

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON CAPITOL AREA
SECURITY

Annual
Report

January 15, 2025

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Introduction

As required by Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 299E.04, the Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security (Advisory Committee) provides advice and recommendations to the Governor and Legislature regarding security priorities, strategies for addressing these priorities, and recommendations for funding to implement the strategies. The Advisory Committee is required to submit a report to the Governor, Legislature, and Minnesota Supreme Court by January 15 of each year.

The Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security (Advisory Committee) consists of six members appointed as follows:

- The Lieutenant Governor;
- Two Senators including one member from the majority party appointed by the Senate Majority Leader, and one member from the minority party appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;
- Two members of the House of Representatives including one member appointed by the Speaker of the House, and one member appointed by the Minority Leader; and
- The Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court or the designee of the Chief Justice.

These individuals served as 2024 Advisory Committee members:

- Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan (Chair)
- Chief Justice Natalie Hudson
- Senator Warren Limmer
- Senator Bonnie Westlin
- Representative Kelly Moller
- Representative Jim Nash

The Advisory Committee is required by law to meet quarterly to assess the status of security in the Capitol Complex Area. For this purpose, the Advisory Committee consults with the Commissioners of Public Safety (DPS) and Administration (Admin), the Executive Secretary of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, the Director of the Minnesota Historical Society, and the Sergeants-at-Arms of the Senate and House of Representatives. The law requires the Advisory Committee to seek additional advice from individuals with security development experience in a college or university environment, in the courts, and in a private Minnesota company.

The Advisory Committee reports annually to the Governor, the chairs and ranking minority members of the Legislative committees with jurisdiction over the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, the Department of Public Safety, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The report provides a general assessment of the status of security in the Capitol Complex Area, describes implemented improvements, and recommends improvements for the future.

In 2024, the Advisory Committee met on January 23 and September 23. The focus of these meetings was to receive updates from DPS, House, and Senate on safety and security initiatives.

Appendix A identifies the mission statement and guiding principles that the Advisory Committee follows. As required by statute, the Advisory Committee also solicited input from an individual with experience designing and implementing security for a public college or university campus, an individual with experience designing and implementing security for courts, and an individual with experience designing and implementing security for a private Minnesota company (see Appendix B).

General Overview of Security within the Capitol Complex Area

The Capitol Complex Area as defined by Minnesota Statute 15B.02 consists of 15 buildings and 25 parking facilities spread across 140 acres in the City of Saint Paul. The Capitol Complex Area reported crime rates are historically low as compared to adjacent areas of the city. Visible security deterrents including the presence of the Minnesota State Patrol and Capitol Security officers as well as physical security enhancements contribute to the lower crime rate. Although crime rates are lower, vulnerabilities are continually evaluated as are improvements for ensuring the safety and security of those who work in and visit the Capitol Complex Area.

The Department of Public Safety, through the State Patrol Capitol Security Section, provides security, law enforcement services, and emergency management direction for the Capitol Complex Area. Security resources on the Complex are deployed based on threat assessments, perceived vulnerabilities, and stakeholder input.

The Capitol Security Section's full-staffing complement consists of 75 civilian security officers, 34 state troopers, one emergency manager, seven communications personnel and one explosives detecting canine. At the conclusion of 2024, Capitol Security had staffing vacancies, consisting of 20 state trooper and 18 security officer positions, there were 45 staffing vacancies at the end of 2023.

- The civilian Security Officers are assigned duties at fixed posts within select Capitol Complex Area buildings as well as foot and squad patrol duties.
- Minnesota State Troopers are responsible for command and administration of the Capitol Security Section and law enforcement operations for the entire Capitol Complex Area.
- The Emergency Manager is responsible for coordinating emergency preparedness planning on the Capitol Complex. In addition, the emergency manager facilitates training, drills, and workshops to enhance the preparedness of employees on the Capitol Complex.
- The Communications Division of Capitol Security continuously monitors 105,101 alarm and automation points, 377 emergency intercoms, 987 security cameras, and 1,552 card readers. In addition, communications staff is responsible for dispatching law enforcement and security personnel to calls for assistance.

In 2023, the Legislature appropriated \$1 million to the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board to update the Capitol Mall Design Framework (CMDf) along with an additional \$5 million appropriated to the Department of Administration for implementation of the framework. The framework was approved by the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board in the spring of 2024. Work completed in 2024 included the planting of about 120 trees on the Capitol Mall and the installation of a Tribal Flag Plaza on the lower mall. Two cameras were added to the lower mall due to sight lines lost as a result of the additional trees and flags.

Recent Improvements in Security

The Department of Public Safety and the Department of Administration continue to focus on public safety initiatives and security improvements for the Capitol Complex Area.

In the 2024 legislative session, \$1.35 million of trunk highway funds and \$450,000 of general funds were appropriated to the Commissioner of Administration for security upgrades at the Transportation Building. This brings the funding for the initiative over the past seven years to \$20.9 million. Despite the additional funding, there remains an unfunded need of \$39.4 million (2025 dollars).

In the 2023 legislative session, \$8.796 million of general obligation (GO) bond and \$297,000 of general fund dollars were appropriated to the Commissioner of Administration for Capitol Complex physical security upgrades.

The Department of Administration previously awarded the design contract for the Phase II upgrades to the architectural firm, Miller Dunwiddie and the construction contract to JE Dunn. Both firms were part of the execution team for Phase I and were brought on for Phase II to ensure continuity and to limit exposure of the security plans for the Capitol Complex. Design has been completed for this portion of the project. The construction phase began in July 2024 and is expected to run through December 2025.

The primary work elements of the project will be much the same as Phase I and include the installation of new security kiosks, hardening of existing kiosks, construction of bollards, installation of blast resistant glass on vulnerable windows, installation of security cameras and key card readers, and construction of security enhancements around critical infrastructure at various buildings on the Capitol Complex.

The current card readers on the Capitol Complex have been replaced with new ones capable of reading encrypted badges, which is more secure due to the difficulty of duplicating. The new readers accept both encrypted and non-encrypted badges so there has been no interruption of service. For the past several months, all new badges issued by DPS have been encrypted. The full conversion from non-encrypted to encrypted badges will begin in 2025.

In addition to the work mentioned above, an additional 43 cameras have been upgraded from the original standard definition IP cameras to full HD with analytics over the last year.

Recommended Future Improvements

As members of the Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security, we present the following recommendations to continue the enhancement of public safety and individual security in the Capitol Area:

The Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security recommends that the Legislature continue to support its initiatives to enhance operational and physical security on the Capitol Complex. The physical security enhancements recently completed and currently funded represents roughly 35% of the total physical security funding need. This deficit has been exacerbated by inflation and the resultant increase in the cost for construction. The absence of full funding for the security upgrades over the past 12 years leaves over half of the Capitol Complex population and building square footage without programmed physical security improvements.

Therefore, the Committee recommends that the legislature authorize \$33.566 million in GO bonds and \$5.828 million from the general fund to cover the cost of work and construction inflation to complete all of the physical security upgrades to the Capitol Complex as identified in the Miller Dunwiddie study and predesign.

The Advisory Committee is also considering additional security improvements related to staffing, training and equipment. These actions are necessary to improve safety and security for those who work on and visit the Capitol Complex.

APPENDIX A

Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security Mission Statement

The Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security is committed to ensuring the safety of the people, assets, process of government, and buildings within the Capitol Complex. To accomplish this, the Committee has adopted a layered, all-hazards approach that adheres to the following principles:

- The Capitol, Minnesota Senate, and State Office Buildings must remain open in both reality and perception. Security in these buildings must (1) ensure that processes of government remain accessible to all citizens, (2) ensure the safety of visitors and all participants in these processes, and (3) respect Cass Gilbert's vision for the Capitol building.
- Other buildings on the Capitol Complex, to the extent appropriate and feasible, should remain open. Appropriate security measures in these buildings must be in place to ensure the safety of state employees, military personnel, Minnesota citizens, and their data.
- The Capitol Complex Security Plan should be focused on long-term solutions and leverage a risk-based approach that adequately addresses identified risk areas and levels in each state building.
- The DPS team responsible for Capitol Security should have access to the resources it needs to ensure the safety of the Capitol Complex, the people who work there, and the citizens who visit in order to ensure continuity of state government operations.

APPENDIX B

Committee Advisors

Department of Administration

Commissioner Tamar Gronvall
Director of Facilities Management Kari Suchy

Department of Public Safety

Colonel Christina Bogojevic
Major Joe Dwyer
Captain Eric Roeske

Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

Executive Secretary Erik Cedarleaf Dahl

Minnesota Historical Society

Historic Site Manager Brian Pease
Director of Public Policy and Community Relations David Kelliher

Sergeant-at-Arms, Minnesota Senate

Sergeant-at-Arms Sven Lindquist

Sergeant-at-Arms, Minnesota House

Sergeant-at-Arms Lori Hodapp

Security Advisors – College or University

Lieutenant Long Xiong, University of Minnesota Police Department

Security Advisor – Courts

Commander John Eastham - Court and Security Services, Ramsey County Sheriff's Department

Private Minnesota Company

Andy Landon, Target Corporation

APPENDIX C Draft Legislation

Capitol Complex - Physical Security Upgrades, Phase III **33,566,000**

For the continuation of design, construction, and equipping required to upgrade the physical security elements and systems for the Capitol Mall and the buildings listed in this subdivision, their attached tunnel systems, their surrounding grounds, and parking facilities as identified in the 2017 Minnesota State Capitol Complex Physical Security Predesign completed by Miller Dunwiddie and an updated assessment completed in 2022. Upgrades include but are not limited to the installation of bollards, blast protection, infrastructure security screen walls, door access controls, emergency call stations, surveillance systems, security kiosks, lighting system upgrades, locking devices, and traffic and crowd control devices. This appropriation includes money for work associated with the following buildings: Administration, Andersen, Ag/Health Lab, BCA Maryland, Centennial, Capitol, Freeman, Governor’s Residence, Judicial Center, Minnesota History Center, Capitol Complex Power Plant and Shops, Stassen, State Capitol, and Veterans Service.

Capitol Complex - Physical Security Upgrades, Phase III **5,828,000**

From the general fund in fiscal year 2025, for the continuation of design, construction, and equipping required to upgrade the physical security elements and systems for the buildings listed below, their attached tunnel systems, their surrounding grounds, and parking facilities as identified in the 2017 Minnesota State Capitol Complex Physical Security Predesign completed by Miller Dunwiddie with 2022 updates. Work includes but is not limited to the installation of bollards, blast protection, infrastructure security screen walls, door access controls, emergency call stations, security kiosks, interior and exterior light fixtures and lighting enhancements, locking devices, and traffic and crowd control devices. This appropriation includes money for work associated with the Minnesota Senate and Retirement Systems Buildings. The funds shall be made available until fully spent.

Note: The Andersen and Freeman Buildings are scheduled to be purchased by the State in December 2025. Therefore, the funding source for these two buildings has been changed from general fund to GO bonds.