



West 7th/Fort Road Federation

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Sent via email: contact-council@ci.stpaul.mn.us

November 12, 2025

Saint Paul City Council
15 W. Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55102

**Re: St. Paul's proposed Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA)
ordinance Public Comment**

Dear Councilmembers,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) ordinance. The West 7th/Fort Road Federation represents residents, businesses, and organizations in Saint Paul's West 7th neighborhood, stretching from the bluffs to the river and encompassing key sections of the corridor.

The MRCCA ordinance plays a vital role in shaping how our community interacts with the river and in ensuring that future development protects the character, ecology, and accessibility of this defining feature of Saint Paul.

The updated draft provides clearer guidance for both residents and developers, setting a solid foundation for thoughtful riverfront planning. However, the Federation joins other local partners in urging the City Council to strengthen the ordinance in a key area:

Reinstate the bird-safe glass requirement.

The Mississippi River flyway is one of the most important migratory routes in North America. Given the significant bird mortality associated with glass collisions, incorporating a bird-safe glass standard in the MRCCA ordinance is a commonsense measure that aligns with Minnesota's B3 Sustainable Building Guidelines and with community values around environmental stewardship. This modest design requirement, previously included in the 2023 draft, adds minimal cost while offering meaningful ecological benefit.

There is a suggestion to initiate a separate study about bird-friendly glass instead. We're concerned that this study may not come to fruition, or lead to action. We ask the Council to restore the bird-safe glass language proposed in the 2023 MRCCA draft ordinance.

The Fort Road Federation coordinates participation in advocacy and planning and builds community connections for the residents, businesses, and nonprofit organizations of the West 7th neighborhood so that it is a place where people want to live, work, and play.

In adopting this ordinance, the City has an opportunity to reaffirm Saint Paul's commitment to the Mississippi River as both a natural resource and a public commons. We encourage the Council to adopt the strongest possible version of the MRCCA ordinance—one that reflects the values of environmental responsibility, transparency, and community benefit.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments, and for your ongoing work to protect and celebrate our city's defining natural feature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia McColley', with a stylized, cursive script.

Julia McColley
Executive Director
West 7th/Fort Road Federation