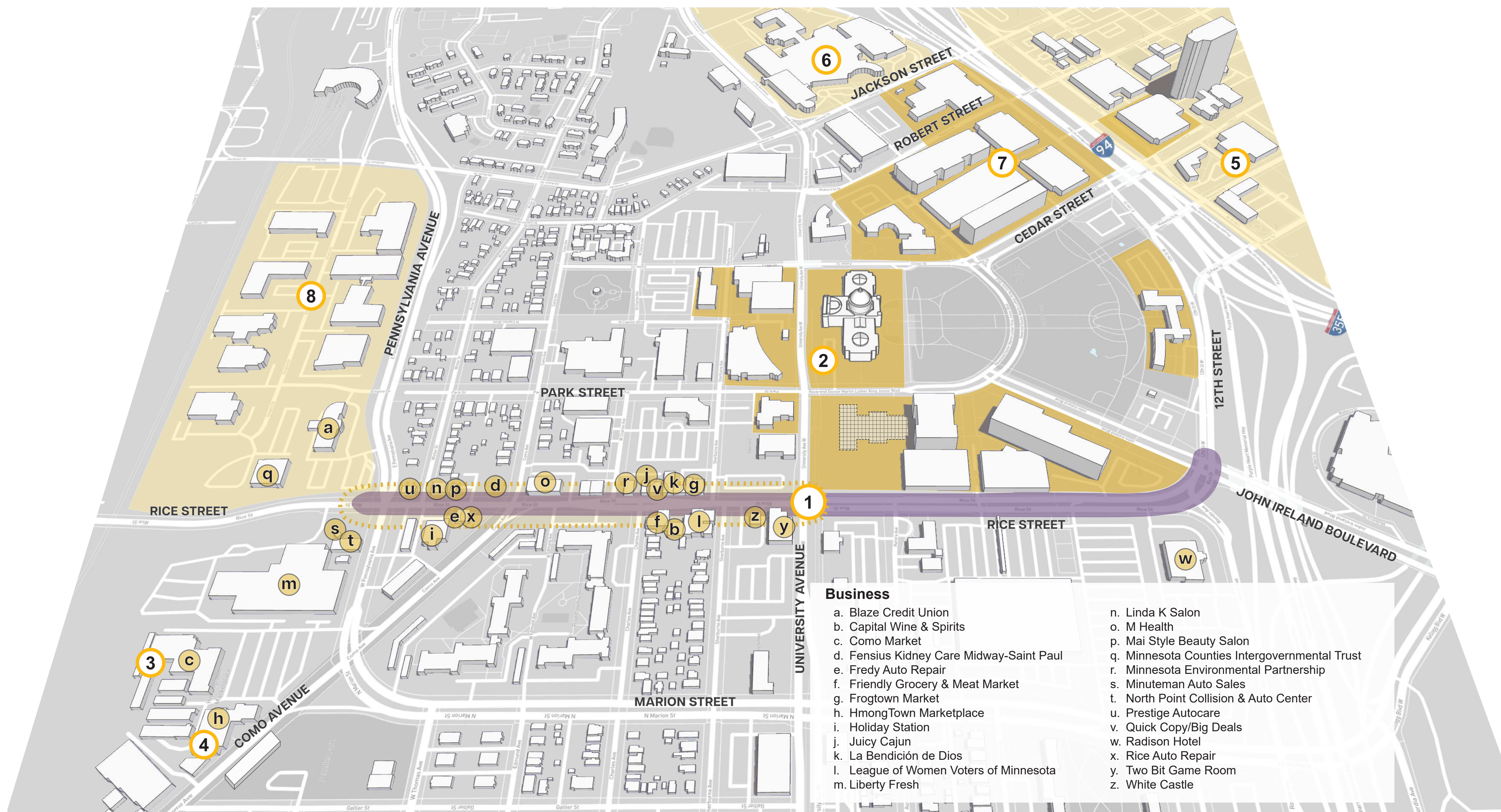
## Capitol Area Reconstruction

### ECONOMY

The corridor supports a robust system of economic activity, and reflects the area's diversity and small business identity



- 1 Lower Rice Commercial Vitality Zone
- 2 State Capitol
- 3 Como Market
- 4 HmongTown Marketplace
- 5 Downtown Business District
- 6 Regions Hospital
- 7 State office buildings
- 8 Industrial/office park
- Rice Street project area
- Capitol and State offices
- High employment areas



### WHAT'S MISSING?

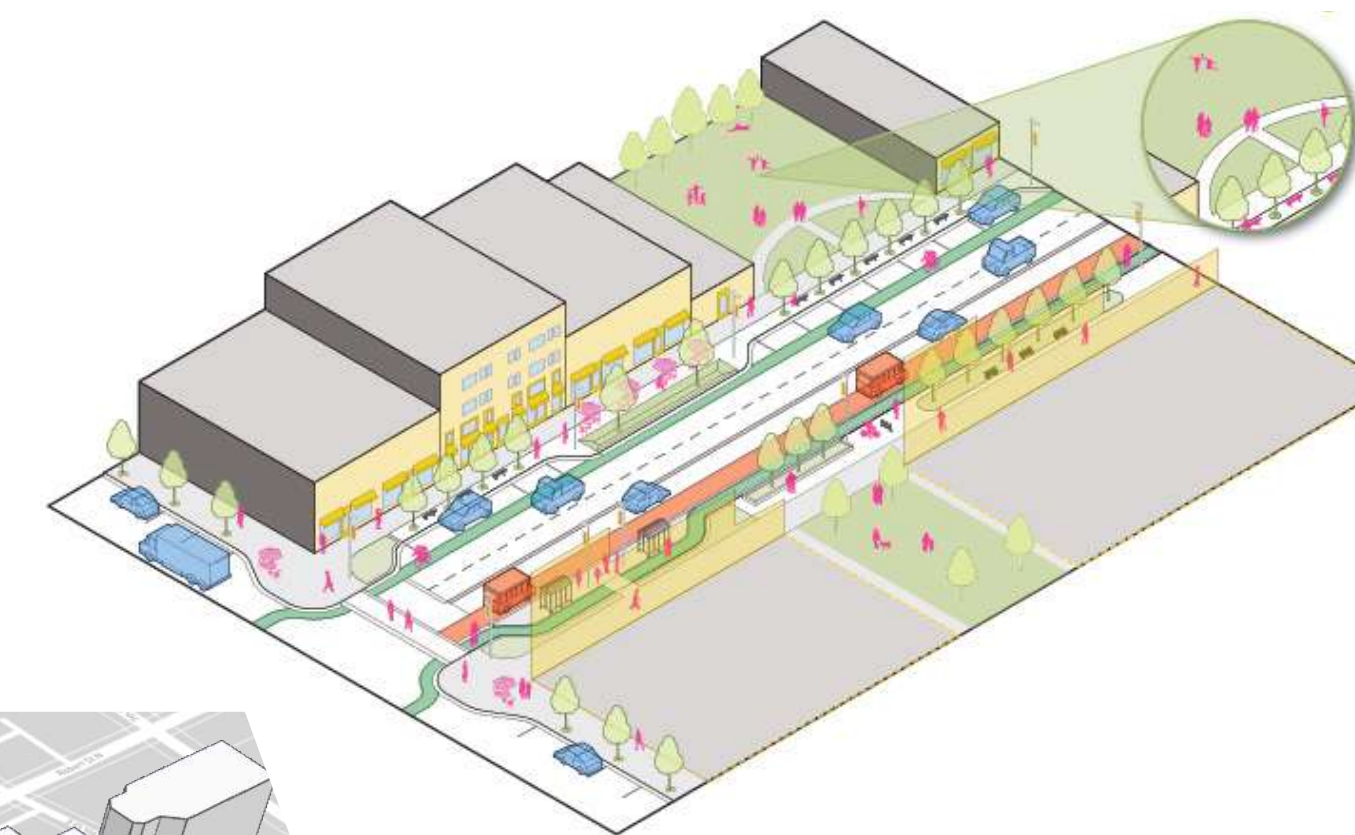
Please use the activity worksheet to share your thoughts on how the area might better support connectivity, livability, and economic activity.

# Rice Street

## Capitol Area Reconstruction

### PLACEMAKING

Public and private gathering spaces enhance the corridor's health and celebrates area character



- 1 Como & Rice Node  
(from Capitol Mall Framework)
  - 2 University & Rice Mobility Hub  
(from Capitol Mall Framework)
  - 3 Sears & Rice Node  
(from Capitol Mall Framework)
  - 4 State Capitol and Capitol Mall
  - 5 Cass Gilbert Memorial Park  
(planned; from Capitol Mall Framework)
  - 6 Valley Park
  - 7 Como Greenway
- Rice Street project area
  - Greenspace/Open space
  - Nodes

### WHAT'S MISSING?

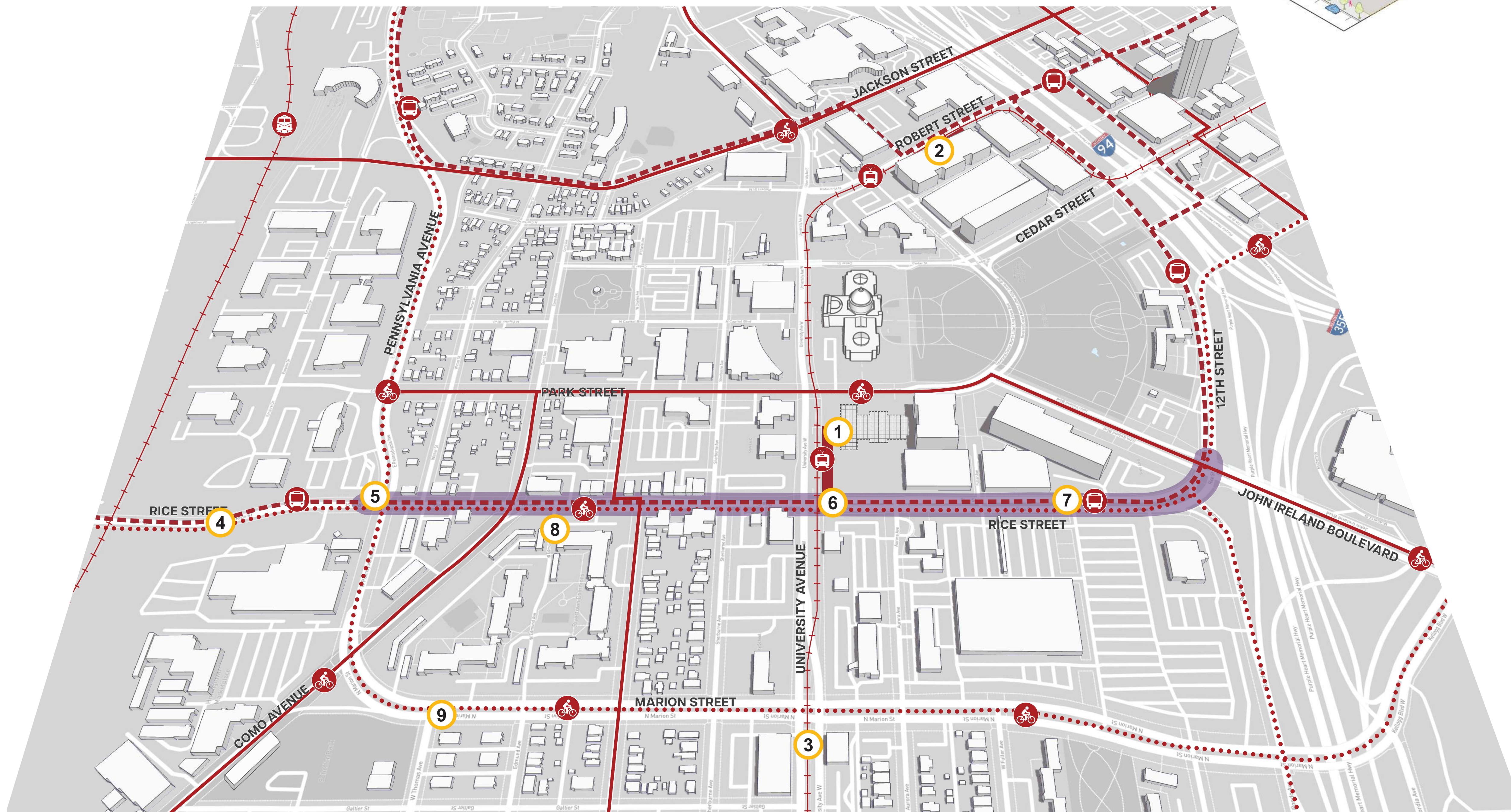
Please use the activity worksheet to share your thoughts on how the area might better support connectivity, livability, and economic activity.

# Rice Street

## Capitol Area Reconstruction

### MOBILITY

The ability for people of all abilities to move about the corridor safely and comfortably.



- 1 Capitol-Rice Green Line LRT Station
  - 2 Robert Street Green Line LRT Station
  - 3 Green Line LRT
  - 4 G Line BRT (planned)
  - 5 Rice & Como BRT Station (planned)
  - 6 Rice & University BRT Station (planned)
  - 7 Rice & Fuller BRT Station (planned)
  - 8 Rice Street bikeway (planned)
  - 9 Pennsylvania Avenue/ Marion Street bikeway (planned)
- Rice Street project area
  - Existing bicycle facilities
  - Planned bicycle facilities
  - Existing rail lines / LRT routes
  - Planned BRT routes

### WHAT'S MISSING?

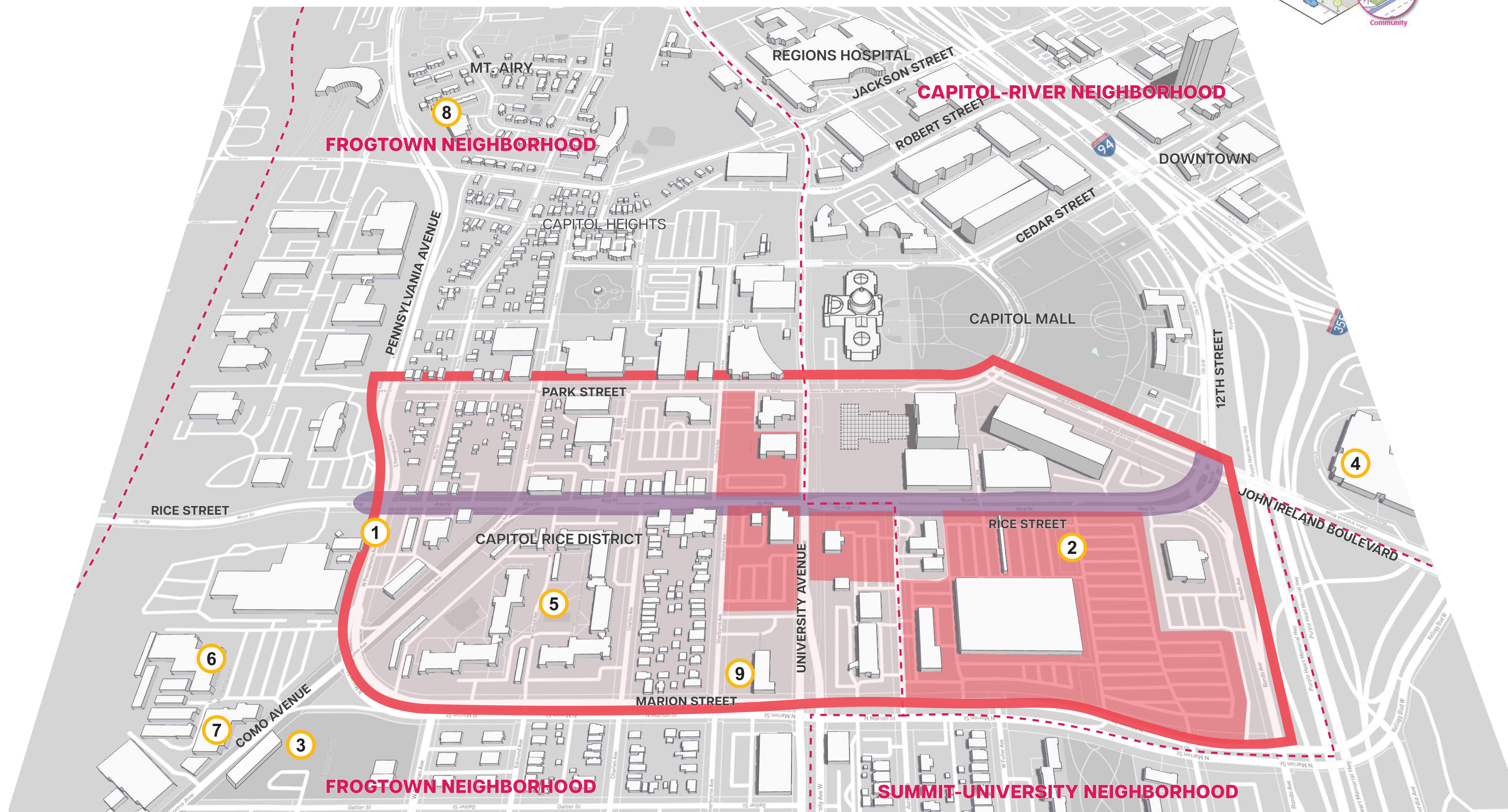
Please use the activity worksheet to share your thoughts on how the area might better support connectivity, livability, and economic activity.

# Rice Street

## Capitol Area Reconstruction

### COMMUNITY

The people for whom the Rice Street corridor is part of everyday life



- 1 Capitol Rice District
  - 2 Sears Opportunity Site (from CAAPB Comprehensive Plan)
  - 3 Frogtown Community Center
  - 4 Minnesota Historical Society
  - 5 Como Place Apartments and Rivertown Flats
  - 6 Como Market
  - 7 HmongTown Marketplace
  - 8 Mt. Airy Community Center
  - 9 St. Paul City School
- Rice Street project area  
 Identified development opportunity sites (from CAAPB Comprehensive Plan)

### WHAT'S MISSING?

Please use the activity worksheet to share your thoughts on how the area might better support connectivity, livability, and economic activity.



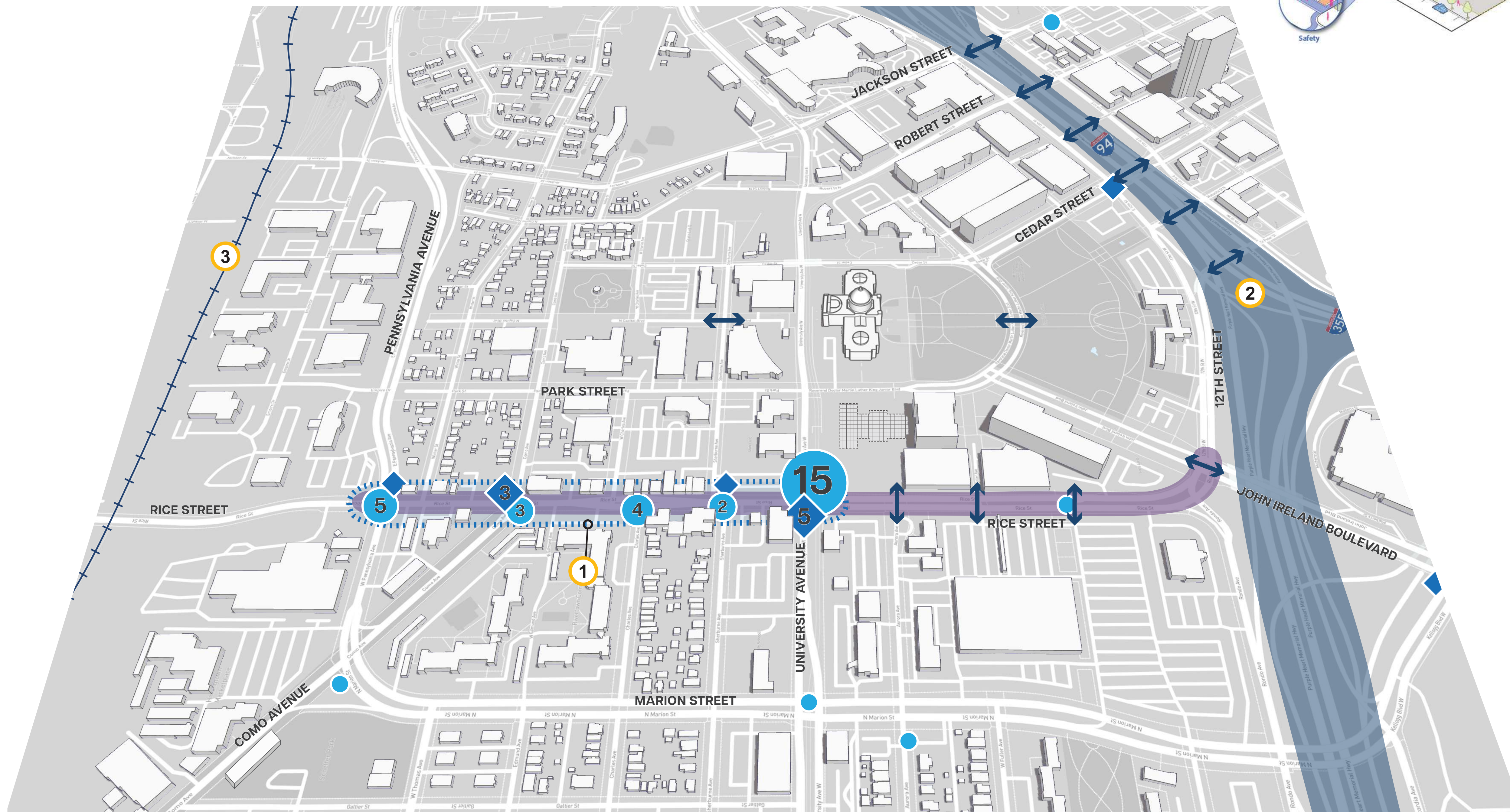
# Rice Street





## Capitol Area Reconstruction



### SAFETY

The corridor is a comfortable and safe place to enjoy, move about, and conduct daily business



- 1** High crash road segment: 10 fatal/serious injury crashes and 39 pedestrian/bicycle crashes in the last 10 years (2014–2023)
- 2** I-94 & I-35E trench area
- 3** BNSF Railway
-  Rice Street project area
-  Vehicle-bike crashes (2014-2023)
-  Vehicle-pedestrian crashes (2014-2023)
-  Identified pedestrian crossing improvement areas (from Capitol Mall Framework)

### WHAT'S MISSING?

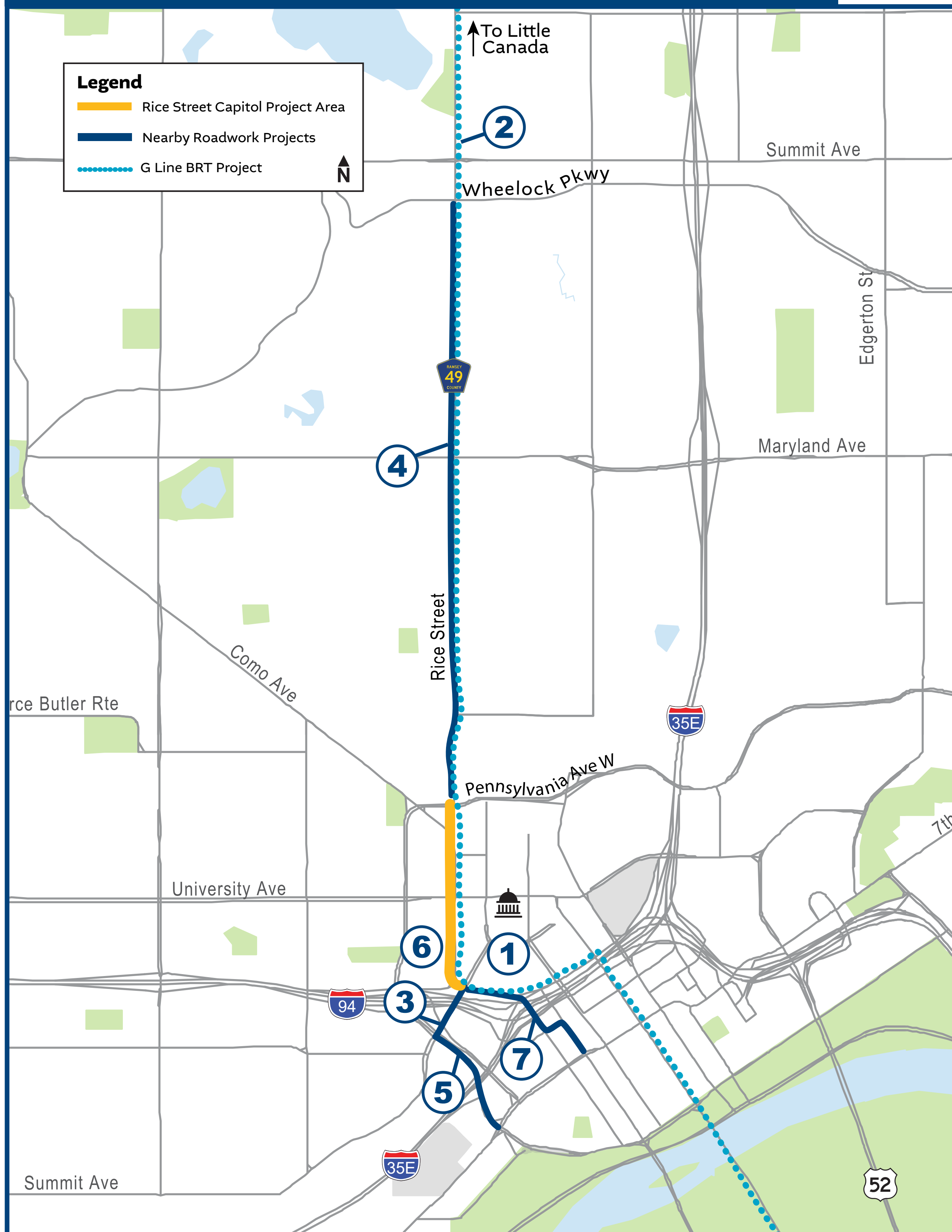
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# Rice Street

## Capitol Area Reconstruction



### Coordinated Projects



#### 1 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd Community Commons

Capitol Mall area

- Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Community Commons is the first project of the Capitol Mall Design Framework. This project aligns with priorities expressed in the framework to expand tree canopy, install more benches and picnic tables and add gardens and symbolic plantings (#3 priority). The project works to create a new heart for community gathering, artistic expression and free speech.

[mncapitolmall.engage.sasaki.com](https://mncapitolmall.engage.sasaki.com)

#### 2 Metro Transit G Line

Rice St from Little Canada – West St. Paul

- The METRO G Line is a planned arterial bus rapid transit (BRT) line. The G Line will provide fast and reliable transit service in the Rice Street and Robert Street corridor. The Rice Street portion of the G Line is expected to be constructed in Phase 1 of the project.
- Phase 1 expected in 2026 and 2027, Phase 2 in 2028

[metrotransit.org/g-line-project](https://metrotransit.org/g-line-project)

#### 3 John Ireland Bridge

John Ireland from Kellogg Blvd - Rice St

- MnDOT will be making improvements and focused structural repairs to the John Ireland Blvd. bridge over I-94 between Kellogg Blvd. and Rice St. in Saint Paul.
- Begins in 2026

[dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/johnirelandbridge/index.html](https://dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/johnirelandbridge/index.html)

#### 7 Wabasha Capital City Bikeway

Wabasha St - 10th St - St. Peter St - 12th St

- The bikeway network will connect to existing trails and on-street bikeways, allowing people comfortable and convenient bicycle access to and through downtown.
- In visioning stage – timeline to be determined

#### 4 Rice Street Reconstruction (North Area)

Rice St from Pennsylvania Ave - Wheelock Pkwy

- Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul are working to define a community-driven vision for Rice Street. Over the past several years, the project has been defined by a focus on coordination and collaboration. Long term road closures on Rice Street will not start until the spring of 2025. The road will be closed during the construction season 2025-2027. The roadway will be open to traffic during the winter.
- 2025-2027

[ramseycounty.us/RiceStreetStudy](https://ramseycounty.us/RiceStreetStudy)

#### 5 Capital City Bikeway Phase III

Kellogg Blvd from John Ireland Blvd to W 7th Street

- The bikeway network will connect to existing trails and on-street bikeways, allowing people comfortable and convenient bicycle access to and through downtown.
- 2025-2027

[stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/transportation-and-transit/bike-saint-paul/capital-city-bikeway](https://stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/transportation-and-transit/bike-saint-paul/capital-city-bikeway)

#### 6 Sears Site Redevelopment

425 Rice Street

- Ongoing process of redesigning the old Sears site at 425 Rice Street with the goal of creating a cultural heritage corridor for people to work, live, learn and play.
- In visioning stage – timeline to be determined

[ww1.amamedia.org/redevelopment-of-sears/](https://ww1.amamedia.org/redevelopment-of-sears/)

# Rice Street Capitol Area Reconstruction

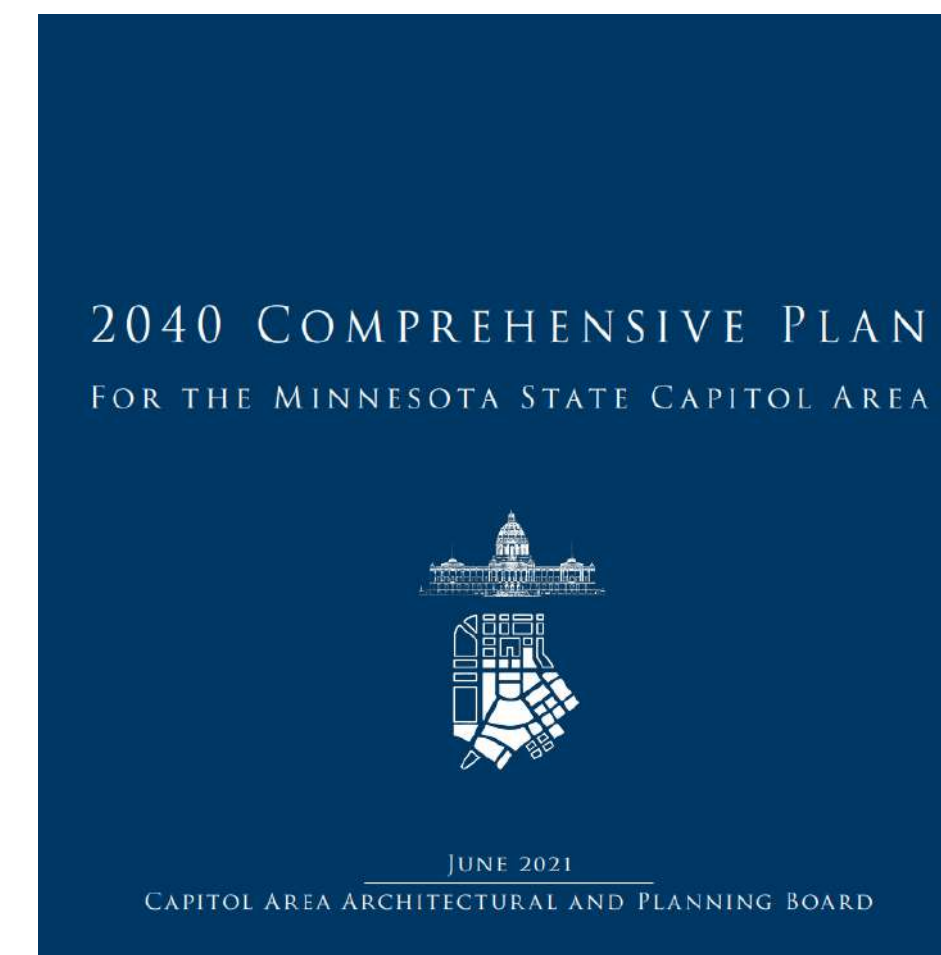
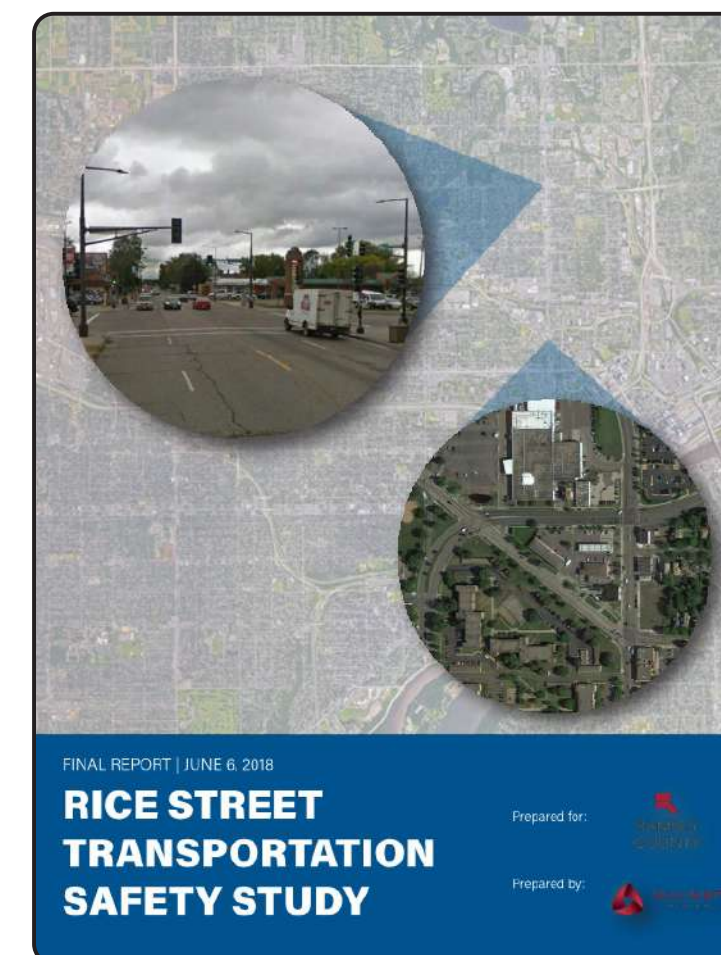


## Learning from Previous Studies

The Rice Street Capitol Area Reconstruction Project draws from various existing plans and studies that envision how the community would like to develop and grow over the next decade and beyond.

### Capitol Mall Design Framework:

- More things to do
- More kid-friendly
- More representation
- Improve safety
- Improve accessibility
- Reach more BIPOC communities
- Culminate themes of vitality, diversity, and inclusivity



## Existing Corridor Concerns



Multimodal traffic safety and operations



Lack of dedicated bike facilities



Maintenance of public realm



Public safety and livability issues



Small business support



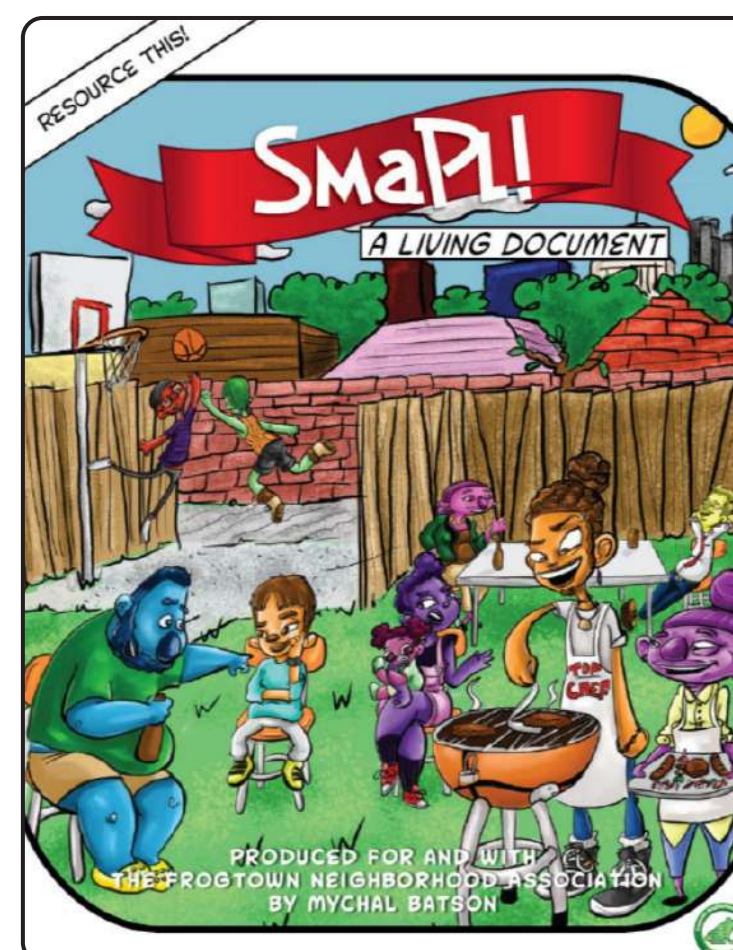
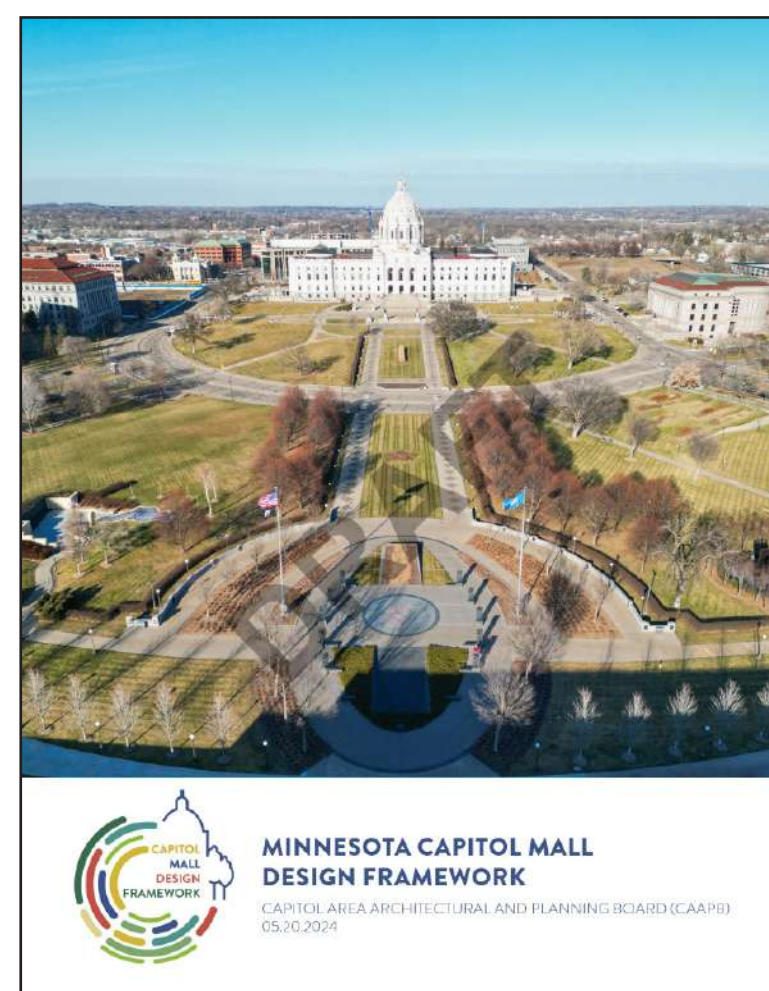
Capitol and Downtown adjacency



Utilize partnerships and have a transparent process



Multi-jurisdictional roadway



### Capitol Rice Commerical Vitality Zone Strategy:

- Support of entrepreneurs and small business development
- Landmark urban space with mobility hub at Leif Erickson Park
- Redesign Rice Street
- Improve connectivity on Como Avenue
- Prevent displacement

### Minnesota Cultural Landscape Report:

- Represent cultural diversity
- Develop a visitor center
- Improve accessibility of the Mall
- Increase shade on streets

### Capitol Rice Development Framework (2040 Comp Plan):

- The Capitol Rice district is an urban village
- Leif Erickson Park and Capitol Rice Station is (and will be strengthened as) the heart of the urban village and center of an integrated mobility hub
- Rice Street will be restored as a “Mainstreet” corridor unifying the district and linking downtown to neighborhoods north

### Capitol Area Community Vitality Account:

- Address cost-burdened households
- Address drug use and addiction
- Advance programming for teens, kids, and young families
- Improve disability and accessibility infrastructure
- Initiative start-up and next steps

# Rice Street

## Capitol Area Reconstruction

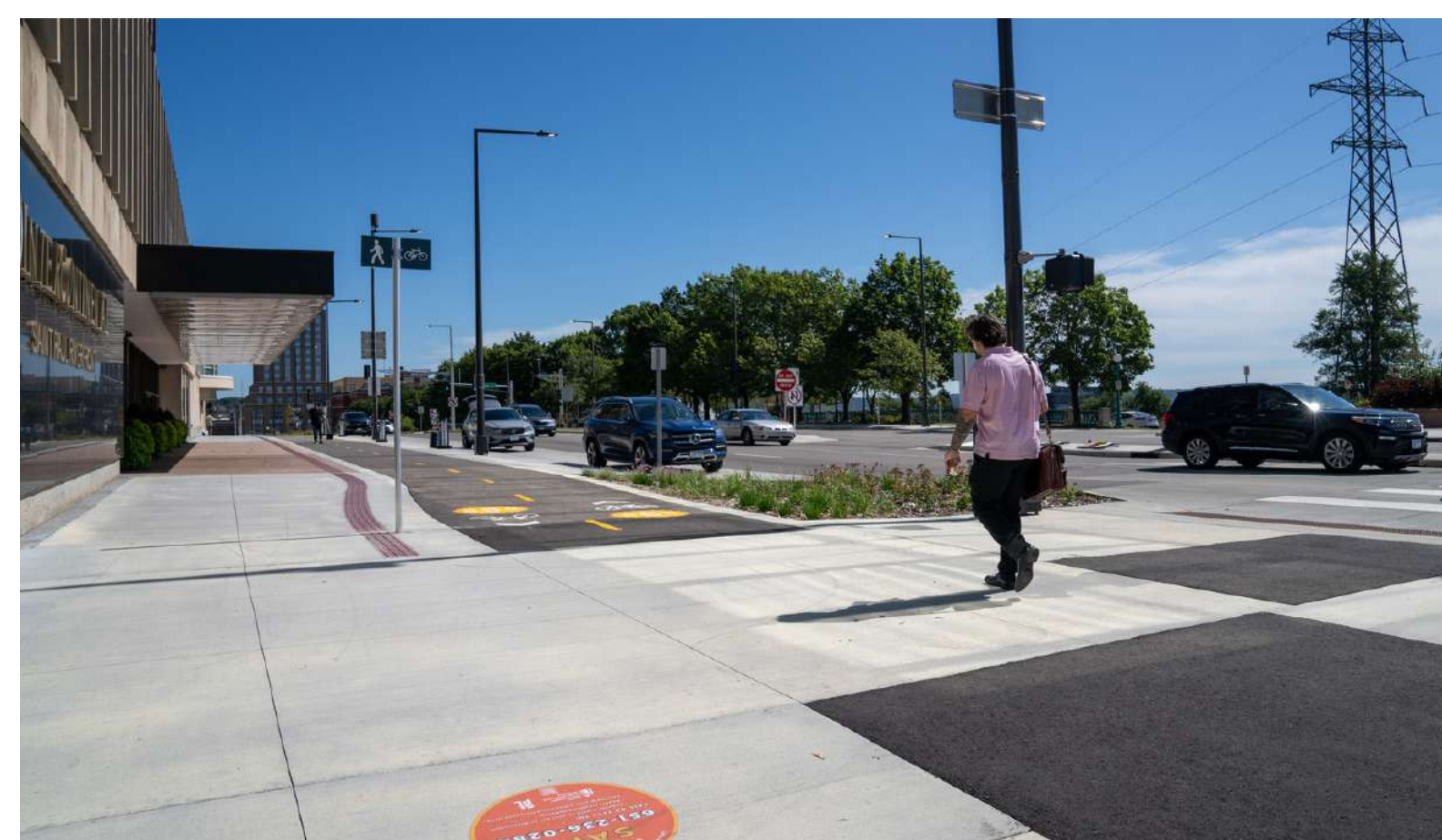


### Pedestrian & Bicycle Infrastructure

*Vote for your top 3 pedestrian & bicycle infrastructure tools you would like to see on the Rice Street corridor or on adjacent side streets.*



**Bicycle Boxes**



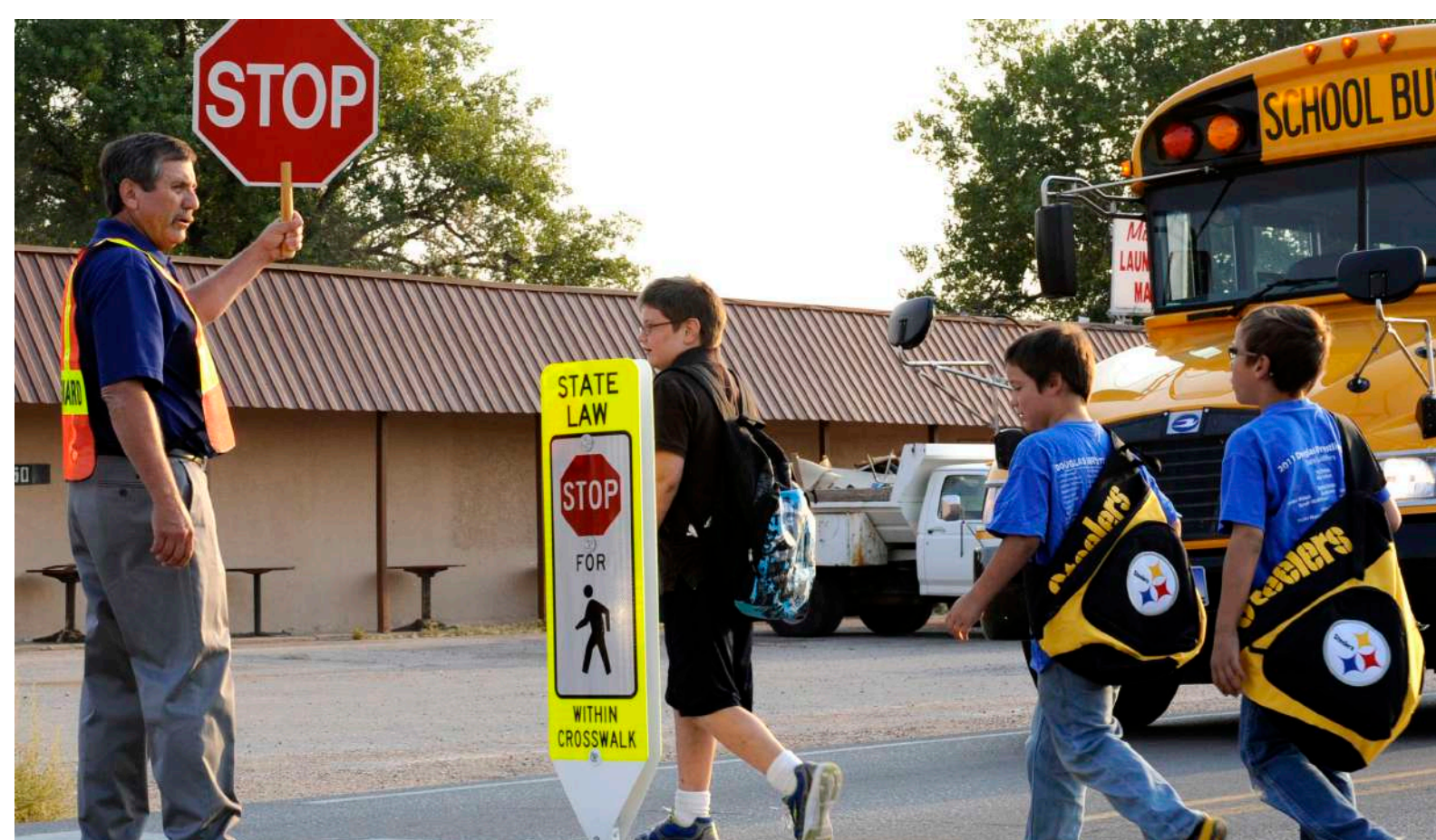
**Separated Bike Lanes**



**Curb Extensions**



**Leading Pedestrian Intervals**



**Crossing Guard**



**Crosswalk Striping**



**Median Islands**



**Pedestrian Crossing Signals**



**Pedestrian Lighting**



**Pinchpoints**



**Rapid Flashing Beacons**



**Speed Limit Signs**

# Rice Street

## Capitol Area Reconstruction

### Transit Infrastructure

*Vote for your top 3 transit infrastructure tools you would like to see on the Rice Street corridor or on adjacent side streets.*



**Bus-only Lane**



**Floating Bus Stop**



**Flexible Curbside Lane**



**Mobility Hub**



**Shared Bus/Bike Lane**



**Platform Trees**

# Rice Street

## Capitol Area Reconstruction



### Streetscaping Features

Vote for your top 3 streetscaping features you would like to see on the Rice Street corridor or on adjacent side streets.



Art in Pedestrian Space



Art on Vertical Infrastructure



Bike Rack



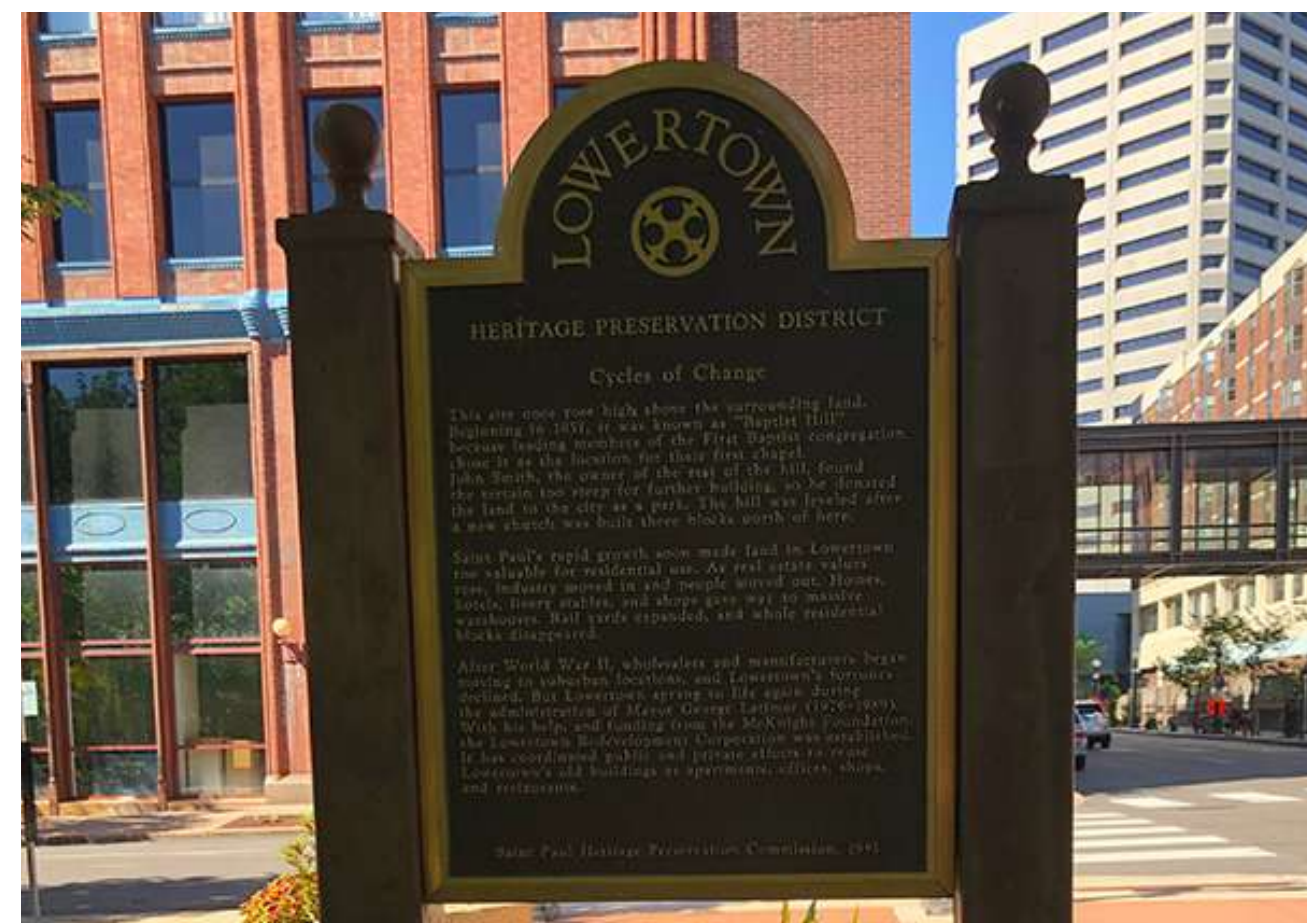
Community Branding



Community Development



Community Villages



Historic Signage



Painted Streets



Parklets



Pervious Pavement



Sister Parks



Stormwater Management



Street Furniture



Street Trees



Wayfinding Signage

# Rice Street

## Capitol Area Reconstruction



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### Vehicle Infrastructure

*Vote for your top 3 vehicle infrastructure tools you would like to see on the Rice Street corridor or on adjacent side streets.*



3/4 Intersection



Back-in Parking



Flashing Yellow Arrow



Lane Reduction



On-street Parking



Right-in Right-out



Roadway Lighting



Pedestrian Lighting



Dedicated Turn Lane



Roundabout

# Rice Street

## Capitol Area Reconstruction

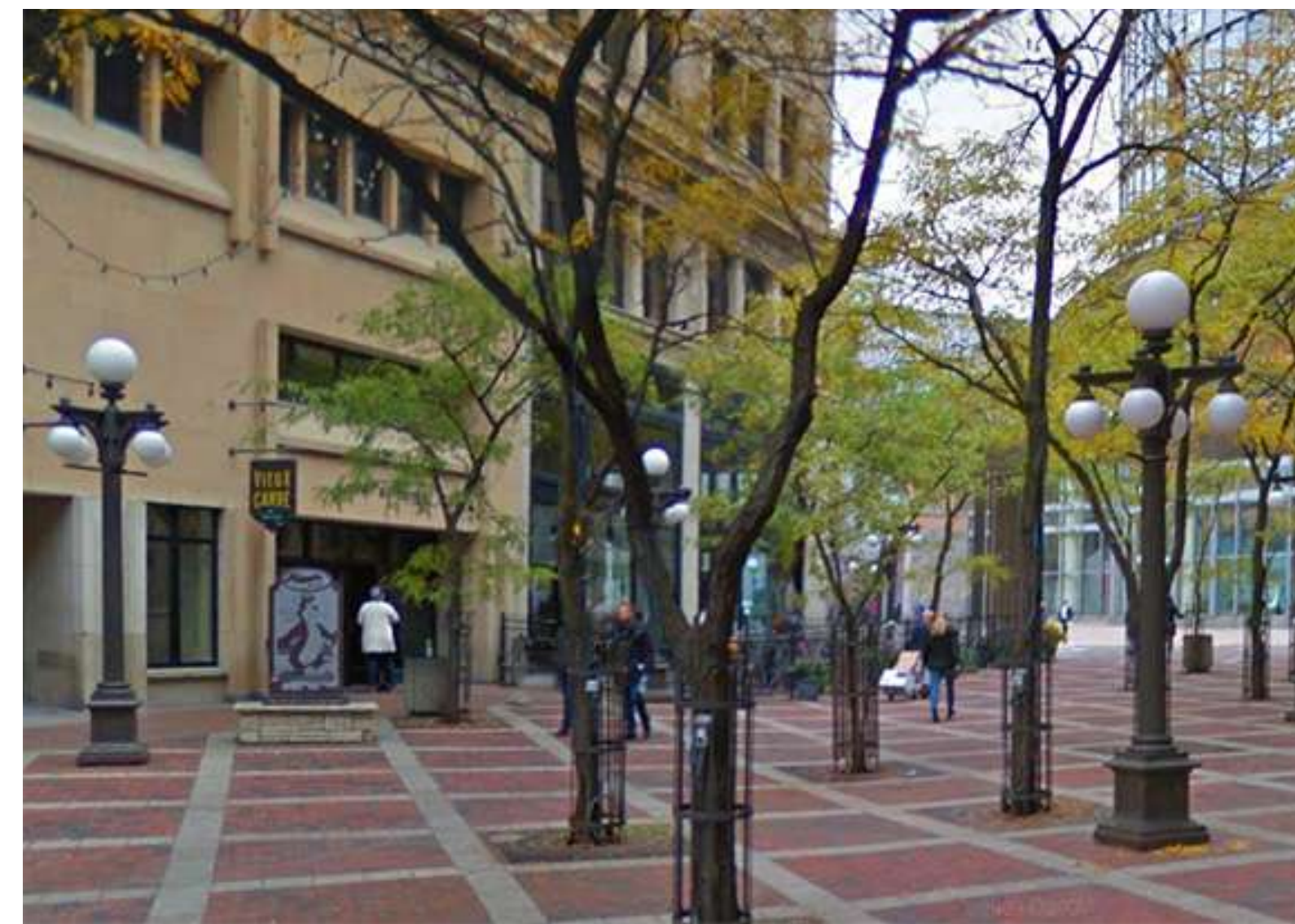


### Neighborhood Design

*Vote for your top 3 neighborhood design tools you would like to see on the Rice Street corridor or on adjacent side streets.*



Advisory Bike Lanes



Car-free Streets



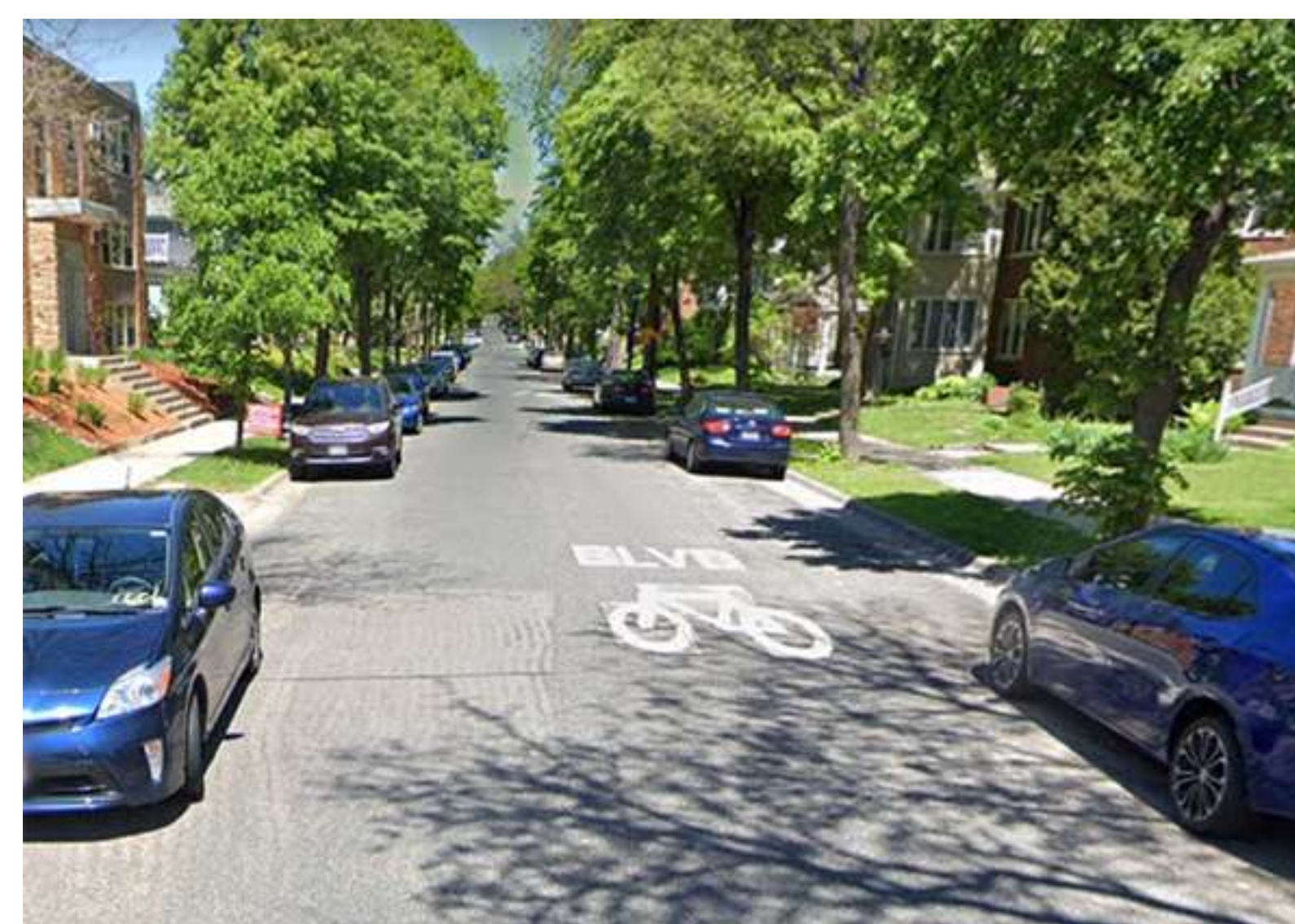
Enhanced Intersection Treatment



Limiting Side Street Access



Public Eating Places



Shared Use Lane



Tabled Intersection



Streets Prioritizing Walking & Biking