

City of Minneapolis to Host Public Meeting to Discuss Downtown Public Realm Framework Plan

Downtown Central Library, Tonight at 6pm

Monday, August 10, 2015 (Minneapolis, MN) – The City of Minneapolis will host a public meeting this evening from 6:00-8:00pm to discuss the Downtown Public Realm Framework Plan. The meeting will be held at the Downtown Central Library located at 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis. The Downtown Public Realm Framework will establish a framework, goals and policies for enhancing the pedestrian experience downtown, with a focus on priority streets and public spaces.

“It is no secret that our dynamic Downtown is growing,” said Mayor Betsy Hodges. “An equitable Public Realm Framework Plan that organizes the tools necessary to promote the enrichment of public spaces will raise the quality of life for residents and continue to attract investment into our city.”

The public meeting will begin with welcome and brief comments by Council Member Jacob Frey and Downtown Council President Steve Cramer followed by a short presentation by City staff. Attendees will be invited to participate in an interactive exercise and to provide feedback.

“A successful downtown public realm does not operate in a vacuum, and should not have boundaries congruent with publicly owned space,” said Council Member Jacob Frey. “If we expect developers and businesses to make investments that benefit the public realm (and we do), the City must be specific in vision. I am very excited to say that we are dead on track to create a framework that achieves this goal.”

The Downtown Public Realm Framework is the City’s plan to provide unified guidance to inform and coordinate the work of public and private entities that shape the public realm. The Downtown Public Realm Framework includes an inventory of existing policies, practices, and elements in the public realm. It is intended to inform and guide outcomes in capital planning, site plan review, and public/private partnership toward the coordinated enhancement of the public realm. A Public Realm Framework is a guiding policy document for the management of the Right-of-Way. The purpose of Public Realm Frameworks is the creation of a unified document for the public realm within a certain geographic area. The document will address connections, networks, assets and conditions.

“Minneapolis is on the rise. As the growth of our urban core continues, we know we need to look beyond single projects or development sites - we need to think holistically about shaping the experience of being downtown,” said City of Minneapolis Director of Long Range Planning Kjersti Monson. “If we

can establish a shared vision for the public realm, and if we can ensure that every stakeholder is aware of that vision, and understands how they can contribute to it, then we can pull together to make this the most livable downtown in America.”

The City of Minneapolis’ Downtown Public Realm Framework will run on a parallel and integrated track with the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board’s process to create a Downtown Service Area Master Plan (DSAMP). The two processes will result in separate but integrally related documents, the Downtown Public Realm Framework and the DSAMP, which will jointly create the Pathways to Places initiative, for the entire network of downtown public spaces and corridors. The Downtown Public Realm Framework and the DSAMP will each be adopted by their respective elected bodies.

You can learn more about the Downtown Public Realm Framework including access to the project description, meeting minutes, and presentations on the City’s [website](#).

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