

Rice Street Capitol Area Reconstruction

Existing Conditions Evaluation Engagement Summary

From August to December 2024, the project team gathered feedback on the existing conditions of Rice Street between the John Ireland Boulevard and Pennsylvania Avenue near the Minnesota State Capitol. Members of the public were able to learn more about the project, share their feedback on the current condition of the roadway and find out how to stay involved throughout the process.

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT



Project website



Community stakeholder group newsletters



Open house postcard & door hanger invitations



Email & Text subscription list



Social media posts



In-person open house

DOOR HANGER ENGAGEMENT



~ 100 Door Hangers Distributed

In early November, prior to the open house, the project team distributed door hangers to the residents and businesses along the project corridor and the surrounding blocks. The door hanger encouraged the public to attend the open house and visit the website by scanning the QR code or navigating to the URL.

The door hangers also included a link for translations to the project's informational handout!

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

November 19, 2024

5-7 p.m.

Springboard for the Arts

18 Attendees

On November 19, the project team hosted a public open house at Springboard for the Arts from 5-7 p.m. This open house reviewed the existing conditions of Rice Street near the capitol and allowed community members to learn more and ask questions of the project team.

The open house included a voting activity, freebie giveaways, and a light dinner for attendees.

Visit ramseycounty.us/CapitolRiceStreet to stay involved!

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INFRASTRUCTURE PREFERENCES VOTING

Community members were given voting sheets upon their arrival at the open house. Each person was asked to indicate their top 3 changes for each infrastructure category. The top 3 priorities in each category for the collected voting sheets (16 total) are listed below.



Vehicle Infrastructure

11

Pedestrian Lighting

6

Flashing Yellow Arrow

5

Dedicated Turn Lane



Transit Infrastructure

11

Floating Bus Stop

8

Bus Only Lane

7

Flexible Curbside Lane



Ped & Bike Infrastructure

10

Separated Bike Lanes

7

Curb Extensions

6

Pedestrian Lighting



Streetscaping Features

6

Community Development

4

Art in Pedestrian Spaces
Stormwater management
Wayfinding signage



Neighborhood Design

9

Public Eating Places

8

Tabled Intersection

7

Street Prioritizing
Walking & Biking

OTHER COMMENTS WE HEARD

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

- Slow down speed limits
- Make crosswalks safer
- Improve bike lanes
- Create a two-way bike link to the North multi-use path and connect to the bike boulevard on Charles
- Add a left-turn lane from Pennsylvania to Como
- Address confusing and awkward intersections, specifically at 12th and John Ireland and at Rondo and 12th

SAFETY AND SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS

- Add better lighting
- Add street cameras
- There is an unsafe slip lane at Como and Rice due to fast vehicles and the damage in Rice Street

CLEANLINESS AND MAINTENANCE

- Increase frequency of trash pickup crews
- An increase in foot traffic and cleanliness and decrease in crime will ensure businesses are successful
- Parking and Accessibility
- Improve parking

COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- Draw in more restaurants and stores
- Add more public facilities (eating areas, greenspaces with benches, public restrooms)
- Develop a linear park between the Sears development and Rice

WHAT'S NEXT?

From December 2024 to Spring 2025, the project team will begin developing potential designs to share with the community. Conversations will then be held to discuss potential improvements and to further prioritize amenity infrastructure changes.

Potential Design Phase: January – December 2025