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CITY OF SAINT PAUL

2024 Legislative Agenda

2024 Capital Improvement Requests

1. **Mississippi River Learning Center: \$22.638 million**
2. **Como Zoo – Big Cat Exhibit/Habitat: \$25.659 million**
3. **River Balcony: \$24.902 million**
4. **Urban Tennis – Cemstone Site: \$5.876 million**
5. **Eastbound Kellogg RiverCentre Bridge: \$9 million**
6. **Randolph Avenue Bridge: \$11.6 million**



2024 Capital Improvement Requests

7. Regional Sports Facility: \$35.637 million

8. Phalen Lakeside Center: \$11.189 million

9. Battle Creek Park: \$2.894 million

10. Hayden Heights Library: \$4 million

11. Riverview Library: \$5.7 million



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Arena Complex & Other Projects

- ❖ **Arena Complex:** The City of Saint Paul is seeking \$2 million for planning activities necessary for the predesign and design of updates and improvements to the Xcel Energy Center and the Roy Wilkins Auditorium
- ❖ **Other Projects:** The City of Saint Paul also supports the following bonding projects located in the City of Saint Paul (listed in alphabetical order):
 - **JK Movement (Jimmy Lee Recreation Center)** – \$5.7 million
 - **Latino Museum** – \$10 million
 - **Saint Paul Urban Tennis (Housing & Tennis Facility)** – \$7 million
 - **Sanneh Foundation (Innovation Center)** – \$4.2 million
- ❖ **Ramsey County Project:** The City of Saint Paul also supports the following Ramsey County bonding project located in the City of Saint Paul:
 - **The Park at RiversEdge** – \$20 million



Revenue, Taxes, Credits, & Finance

- ❖ **Local Government Aid (LGA):** Ensuring balance in the state-local fiscal relationship by maintaining the current Local Government Aid (LGA) formula as modified in 2023 and increasing funding for the LGA program. In addition, indexing the LGA formula for inflation
- ❖ **Sales Tax Exemption:** Simplifying the process for local governments to receive the sales tax exemption for purchases of construction materials
- ❖ **Minnesota Conversion Tax Credit:** Minnesota Conversion Tax Credit for Residential Transition: Create temporary assistance to convert Minnesota's underutilized and vacant building stock to meet the needs of today's communities in post-Covid America



Housing & Unsheltered Homelessness

- ❖ **Housing:** Housing is a basic and fundamental human right. The city is focused on three people-focused strategies to meet housing needs:
 - **Production:** Creating new affordable housing
 - **Preservation:** Maintaining existing affordable housing
 - **Protection:** Ensuring all residents can have safe affordable homes

- ❖ **Unsheltered Homelessness Funding:** Support funding from the state to effectively respond to the increase in unsheltered homelessness. This funding is in alignment with the recommendations of Heading Home Ramsey and the COC co-chaired by Commissioner Trista Martinson and Deputy Mayor Jaime Tincher



The Heights Development

- ❖ Thank you to the legislature for the \$11 million allocation for The Heights redevelopment project in 2023
- ❖ Given the need for housing infrastructure and funding on the development site the city supports allocations from Housing Infrastructure Bonds specifically for The Heights development project
- ❖ To be the first development in the state of Minnesota to have a geothermal system we encourage the State Energy Office in the Department of Commerce to assist in the development of this first of its kind system in Saint Paul



Community Public Safety

- ❖ **Copper Wire Theft:** Wire theft from streetlights and other public infrastructure negatively impacts our community by reducing public safety for all modes of transportation and mobility. Replacing and repairing damaged streetlights due to theft costs hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to the City of Saint Paul
- ❖ **Carjacking:** The crime of carjacking has increased in the region with serious consequences to individual and community public safety. Support consumer protection efforts that require motor vehicle manufacturers to offer antitheft protection devices on certain vehicles that have been shown to be especially susceptible to theft.



Community Public Safety

- ❖ **Gun Violence Prevention:** Supporting local authority to prohibit handguns and other weapons in city and county owned/leased buildings, facilities, parks, libraries, liquor stores, and city sponsored youth activities to determine whether to allow permit-holders to conceal and carry.
- ❖ **Cannabis:** Granting authority to cities to impose local taxes on cannabis, or consider changes to local government revenue sharing, so that the costs of compliance and enforcement to local governments are paid for by cannabis revenue. Additionally looking at policy changes to the law that are responsive to local government concerns.



General Government

- ❖ **Statewide Guaranteed Income:** establishing a Minnesota basic income grant program.
- ❖ **Open Meeting Law:** amending the Open Meeting Law to allow city board and/or commission members the ability to participate remotely in up to fifty percent of scheduled meetings each year without making their location open and accessible to the public
- ❖ **Broadband Access and Digital Equity & Inclusion:** supporting investments in broadband and digital equity inclusion to ensure affordable, high-capacity internet access, as well as digital literacy training and support, is available to all Saint Paul residents



Lead Pipe Replacements

- ❖ The city is appreciative of the Legislature's \$240 million statewide investment from the 2023 legislative session which will begin the process of making sure Minnesota is free of lead lines
- ❖ Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) has been replacing utility-owned (publicly-owned) portions of lead service lines for over 20 years and launched Lead Free SPRWS in 2022 to remove all public and privately owned service lines that contain lead
- ❖ The City of Saint Paul estimates that there are 26,000 lead service lines left to be removed in the service area and we have a work plan to accomplish this over the next 10 years, predicated on continued state and federal funding



Questions?

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