

State of Iowa

Capitol Planning Commission Annual Report

2003 – 2004



April 14, 2005

Vision

*The vision set forth in the Capitol Complex Master Plan
is for a Capitol Complex that exemplifies in
setting and function the dignity it embodies in
spirit and purpose.*

Members of the Capitol Planning Commission

Karen Polking, Chair
Jack Leaman, Vice-Chair

Scott Brown
Ronald Feilmeyer
Martha Hayes
Elizabeth Isaacson

Senator Jack Hatch
Senator John Putney
Representative Mark Davitt
Representative Ralph Watts

Patrick J. Deluhery, Secretary
Department of Administrative Services

The Capitol Planning Commission meets four times per year. In January, the Commission meets jointly with the Governor's Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee. In April, July and October, the Commission meets on the third Wednesday of the month. For further information, contact staff members Nancy Williams, 515 281-7259, or Dean Ibsen, 515 281-6051, of the Department of Administrative Services.

**The Capitol Planning Commission is authorized
under Chapter 18A of the Code of Iowa.**

“It shall be the duty of the commission to advise upon the location of statues, fountains and monuments and the placing of any additional buildings on the capitol grounds, the type of architecture and the type of construction of any new buildings to be erected on the state capitol grounds as now encompassed or as subsequently enlarged, and repairs and restoration thereof, and it shall be the duty of the officers, commissions, and councils charged by law with the duty of determining such questions to call upon the commission for such advice.

“The commission shall, in cooperation with the director of the department of administrative services, develop and implement within the limits of its appropriation, a five-year modernization program for the capitol complex.

“The commission shall annually report to the general assembly its recommendations relating to its duties under this section. The report shall be submitted to the chief clerk of the house and the secretary of the senate during the month of January.”

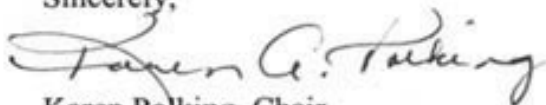
—Code of Iowa, Chapter 18A.3

Date: April 14, 2005

To: Mr. Michael Marshall, Secretary of the Senate
Ms. Margaret Thomson, Chief Clerk of the House

I am pleased to submit the Capitol Planning Commission’s Annual Report to the Legislature. Enclosed please find twelve copies for the Senate and twelve copies for the House. Additional copies will be provided upon request. If you have any questions, please contact Patrick J. Deluhery, Secretary of the Capitol Planning Commission and Chief Operating Officer for the Department of Administrative Services.

Sincerely,



Karen Polking, Chair
Capitol Planning Commission

Building Renovation, Restoration and Placement

“ ... the placing of any additional buildings on the capitol grounds, the type of architecture and the type of construction of any new buildings to be erected on the state capitol grounds ... and repairs and restoration thereof ... ”

Records and Property Center Renovation

In 2003 and 2004 the Commission reviewed work under way and projected for the Capitol, recommendations from the legislature for demolition of the Wallace Building, plans for renovation of the Records and Property Center, a proposal from Mercy Capitol for a land exchange on the north side of the complex and a proposed north loop road.

Discussions began in July 2003 on the design work underway to convert the historic Records and Property Center, a former tractor distribution facility at the southwest corner of the Capitol Complex, into a new home for the Department of Public Safety.

The Commission reviewed concept plans and assisted with analysis of the City of Des Moines' Capitol View Protection Ordinance with respect to the proposed new addition to the north. The Commission also considered two site planning concepts, the first a proposal to preserve the curved Kasson Street northeast of the building, and the second a proposal to remove Kasson Street, which would allow for more parking spaces for the renovated building. Ultimately, a plan to include Kasson Street as part of the parking lot was recommended by the Commission (design development phase site plan shown below).



Further enhancements recommended for the Records and Property Center parking lot that are not yet funded include relocation of the Peace Officers' Memorial to the site of the General Services gas station at the southwest intersection of East Seventh Street and E. Walnut Street and development of a memorial to John Kasson at the intersection of Kasson Street and E. Court Avenue (shown below).

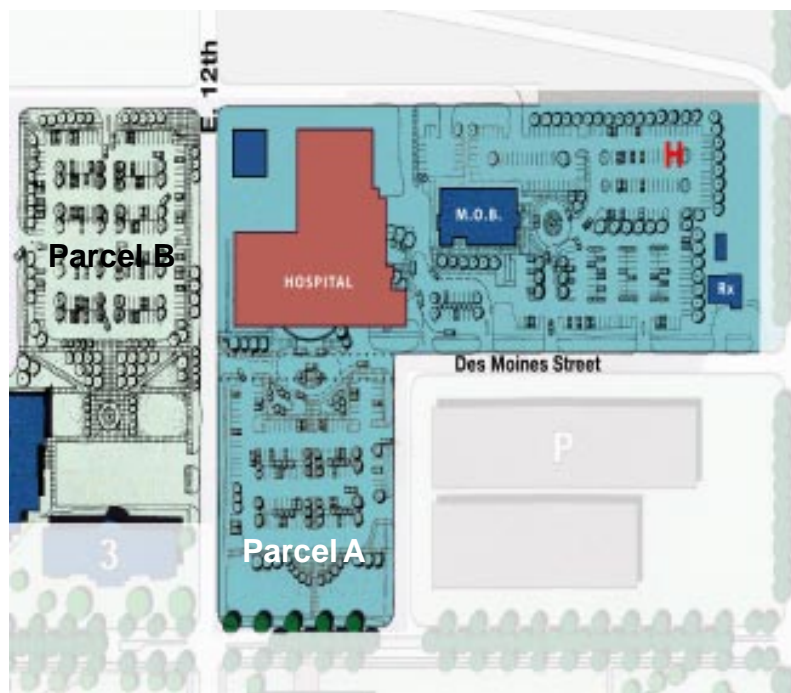
Mercy Capitol Proposal



NORTH ↑

East Court Avenue

Mercy Capitol, the hospital north of Des Moines Street, approached the state in 2003 about the possibility of trading parking lots. The proposal was considered as mutually beneficial to both the state and the hospital and the Commission has recommended that the state further pursue negotiations with the hospital.



NORTH ↑

The plan above shows one proposed configuration of Parcel A (Mercy Capitol owned) south of Des Moines Street and Parcel B (State-owned) north of Des Moines Street. This scheme proposes closures of Des Moines Street, removal of the Annex structure on Parcel B and removal of the east wing of Jessie Parker Building south of Parcel B. In this scheme, Parcel A would provide parking for Mercy Capitol and Parcel B would provide parking for the State.

Modernization Program for the Complex

“ ... develop and implement ... a five-year modernization program for the capitol complex.”

The Commission has discussed funding requests from the Department of Administrative Services for improvements to the Capitol Complex facilities and grounds. The Commission is specifically interested in the following proposals, because they are directly related to the goals identified in the Capitol Complex Master Plan:

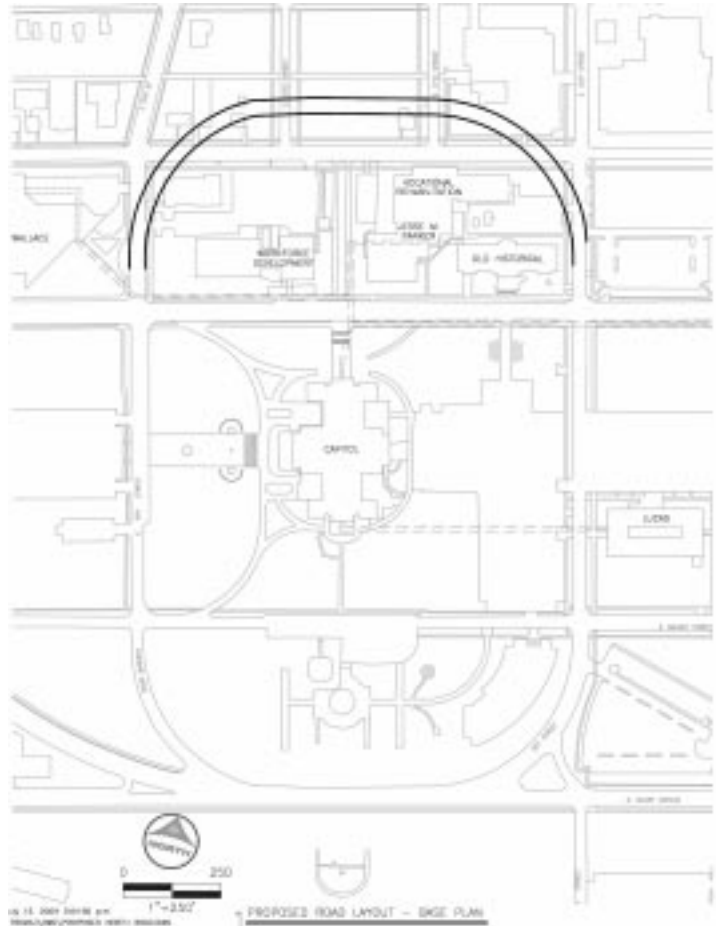
- Restoration of the West Capitol Terrace. Removal of parking lot 8 west of the Capitol will greatly enhance the tie between the Capitol Complex and the East Village area.
- Replacement of the Court Avenue Bridge. This connection is essential to the integrity of the Capitol Complex design and will greatly improve accessibility between the main complex, the Judicial Building and grounds to the south.
- Continued funding to complete the restoration of the interior and exterior of the Capitol and surrounding grounds. The Capitol Building is Iowa’s premier building and work is nearing completion.
- Further study for enhancement of the parking lot east of the Capitol. The aesthetics of the parking lot east of the Capitol must be improved to serve as a backdrop and enhance the appearance of such an impressive building.
- Completion of a Site Implementation Plan for the Capitol Complex. At the urging of the Commission, a site implementation planning consultant is now in place. Funding is needed to take the next step toward the recommendations of the Capitol Complex Master Plan.
- Additional funding to either renovate or replace the Wallace Building. Now that a study has been completed and a decision on demolition or replacement can be made, funding must follow to carry out the recommendation.
- Property Acquisition Funds. As properties become available adjacent to the Capitol Complex, funds will be needed for analysis, appraisal and evaluation of the properties.

Additional requests from the Department of Administrative Services are essential for operation of the complex, while not specifically related to the master plan:

- Improvements and repairs to Capitol Complex utility tunnels
 - Repairs to the Capitol and Lucas Building pedestrian tunnel
 - General repairs to parking lots and sidewalks throughout the complex
 - Capitol Complex security system upgrades
 - Capitol Complex electrical distribution system upgrades
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Other Projects North of Grand Avenue

The Commission also reviewed other projects underway along North Grand Avenue, including preliminary plans for the Jessie Parker Building and proposals for renovation of the Iowa Workforce Development Building at 1000 E. Grand. This discussion prompted a proposal for future development of a north loop road between Des Moines Street and I-235 mirroring the loop roads now in place south of the Capitol. The Commission has recommended amending the master plan to incorporate this proposal (concept drawing shown at right).



Wallace Building

A FY2004 legislative appropriation to General Services to begin to “plan for vacation and demolition of the Wallace Building” prompted the Commission to discuss the disposition of the building. While realizing that demolition may ultimately be the most appropriate solution, the Commission recommended further study of the building before proceeding with demolition. Additional funds have since been appropriated and a full evaluation and assessment to recommend the disposition of the building is underway by the Department of Administrative Services.

Monuments

“ ... advise upon the location of statues, fountains and monuments ... ”

In 2003, the Commission approved the concept for the proposed Military Order of the Purple Heart. The red granite monument has now been erected on the grounds south of the Capitol. In 2004, representatives of the proposed Iowa Worker’s Monument met with the Commission to discuss their proposal for erection of a monument between the Jessie Parker Building and the Iowa Workforce Development Building. The Commission has given tentative approval to the plan, subject to further review with staff of the Department of Administrative Services and with the Commission. Details for the monument are under development.



Staff advised the Commission of a statewide assessment of monuments underway by General Services, including monuments on the Capitol Complex. The Commission has recommended development of a monument master plan that would address repair and maintenance needs and process, and would also include procedures and outline an approval process in the event that monuments need to be relocated. The Commission members requested that the review process for relocation of monuments include approval by the Capitol Planning Commission.

The Department of Administrative Services has advised the Commission of conservation work underway on Capitol Complex monuments, supported through major maintenance funding and recommendations from the Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee. The Commission has also discussed proposed lighting of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument (shown above at right) and the Allison Monument, to be funded through an appropriation to the Department of Administrative Services.