

DRAFT Charter – CRC Planning and Economic Development Committee

Presented to the CRC Board of Directors, February 4, 2026

Committee Objective

The Capitol River Council's (CRC's) Planning and Economic Development Committee advocates community-led planning and development in District 17 by aligning its advisory role with initiatives that generate measurable economic outcomes, attract and retain local investment, and strengthen the long-term vitality of neighborhood corridors. This alignment includes:

- The CRC Mission: CRC, an advisory group to the City Council, represents and works in partnership with all District 17 stakeholders to act on urban planning and community building efforts as part of a shared vision to support sustainable, safe, healthy, and vibrant neighborhoods
- The City of Saint Paul [Comprehensive Plan Core Values](#)
- The City of Saint Paul's Planning and Economic Development (PED) strategies (focused primarily, but not exclusively, on [Revitalizing Downtown](#))
- A unified Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) framework guiding commercial and residential real estate development, economic development, and quality-of-life standards
- Key development partners, projects and strategies:
 - District 17 and adjacent Neighborhood Area Plans
 - Saint Paul Downtown Alliance economic development plans and strategies
 - Central Station Block redevelopment
 - Ramsey County [Riversedge](#) redevelopment
 - [Sears site redevelopment](#)
 - CRC Public Realm Committee discussions / engagement activities ([Kellogg-3rd Street Bridge reconstruction](#) and John Ireland Boulevard Bridge reconstruction, for example)
 - Neighborhood Area Plan co-developed by ReConnect Rondo and the City

Committee Member Expectations:

- Lead with Equity: A core value of CRC and the City of Saint Paul is that CRC will “lead with equity.” CRC has adopted an Inclusion Plan that contains specific ways that CRC works to authentically engage people who have traditionally been under-represented in our work. Committee members are expected to help create and maintain a respectful, welcoming organizational culture, where everyone is welcome to participate in discussions and decision-making activities.
- Serve as community ambassadors: Attend community meetings, such as those that are scheduled by local elected officials, City staff, and / or other stakeholder groups.
- Stay involved: Attend committee meetings regularly, or let the committee chair know if you will be absent. When the committee takes action by voting on a motion, only committee members may vote. Committee members who miss more than two meetings in a year will be unable to vote, until they regain committee membership by attending two committee meetings.

- Communicate: Share contact information with CRC staff and other committee members for communication and collaboration. Committee member contact information should not be shared with anyone else without permission.

Core Responsibilities

1. *Strategic Policy Review and Analysis*

- Track and provide feedback on City Planning Commission and PED activities: regulatory processes and plans related to zoning, land use, housing, and economic development.
- Provide information for stakeholders that creates pathways for community-informed feedback on public initiatives.
- Understand goals, plans and policies that are advocated by people (and / or by local organizations) who sometimes have overlapping or competing interests.
- Develop committee goals and recommendations toward creating a holistic economic development approach, including funding mechanisms (such as incentives or other resources by government entities) and community values.

2. *Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) Development and Implementation*

Co-develop a CBA framework with other District Councils (mainly Summit University, Frogtown, North End, West 7th-Fort Road, and Dayton's Bluff), ReConnect Rondo, and City partners. Ensure CBA is based on input from diverse stakeholders on topics such as:

- Mobility, walkability, and accessibility standards.
- Public realm enhancements and cultural preservation.
- Local hiring and workforce development with benefits that support Downtown vitality.
- Affordable housing goals and funding strategies.
- Procurement targets for downtown and St. Paul businesses.
- Youth development and engagement initiatives.

3. *Project Review and Recommendations*

- Monitor and solicit feedback on City, County, and State projects impacting Downtown and adjacent neighborhoods.
- Evaluate proposed developments for alignment with community priorities.
- Provide advisory recommendations to the CRC Board, City Council, and other City entities (for example, Planning Commission, HRA Board of Commissioners, Board of Zoning Appeals, etc.).
- Advocate for inclusive design, anti-displacement strategies, and climate-resilient infrastructure.

4. *Coalition Building and Stakeholder Engagement*

- Collaborate with other district councils and other organizations to learn about and implement best practices and amplify impact.
- Support grassroots leadership and elevate community voices in planning.

- Join or follow the work of other community organizations (such as City, County, or State advisory groups) that align with your interests (and serve as an ambassador for District 17 and facilitate engagement with other CRC stakeholder groups).

5. *Data and Impact Tracking*

- Continually assess the culture of the committee by soliciting feedback from committee meeting attendees.
- Maintain a record of committee actions and recommendations.
- Develop metrics that indicate progress toward the committee's goals.
- Use data to guide CRC's strategic priorities for advocacy.

Committee Composition

1. All committee members are people who attend the meetings and live, work, own property, and / or attend school in District 17.
2. A committee chair is appointed by the CRC Board of Directors.
3. A City of Saint Paul PED liaison is requested to regularly attend meetings.
4. Attendees who live and / or represent organizations that are based outside of District 17 may participate in discussions but are not eligible to vote on committee motions.
5. Committee members should reflect the diversity of the community.
6. Subject matter experts may also be invited to provide relevant information about topics, including housing, finance, restorative infrastructure, and cultural competence.