

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Planning Commission, Committee of the Whole

FROM: Lacy Shelby, Principal Urban Designer, (612) 673-5058
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DATE: November 10, 2015

SUBJECT: Urban Design/Downtown Public Realm Framework Briefing

CPED Long Range Planning is developing a thematic plan as a significant step in implementing the *Downtown Public Realm Framework Plan*. The *Downtown Public Realm Framework* is the City's contributing plan to the joint *Pathways to Places* initiative of the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. The purpose of the Downtown Public Realm Framework is to provide unified guidance to inform and coordinate the work of public and private entities that shape and invest in the public realm. The Downtown Public Realm Framework includes an inventory of existing policies, practices, and elements in the public realm as well as new policy recommendations and actions for shaping the future of the Downtown public realm. It is intended to inform and guide outcomes in capital planning, site plan review, and public/private partnerships toward the coordinated enhancement of the public realm.

The physical framework is the primary policy guiding element of the *Downtown Public Realm Framework Plan*. It is a whole systems plan that connects urban streets and plazas to the broader system of parks, trails, attractions and recreation opportunities in and around Downtown Minneapolis. As a tool, it identifies new connections and clarifies existing connections along key corridors within the downtown context and provides recommendations for enhancing the pedestrian experience through greening strategies, street furnishing and land use decisions.

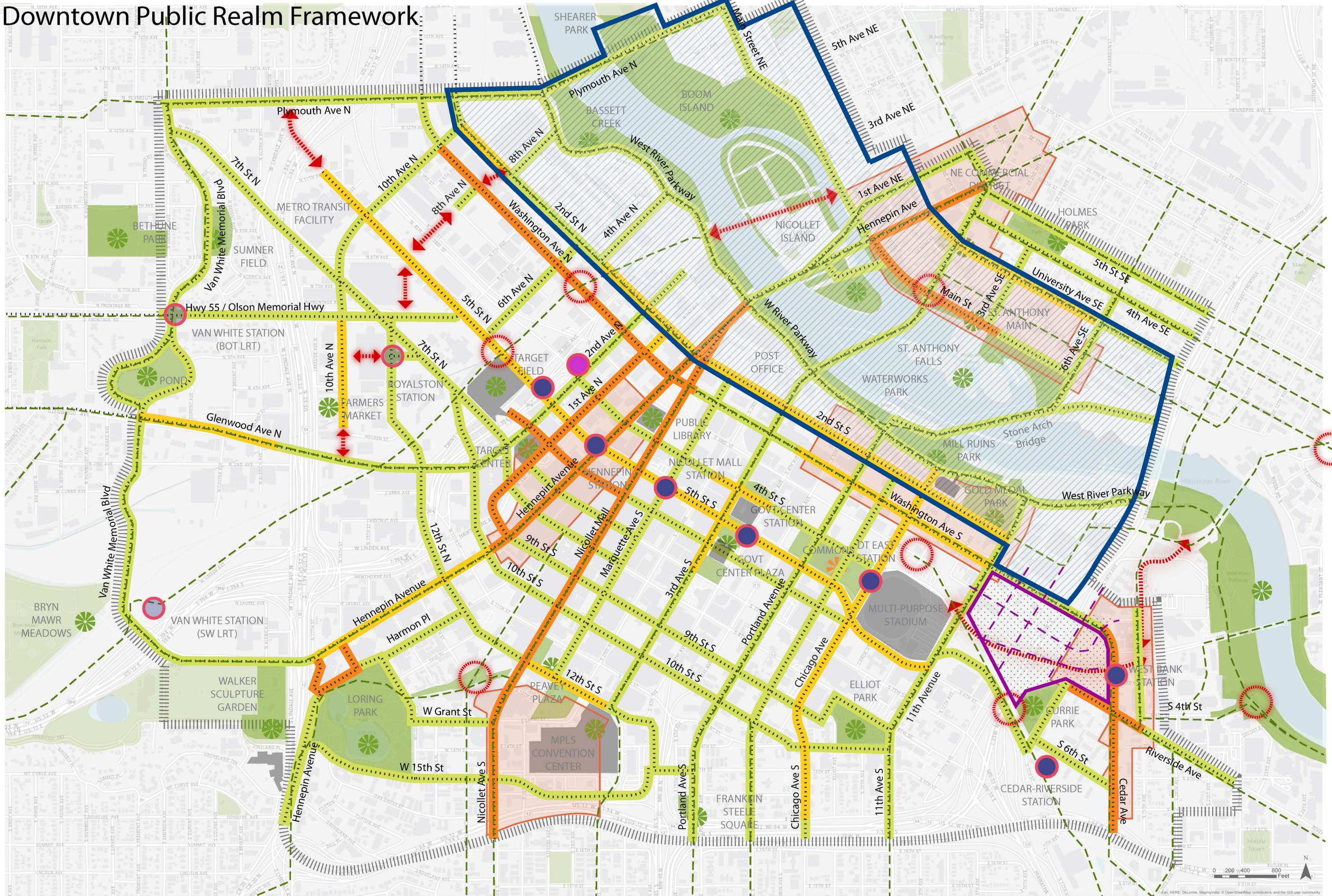
The *Downtown Public Realm Framework Plan* initiated engagement in November of 2014. The process of engagement was conducted in three phases; Initiation/Analysis, Research/Outreach, and Recommendation/Comment and included the use of committees, public open houses, focus groups, events, artist engagement and online interactions. The engagement was structured to inform, educate, gain insights, and capture priorities while providing opportunities for meaningful connections and conversations with stakeholders.

We are continuing to engage City staff, stakeholders and committees for feedback on content and policy recommendations. We expect to complete the draft document in December, entering public comment period at that time. We anticipate submitting the plan to the Commission and City Council in late winter.

Attached please find the draft Downtown Public Realm Physical Framework map. We will provide additional information during the meeting, including a brief presentation on the Downtown Public Realm Framework and relevant projects.

A webpage has been created for the Downtown Public Realm Framework that includes information and presentations from Committee meetings, maps, and other documents. The webpage can be viewed at: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/lrp/WCMS1P-134268>

Downtown Public Realm Framework



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| FUTURE LRT STATIONS | COMMUTER RAIL STATION | LANDMARK BLDG | EXISTING ATTRACTION | DESTINATION CORRIDOR | CONNECTOR CORRIDOR | RIVER DISTRICT | 35W "LID" PROPOSAL |
| EXISTING LRT STATIONS | ADOPTED ACTIVITY CENTER | HIGH VOLUME BIKES | FUTURE ATTRACTION | ACTIVITY CORRIDOR | RECOMMENDED LINKAGE | DPFR BOUNDARY | |



Map by HERE, DeLorme, Mapbox, OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community