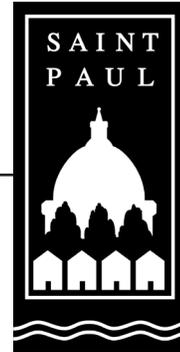

Two-Year Progress Report in Saint Paul

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman





CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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Dear Friends:

I am pleased to send you the enclosed two-year progress report, which highlights some of our accomplishments at the halfway point of my administration. It is an honor to serve as your mayor, and to work with you to make Saint Paul the Most Livable City in America.

As you will see, we have accomplished a lot during our first two years in office. Some of the things I am proudest of, however, are the things you cannot see. We have focused on reinventing government by providing better service at a better price to the residents of Saint Paul. We have addressed the concerns of our world-class firefighters and made new investments in the police department to keep our city safe. We have shed light on some of our own departments through internal audits, and we have reorganized our Parks and Recreation Department to focus on kids, not large and empty buildings.

“Better service at a better price” means we must restore long-term balance to the city’s budget by 2010. I will continue to have honest conversations with residents about what it costs to maintain quality public services. I remain committed to putting away the credit card and not passing today’s costs on to our children, while continuing to build on what makes Saint Paul great.

Our city continues to move forward with a new sense of optimism in the face of daunting challenges. We are working together to overcome these challenges created by disinvestment over the last several years at both the state and local level, resulting in staggering budget deficits and crumbling infrastructure. We were handed this challenge, and we continue to rise to meet it head on. Saint Paul is a stronger, smarter, and safer city than it was two years ago – which is a testament to what can be accomplished when we hold true to our core belief that we are a city of neighborhoods; a diverse community where neighbors watch out for each other; and a place where we value our children’s future above all else.

Last year I released a strategic plan for the city so the people of Saint Paul would know where we would focus our resources. The attached document includes those goals, and some of the most significant results to date, including:

- Raising \$18.3 million so 1,100 low-income children in Invest Saint Paul neighborhoods can have high quality preschool and daycare;

- Providing 10,000 rides on our neighborhood circulators that connect educational and recreational opportunities on the East and West Sides;
- Reducing violent crime by more than 13%;
- Staying on track towards our goal of having 650 police officers on the streets by 2010;
- Supporting our world-class fire department with new technologies and new hires;
- Championing billions of dollars worth of investment in Saint Paul;
- Leading the way in good environmental stewardship and combating climate change;
- Maintaining and investing in quality infrastructure for our community;
- Looking forward and planning carefully for the Central Corridor, which will change the face of Saint Paul; and
- Capitalizing on the “soul” of our community and showcasing Saint Paul to the world in 2008.

We could not do any of this work alone, and we are incredibly indebted to the community leaders and partners who give of their time and resources so selflessly. From the hundreds of people who have attended workshops and forums to give their input on Central Corridor, to leaders like former Mayor George Latimer and Art Rolnick who have advocated so tirelessly on behalf of early childhood education, to those who devote so much of their time serving on district councils and neighborhood organizations, we are tremendously grateful for your commitment to this community.

I am also grateful to my colleagues on the City Council, whose partnership is essential to making this city work. It is an honor to work side-by-side with such devoted public servants.

Finally, none of this would have been possible without the extraordinarily talented and dedicated people who work for the City of Saint Paul. The staff here provides vital and essential services that make our community so great. Again, it is a tremendous honor to serve as your mayor and to share the highlights of the past two years with you. I look forward to continuing to work with you to make Saint Paul the most Livable City in America.



Christopher B. Coleman
Mayor of Saint Paul

1 EDUCATION

Ensuring Every Child in Saint Paul Succeeds

Education is essential to the quality of life in our great city. Saint Paul will strive to ensure that learning opportunities are quality-driven and accessible for all. We will work to leverage city and community resources, building on the strengths of our people.

We will put all our kids on a path to success by working in concert with all of our education partners: our world-class public, private and charter schools; premier colleges and universities; libraries; and our network of informal learning institutions. Education will be at the forefront of closing the gap between the “haves” and “have-nots.”

“Mayor Coleman has demonstrated his commitment to education and the city’s children through his partnerships with Saint Paul Public Schools, including his support of the successful referendum, the Second Shift Initiative and other out-of-school-time educational programming. I look forward to working with him in the coming years as we continue to make strides to ensure successful futures for Saint Paul’s children.”

Dr. Meria Carstarphen
Superintendent, Saint Paul Public Schools

Education Highlights and Results

Ensuring Every Child in Saint Paul Succeeds

Ready for School, Ready for Life:

- ▣ **Empowering Families to Make Good Choices:** Together with the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation (MELF), Minnesota Department of Human Services, Minnesota Department of Education, and the Minnesota Child Care Resources and Referral Network, the Coleman administration has established **Parent Aware, a quality-rating tool** that will help Saint Paul parents make informed choices about their child’s care. To date, more than 30 providers are a part of the initiative in Ramsey County.
- ▣ **Providing up to \$18.3 million for Quality Child Care and Preschool:** Together with MELF, the Coleman administration has established a **Preschool Scholarship Pilot Program** in the Invest Saint Paul neighborhoods of Frogtown and North End. The Wilder Foundation estimates that over 82% of preschoolers in these neighborhoods are children of color. Relying on the ground-breaking work of Art Rolnick of the Federal Reserve, this initiative will provide up to **1,100 kids** with funds to help defray the costs of high quality early childhood learning opportunities. Scholarships and allowances will be available beginning in January 2008. A unique partnership with Ramsey County will allow an additional 400 families to receive parent-mentoring services.
- ▣ **Expanding Kindergarten Readiness:** The Coleman administration is working to make sure every child in Saint Paul is ready for kindergarten. Designed together with the Saint Paul Public Schools, the Saint Paul Public Library and the Greater Twin Cities United Way, the website, www.blastofftoK.org, walks families through month-by-month activities that will help children prepare for school. The Mayor and his staff have also participated in various “ready for kindergarten” events that helped four and five-year-olds prepare for school by receiving backpacks and riding a school bus.
- ▣ **Working to Close the Achievement Gap:** Mayor Coleman has joined with Saint Paul Public Schools Superintendent Meria Carstarphen, Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter, and representatives from the African American Leadership Council to work to close the achievement gap between white students and African and African American students through the Transitions Initiative. This initiative will lead to an aggressive, five-year plan with goals, strategies and partnerships to engage and educate students and their families about closing the district’s largest and most enduring achievement gap.

Strategies:

- **Start early:** Expand early childhood education and literacy programs so that all children enter school ready to learn.
- **Beyond the schoolyard and the school day:** Convene and connect formal and informal learning opportunities during the Second Shift, Out-of-School time.
- **Expect that all Saint Paul kids will participate in higher-education:** Better inform and prepare high school students for post-secondary educational opportunities.
- **Lifelong learning:** Increase workforce training and preparedness to support our growing and diverse residents and businesses.

Second Shift/Out-of-School Time:

- ▣ **Providing More Than 10,000 Circulator Rides:** The Coleman administration has worked with the Greater Twin Cities United Way, the Travelers Foundation, the 3M Foundation, the McNeely Foundation, and the McKnight Foundation to create a free neighborhood-based bus circulator system that connects youth with recreational and educational opportunities on the West Side and East Side of Saint Paul. To date, Saint Paul kids have ridden the circulators more than **10,000 times**. This initiative is built on the success of the circulator that a group of parents on the West Side began in 2003.
- ▣ **Giving More Than 3,000 Kids Safe, Productive Opportunities During Their Days Off:** Over the past two years, the city opened and programmed its recreation centers to provide **free** learning and recreational opportunities for kids during school vacation days, such as the Statewide Teachers Conference and Spring Break. To date, **more than 3,000 kids** have participated in these programs.
- ▣ **Connecting Saint Paul Families with Out-of-School Opportunities:** Kids and their families can view all of the city's available after-school programs through the "**Virtual One Stop**." This service has been used more than 13,000 times so far, and city staff will continue to work with outside organizations to add more program options for kids and their parents. This tool can be accessed at www.stpaul.gov/onestop.
- ▣ **Bringing Services to Kids Where and When Needed:** In his continuing goal to provide "Better Service at a Better Price" the Coleman Administration has streamlined programming and focused on kids, not buildings. Through the creation of "**Mobile Recreation Units**," Park and Recreation can bring programming to parks, homeless shelters, public housing, Invest Saint Paul areas, and schools.
- ▣ **Supporting the Next Generation of Civic Leaders:** Mayor Coleman created the "**Second Shift Youth Commission**" to give young people an opportunity to contribute to the Mayor's Second Shift Initiative and weigh in on issues that affect kids in Saint Paul. High school students from across the city have been selected to serve on the Commission, which has focused on violence in our schools and neighborhoods, healthy environments, success in school, college access and tuition, youth-friendly transportation, and ending discrimination.
- ▣ **Restructuring Library Hours to Meet Students' Needs:** Together with Councilmember Pat Harris, the chair of the Saint Paul Library Agency, Mayor Coleman worked to increase evening and after-school library hours to better serve the community. Students have sought and received help in the five **Homework Centers** at Saint Paul Public Libraries nearly **40,000 times**.

Higher Education and College Access

- ▣ **Tapping into One of Saint Paul's Greatest Resources—College Presidents:** In August 2006, Mayor Coleman convened a roundtable discussion of college presidents to discuss ways the city can help ensure that every child in Saint Paul has meaningful access to postsecondary education opportunities. Specifically, the college presidents identified the creation of **community-based college and career resource centers** as a first step in its course of action.

When Mayor Coleman implemented the ‘2nd Shift,’ he recognized that if you have something to offer our students in Saint Paul you should do everything you can to offer it. Mayor Coleman knows that our city has a lot to offer our students and he is doing everything he can to make it accessible.

Mayor Coleman’s dedication to the city of Saint Paul is demonstrated by his effort and attention to our students. He knows that our students are our future and they make this city vibrant, interesting, and livable, which is why I appreciate his investment in education so much.

Mary Cathryn Ricker
President, St. Paul Federation of Teachers – Local 28

- ▣ **Connecting the Community with College Options:** Knowing that Minnesota schools have the second lowest guidance counselor-to-student ratio in the country, the Coleman administration is working on strategies to help Saint Paul students explore educational and career opportunities. In January 2008, **two new College Resource Centers will open**, one in the Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center and another in the Sun Ray Library. Staff will be trained on the Saint Paul Public Schools’ College Access curricula and will provide students with necessary information on test preparation and college applications.
- ▣ **Championing the Power of You: 205 Saint Paul Kids Receive Free College Tuition:** Mayor Coleman joined with Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak to kick off this innovative program, which provides free college tuition for the first two years of college for graduates of Minneapolis or Saint Paul public high schools. The program began in the spring of 2006, and, to date, *205 kids from Saint Paul* have taken advantage of this unique opportunity.

Lifelong Learning:

- ▣ **Instilling the Value of Job Seeking, and Job Keeping Skills in Saint Paul Youth:** More than **800** young people have gained employment through the Summer Youth Job Corps, 86% of whom were kids of color. Investments in this initiative at the state and local level have doubled the capacity of this program in the past year.
- ▣ **Renewing the Commitment to Ramsey County Workforce:** In an effort to support the Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board (WIB), the Coleman administration and Councilmember Lee Helgen have worked to renew the city partnership with the WIB and will participate fully in the process, helping to develop the best-trained, best-educated, and most highly skilled workforce for the community.

A sense of security on our sidewalks and in our homes is essential to our city's quality of life. This feeling of safety comes from a strong sense of community and confidence in our exceptional public safety system. Our residents know that safety comes first in Saint Paul and have come to expect that our world-class police and fire departments will deliver the best possible emergency services quickly and equitably.

“Mayor Coleman’s comprehensive approach to public safety has shown real results in our neighborhood. From beat officers to partners like the God Squad to youth programming to neighborhood reinvestment, Mayor Coleman’s administration has taken a broad, effective approach to making our communities safer.”

Jonathan Sage-Martinson
Executive Director, Sparc

Public Safety Highlights and Results

Supporting our world-class police and fire departments

Hiring Historic Levels of Police Officers to Keep Our City Safe: The Coleman administration will have 650 police officers on Saint Paul’s streets by 2010, with 55 new officers hired to date. The City Council, due in part to the leadership of Councilmember Dan Bostrom, has shared this deep commitment to prioritizing public safety.

- ▣ **Driving Crime Down: Violent crime is down 13.3% in Saint Paul** in the last two years. Total crime is down 9.3%, compared with a nearly 2% *increase* nationwide.
- ▣ **Championing a 21st Century Fire Department:** Due in part to the leadership of Council President Kathy Lantry, the Saint Paul Fire Department will continue to build on its successes. New Fire Chief Tim Butler will utilize a **five-year strategic plan** to address issues around EMS service delivery.
- ▣ **Supporting Our Paramedics:** Saint Paul’s Paramedics are second to none. Thanks to their tremendous efforts, the cardiac survivability rate for people receiving care from a Saint Paul paramedic is **triple** the national average.
- ▣ **Ensuring Life-Saving Responses:** The average response time for the Saint Paul Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services is just over **four minutes**—compared with the national average of eight minutes.
- ▣ **Giving Law Enforcement 21st Century Tools:** The Coleman administration worked with Councilmember Lee Helgen to prohibit the possession of “non-lethal firearms,” or **replica guns** in public places. After hearing from law enforcement about the danger these replicas can pose, the city made it a misdemeanor to carry such devices in public. The Coleman administration also successfully advocated for civil gang injunction legislation, 800 MHz systems, and cameras along University Avenue to ensure that law enforcement has both the legal and technological tools necessary to protect our communities.
- ▣ **Investing in Public Safety Infrastructure:** In December 2007, the city completed its new **Western District Police Station**, which will serve the largest region in the city. The new station will house the Police Crime Prevention Unit, in addition to nearly 100 officers and command staff. Other amenities include space for community meetings, a workout center and indoor parking garage.

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- ▣ **Investing in Emergency Preparedness:** As recommended by TriData's audit of the Saint Paul Fire Department, a **stand-alone emergency preparedness department** was created. The Emergency Management Director coordinated the response to Saint Paul's recent storms, assisted with response to the I-35W bridge collapse, and also assisted in southeastern Minnesota in the wake of the region's severe flooding.
 - ▣ **Merging Buildings for More Effective Service Delivery:** The Coleman administration is working with Councilmember Dave Thune to merge Fire Stations One and Ten into one, state-of-the-art station for the West 7th Community. This station will help firefighters decrease response times, provide increased energy efficiency, and ultimately save operating costs for the Saint Paul Fire Department.
 - ▣ **Streamlining Services for Victims of Domestic Violence:** Construction will begin in January 2008 on a domestic abuse service center in City Hall. The center will bring together the critical safety and support services that domestic violence victims require. Through this centrally-located office, victims can receive orders for protection, culturally relevant advocacy services for themselves and their children, law enforcement and civil legal services, and consultation with prosecutors. The center will also offer a designated area where children can play while their parent or guardian is receiving assistance. Additional services, such as employment counseling, housing assistance, mental health and chemical dependency counseling will be available through a referral network to victims who access the center.
 - ▣ **Consolidating Resources for Better Emergency Responses:** Together with Ramsey County and communities throughout the county, Councilmembers Lantry, Bostrom and Helgen worked with the Coleman administration to merge the city's 911 response center into one state-of-the-art emergency dispatch facility in June 2007. This consolidation will save the city nearly \$500,000 each year.

Strategies:

- Start with Prevention.
- Engage and empower youth by increasing quality recreational, educational, and youth organizing opportunities for our diverse future leaders.
- Address areas of disinvestment by taking on problem properties and revitalizing commercial corridors.
- Create community partnerships that encourage and support healthy and safe neighborhoods.
- Strategic enforcement and prosecution.
- Focus on nuisance and quality of life crimes such as loitering, noise, and curfew violations.
- Target domestic violence, drug activity, and repeat criminal offenders.
- Engage and include stakeholders through community policing and prosecution.

3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Nearly \$1 Billion in Investment Taking Place Today, another \$1 Billion on the Horizon

Saint Paul is at the heart of state and regional government, health care industries, bio-science/medical development, and the arts community. We will build our economic future on the foundation of the city's strengths—a well-educated citizenry, safe neighborhoods, a diverse and affordable housing mix, sound infrastructure, and local businesses rich with growth potential. Saint Paul will invest in supporting our homegrown entrepreneurs and our small and mid-sized businesses within the fabric of our community. We will also work to continue to expand the presence of large businesses which embrace the tradition of engaged corporate citizenry. While aggressively pursuing more commerce in our community, we will be strong stewards of our historic structures, which are continual reminders of our city's foundation. We will continue with inclusive, responsible community planning efforts to ensure our development work is reflective of the community's vision.

“A successful economic development plan is one that creates wealth. By implementing strategies that produce job creation, business retention and tax base expansion, we can build a strong, healthy economy for our community. Economic development is a team sport, and the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to be part of the City's economic development partnership.”

Kris Johnson
President, Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce

Economic Development Highlights and Results Billions of Dollars in Investments

- ▣ **Bringing Nearly One Billion Dollars in Investment to Saint Paul:** Despite a challenging real estate market, Mayor Coleman has led the charge to bring more than **\$730 million** of investment into Saint Paul. Three of the city's hospitals are investing more than **\$240 million** in expansions, creating **250** permanent new jobs, and **450** construction jobs with the Regions Hospital expansion alone. The **\$15 million** Indoor Farmers' Market and Farmers' Market Flats has broken ground; nearly **\$8 million** has been invested in Raspberry Island and Chestnut Plaza; Xcel Energy is investing \$427 million in the new High Bridge Plant; and the Smith Avenue Transit Center and Holman Field improvements reflect more than **\$25 million** and **\$47 million in investment** respectively. Nearly **3,000** construction jobs have been created by the city's Housing and Redevelopment Authority projects alone.
- ▣ **Jump-starting More Than One Billion Dollars in Investment:** The Coleman administration has jump-started development planning on over \$1 billion worth of new projects for the city, including Cleveland Circle, the West Building, The Penfield, West Side Flats, Pressman Lofts, United Family Practice Center, City House, Hospital Linens redevelopment site, Hayden Heights and 415 Wabasha Court.
- ▣ **Championing Central Corridor Planning and Development:** In anticipation of the Central Corridor Light Rail's arrival, University Avenue and surrounding areas have seen tremendous revitalization, with much more to come. A **Super Target** has opened on University Avenue, as well as the **Carleton Lofts**, a new **Memorial Blood Center Headquarters** and the 100,000-square-foot **Wilder Foundation** facility on University and Lexington Avenues. Meanwhile, city staff is helping to unite hundreds of community members through the interim zoning strategy and station area planning processes.
- ▣ **Preparing for the Ford Plant's Future:** After fighting along with Councilmember Pat Harris to keep the Ford Plant open, the Coleman administration formed a task force to lead the city's efforts in the redevelopment of the current site of the Ford Plant in Highland Park. Chosen from more than 100 applicants, members of the task force were charged with preparing a mixed-use development framework for consideration by the Planning Commission, City Council and Mayor Chris Coleman.

- ▣ **Recruiting and Retaining Business:** Together with the Saint Paul Port Authority, the Coleman administration brought Internet Broadcasting Systems to the River Bend building, bringing more than **300 jobs** to Saint Paul. The Coleman administration also worked to bring Summit Fire Protection to Saint Paul, which has led to 170 additional jobs in the city.
- ▣ **Building consensus and ensuring the future of Holman Field:** After many years of distrust and controversy, the Coleman administration is helping to improve Holman Field Airport, while taking into account the impacts on surrounding neighborhoods, the environment, and the character of the riverfront.
- ▣ **Expanding Economic Opportunity for Traditionally Underserved Populations:** In the last two years, more than **700 jobs** for women, people of color, and people living with disabilities have been created through the contractor compliance program.
- ▣ **Helping Develop Quality, Affordable Housing:** The Coleman administration led efforts to finance affordable housing projects throughout the city, including the Winnipeg, Hazel Park Heights Condominiums, Whitehall Townhomes, Shalom Home East Campus, Jeremiah House, Highland Pointe Lofts, Booth Brown expansion for homeless youth, Burlington Apartments, Carty Heights, and the Commerce Building.
- ▣ **Targeting STAR Bonds for Disinvested Neighborhoods:** Through the Invest Saint Paul Initiative, the city has focused its resources toward revitalizing neighborhood corridors in areas of disinvestment. The city will devote more than **\$25 million** to Invest Saint Paul areas, providing funding to renovate older homes, assist families facing foreclosure, provide loans to small businesses, and make additional strategic investments to rejuvenate commercial corridors.
- ▣ **Championing “Green Jobs”:** In January of 2007, Mayor Coleman joined with Mayor R.T. Rybak to form the Mayors’ Initiative on Green Manufacturing. The mayors convened a development team of leaders from environmental, labor, business and nonprofit organizations to examine how Saint Paul and Minneapolis can become the “Silicon Valley” of green manufacturing technologies and products while creating family-supporting jobs.
- ▣ **Crafting a Sensible Living Wage Ordinance:** Soon after being elected into office, Mayor Coleman brought labor, faith and business leaders together and worked with the City Council to craft a responsible, reasonable living wage ordinance that benefits working families and business in Saint Paul.

Strategies:

- Revitalize neighborhood commercial corridors, specifically in areas of disinvestment.
- Invest in the development of the Central Corridor, engaging the community and embracing the diverse cultures that live and conduct business on the Corridor.
- Enhance Saint Paul’s vibrant downtown and riverfront entertainment, cultural and business districts by investing in key development projects.
- Invest in the development of quality affordable housing.
- Target economic development dollars to maximize job creation and retention.

INVEST SAINT PAUL

Mayor Chris Coleman launched Invest Saint Paul as a key initiative to bring city services and members of the community together to address specific challenges facing neighborhoods. It is the city’s version of a “full court press” in which local government teams up with a variety of partners to direct existing resources and energy toward a set of neighborhood goals in a focused and strategic way.

“Mayor Coleman has rightly placed community development at the center of his agenda. Creating new opportunities in neighborhoods that have fewer resources is one of the best ways to make sure all the city’s residents prosper. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Saint Paul and our community development partners to help these neighborhoods become great places of choice and opportunity.”

Andriana Abariotes
Executive Director, LISC

Invest Saint Paul is targeting four neighborhoods challenged by economic and social downturns: Dayton’s Bluff, the Lower East Side, Frogtown-Thomas/Dale-Aurora St. Anthony, and the North End.

Invest Saint Paul Highlights and Results:

Building Better Communities

- ▣ **Targeting Public Investments in Invest Saint Paul Neighborhoods:** City staff has identified and aggressively pursued redevelopment opportunities in Invest Saint Paul neighborhoods, such as The Winnipeg, the Swedish Bank Building, the Payne-Phalen Redevelopment Area, the Hospital Linen redevelopment site, the northeast corner of University and Dale, 208 Bates, and the Hamms’ Brewery site.
- ▣ **Combating Mortgage Foreclosures through a “Full Court Press”:** City staff has focused on mortgage foreclosure issues, especially in Invest Saint Paul areas. Significant efforts have been made towards **prevention**, hosting workshops in Invest Saint Paul areas for residents concerned about making their mortgage payments, as well as creating kiosks filled with prevention information in libraries in Invest Saint Paul areas. City staff has also focused on identifying people with mortgage trouble, and providing **assistance**, including one-time loans from the City’s Home Loan Fund to cure mortgage default. More than **600** families have received one-time assistance and over **520** foreclosures have been prevented through the Home Loan Fund. Mayor Coleman has also testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Financial Services Committee to push for **legislative changes** to make it easier for the city to prevent predatory lending.
- ▣ **Coordinating and Focusing City Resources:** The City has coordinated its efforts in Invest Saint Paul neighborhoods. For example, the Department of Safety and Inspections has performed more than **1,700 certificate-of-occupancy** inspections in Invest Saint Paul areas; the Office of Financial Services has assisted Invest Saint Paul residents with tax returns and renters credit applications; and the Saint Paul Public Library has held workforce development classes at the Rondo and Rice Street Libraries.
- ▣ **Engaging the Community: More than 500 People** attended Invest Saint Paul community days events to learn about the initiative and how to access city resources available to residents.

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- ▣ **Partnering with Community Organizations to Provide Preventative Dental Care:** The Invest Saint Paul Dental Sealant initiative was launched in June, in partnership with the Smiles Across Minnesota coalition, to provide low-income and uninsured children access to preventive dental services. Dental decay is the most prevalent chronic childhood illness affecting children in Minnesota and across the nation. Eighty percent of the disease is expressed in 25% of the children, typically low-income and uninsured children. This innovative initiative brings care directly to children on-site at schools, in libraries, and at community centers, eliminating barriers in accessing care for low-income families. Over **350** children received dental care in Saint Paul libraries and community centers this past summer and the initiative is on-track to provide care to more than 3,000 Saint Paul children within its first year.
 - ▣ **Streamlining Services, Building Better Communities:** Together with community leaders and partners, the Coleman administration is working to build a community facility, combining the Arlington Recreation Center with the programming hub for Merrick Community Services, one of the largest nonprofit social-service agencies in the area. Creating this “**one-stop shop**” for the community, and building a new and innovative recreation center, will benefit residents throughout Saint Paul.

Saint Paul is a leader in sustainable, urban living by “acting locally” to help reverse the negative effects of global warming. Environmental stewardship must start at home. We will implement the vision of the National Great River Park by focusing development on a more natural, more urban, and more connected Saint Paul. Our healthy community will encourage healthy lifestyles. The health and welfare of our community and our residents will help attract and retain quality businesses and a quality workforce.

“Making Saint Paul America’s most livable city is the right vision, and we have a great start with district heating and cooling, the Central Corridor light rail, and commitments to energy efficiency, green jobs, and helping to lead the way on global warming. Meeting the environmental challenges of the 21st century is an enormous challenge and opportunity, and Mayor Chris Coleman has proven he is up to the task.”

Michael Noble
Executive Director, Fresh Energy

Environment Highlights and Results

Leading the way in Saint Paul to Protect Our Environment

- ▣ **Investing in Energy Conservation:** At no additional cost to taxpayers, the Coleman administration worked with Councilmember Lee Helgen to invest **\$1 million** over the next three years into the Energy Conservation Investment Fund. The money will come from savings realized as a result of energy efficiency improvements. In 2008, the city will make at least eight city-owned buildings more energy efficient and will evaluate an additional 40 structures. Improvements include upgraded heating at Linwood Recreation Center and Phalen Golf Course Clubhouse, as well as the installation of energy efficient lighting at Conway Recreation Center, Edgumbe Recreation Center, Linwood Recreation Center, and the Como Zoo Marine Mammal Care Center.
- ▣ **Dramatically Reducing CO₂ Emissions:** The city has dramatically reduced its carbon dioxide emissions over the past two years. By 2008, emissions will be reduced by nearly **one million tons each year**, resulting in \$59 million in annual energy savings for the city, Saint Paul’s District Energy customers, and other community partners.
- ▣ **Leading the Way on Climate Change:** Less than 30 days into office, Mayor Coleman signed the U.S. Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement, signaling a deep commitment to meaningful action on the local level to combat global climate change.
- ▣ **Constructing New Green Buildings:** Under the Coleman administration’s leadership, the city has approved well-established building standards for new municipal facilities and major renovations. All new projects will meet either the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards or the State of Minnesota Sustainable Building Guidelines for sustainability. For example, the new **Western District Police Station** will be 45% more energy efficient than required by the state building code through the use of tools like a white roof, solar tubes, and storm water management techniques.

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- ▣ **Reforestation of the Urban Community:** More than **12,000** native trees and **10,000** native grasses have been planted over the last two years.
 - ▣ **Acquiring New Park Land:** The Coleman administration led a broad coalition of community leaders in the acquisition of **Henry Park**. This 11-acre property has long been one of Saint Paul's top open-space conservation priorities and is key to several greenway planning efforts along Saint Paul's 17-mile Mississippi River frontage known as the National Great River Park. Supporting and championing the National Great River Park has been a priority of the Coleman administration.
 - ▣ **Leading the Way to Protect the Health and Safety of Workers:** Fewer than two weeks into his administration, Mayor Coleman worked with Councilmember Thune and signed Saint Paul's smoking ban into law. Mayor Coleman called on the legislature to follow with a statewide measure, which was passed and went into effect on October 1, 2007.
 - ▣ **Assembling the Talent to Get the Job Done:** Anne Hunt serves as Deputy Policy Director and Sustainability Coordinator for Saint Paul, and the city is currently in the process of hiring its first Energy Coordinator and Water Resource Coordinator.

Strategies:

- Take proactive steps to protect our city's air, water and urban landscape by focusing on carbon dioxide reduction, energy efficiency and conservation, clean energy supply, alternative transportation, water quality, recycling, waste reduction, green space and reforestation.
- Improve and expand Saint Paul's system of parks, green spaces, bikeways, and trails by connecting the entire city, including the Mississippi River and existing recreation locations and ecological spaces.
- Encourage residents of all ages and cultures to increase their physical activity.
- Improve our pedestrian streetscapes both in our neighborhoods and in downtown.

Saint Paul’s mission to become the most livable city in America is grounded in our public amenities and infrastructure. The principles of sound infrastructure, quality public amenities and proactive environmental stewardship will guide our work.

“Saint Paul has experienced a remarkable renaissance that has created confidence and certainty for future investment. Mayor Chris Coleman is providing new leadership to continue the positive momentum and enhance the economic vitality and quality of life in Saint Paul. The Coleman administration is approachable, collaborative, easy to work with, and is helping to make Saint Paul one of the most livable cities in America.”

Mary Brainerd
CEO, HealthPartners

Infrastructure Highlights and Results

Sound Infrastructure and Quality Public Amenities Matter

- ▣ **Improving Neighborhood Streets and Local Roads: Through the Residential Street Vitality Program (RSVP)**, more than **40 miles** of pavement in targeted neighborhoods has been improved. RSVP has also led to the installation of **320** lantern-style streetlights and four new traffic signal systems in targeted areas.
- ▣ **Addressing Deferred Maintenance Issues:** In addition to the projects that fall within the Capital Improvement Budget (CIB), more than **\$1 million** has been earmarked to “catch up” on projects that have been delayed for years, such as improved security in libraries and recreation centers, and desperately needed maintenance.
- ▣ **Leveraging Private Funds:** The Coleman administration has raised more than **\$25 million** from generous philanthropic and government partners to help fund early education initiatives, Central Corridor, and a center for victims of domestic abuse. The Coleman administration is especially grateful to organizations like the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, the Saint Paul Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Securian Foundation, Travelers Foundation, 3M Foundation, the F.R. Bigelow Foundation, the Katherine B. Andersen Foundation, the Corporation for National Community Service, the McNeely Foundation, Greater Twin Cities United Way, Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation, the Hardenbergh Foundation, the Otto Bremer Foundation, the Minneapolis Foundation, the Mardag Foundation, the Sajai Foundation, the Surdna Foundation, and the Minnesota Departments of Health, Education, and Pollution Control Agency.
- ▣ **Making Saint Paul America’s “Most Connected City:”** The Coleman administration understands that cities must be connected to the world if they are to compete in a global economy. The Office of Technology and Communications conducted a year-long Broadband Impact Technology Study and aggressively began to implement the recommendations in that report; including a key finding that Saint Paul needs to control its own destiny through the planning, developing and constructing of a community fiber network. The city will immediately begin a series of incremental steps toward that long-term goal.

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- ▣ **Expanding Efforts to Make Downtown Saint Paul a Holiday Destination:** The Coleman administration collaborated with the Capital City Partnership to create Rice Park Winter Wonderland powered by Xcel Energy in historic Rice Park, with an 80-foot tree and holiday décor. Over 1.7 million people enjoyed the Rice Park Winter Wonderland in 30 days. Along with Wells Fargo WinterSkate, these initiatives create vitality, establish downtown Saint Paul as a holiday destination, complement the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts holiday programming, and complete the vision of the world famous Rockefeller Plaza in Saint Paul.
 - ▣ **Supporting Quality of Life and Infrastructure Aesthetics of Downtown Saint Paul:** The Coleman administration worked with Capital City Partnership to raise \$80,000 in private funds to purchase flowers and lighting for downtown Saint Paul.
 - ▣ **Preserving a Sustainable Park System:** The city recently passed its first parkland preservation ordinance, which will require developers to set aside money or land to create and preserve parks and open space.
 - ▣ **Providing Safe and Healthy Drinking Water:** Together with Councilmember Pat Harris, the Coleman administration has worked to ensure the city's water is clean and safe. Since installing a granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration system in the Water Treatment Process, the city's odor and taste complaints have been reduced by over 90%.
 - ▣ **Uniting East Metro Communities Around Transportation Needs:** In February of 2007, the Coleman administration formed an alliance with elected officials and community members from the East Metro area. This coalition, known as the **Eastern Transportation Alliance**, will speak with a united voice on the transportation needs of our community and fight to build the Central Corridor, the Rush Line, the Red Rock Corridor, and high-speed rail to Chicago and other corridors serving our region. Each of these lines will come together to form a seamless transportation network with its heart at Union Depot.

Strategies:

- Promote strategic capital investment that maintains and improves our infrastructure.
- Utilize new approaches and best practices to develop policies and standards to manage assets, infrastructure and technology and to exercise environmental stewardship.
- Provide technological infrastructure, including a robust broadband infrastructure with citywide wireless capacity and a city website connecting residents and visitors to all of Saint Paul's assets.
- Support our quality infrastructure and quality of life by investing in infrastructure aesthetics, including landscaping, flowers and decorative lighting.

The soul of Saint Paul can be experienced within our neighborhoods and among our diverse people. We will enhance the spirit of our city to fuel our economic vitality. We will capitalize on Saint Paul's national leadership in civic health by strengthening our neighborhood engagement. We will work to expand access to exciting parks, cultural institutions, vibrant music and artistic brilliance. We will use technology to connect residents and visitors to the character of our city.

"Mayor Coleman and the City of Saint Paul continue to be tremendous supporters of the Science Museum. We celebrated our centennial in 2007, and Mayor Coleman played a vital role in supporting our efforts to take our science legacy out of the museum and into the community. I look forward to continuing our partnership and our momentum as we bring science even further into the minds and hearts of young people, educators and policy makers of our great city and great state."

Dr. Eric J. Jolly
President, Science Museum of Minnesota

Soul Highlights and Results

People are Passionate about Saint Paul

- ▣ **Showcasing Saint Paul to the World:** The Coleman administration led the charge to bring the **Republican National Convention** to Saint Paul in 2008, which will bring nearly 45,000 visitors, 15,000 members of the media and 3,100 jobs to Saint Paul. The Coleman administration also brought the world premiere of the movie, "**A Prairie Home Companion**," to Saint Paul, and helped bring more than **3,000 people to Concrete and Grass** in Mears Park. In 2008, Saint Paul will host the **National Pheasants Forever Convention** and the **U.S. Figure Skating Championships**.
- ▣ **Continuing to Build on Saint Paul's Successes:** More than 7.1 million people travel to downtown Saint Paul each year for entertainment opportunities, with each visitor spending more than **\$28** downtown—beyond their ticket purchase. The Coleman administration believes passionately in the entertainment sector's role as an economic driver and has shepherded the opening of the Lowry Theater and three new nightlife venues in downtown Saint Paul.
- ▣ **Celebrating Diversity Throughout the Community:** The Coleman administration has worked to ensure the success of all its residents by prioritizing education and aggressively focusing resources in Invest Saint Paul communities, which are historically very diverse. Mayor Coleman has also championed city-wide celebrations of Saint Paul's diversity, such as the Cinco de Mayo celebration on the West Side, the Hmong New Year event at the River Centre, the Hmong Fourth of July Soccer tournament, and Rondo Days, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary this year.
- ▣ **Revitalizing Saint Paul's Restaurant Scene:** Under the Coleman administration's leadership, seven new restaurants have opened or will open in the near future, including Meritage, Knight's Tale, Strip Club, Sawatdee, and Salut on Grand Avenue.
- ▣ **Celebrating Hockey Town U.S.A.:** The Coleman administration worked with the City Council to construct three new **outdoor refrigerated ice rinks** in Saint Paul, which will guarantee more time for young people to play hockey and skate outdoors in the community. *Sports Illustrated Magazine* recently named Saint Paul "Hockey Town U.S.A." because of the community's love of youth, college, and professional hockey.

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- ▣ **Redeveloping Historic Spaces:** The Coleman administration has jump-started development of the **Palace Theater**, which will become a vibrant, modern venue for concerts. The administration is also championing the redevelopment of the Hamms' Brewery site into the **Asian Pacific Cultural Center**.
 - ▣ **Supporting one of Saint Paul's Most Beloved Treasures:** The Coleman administration successfully advocated for funding for a new polar bear exhibit at Como Zoo, which will provide enhanced learning opportunities for the community and a safe home for an endangered species. The exhibit will be one of the first in the country that will meet the Manitoba Conservation standards, which will allow the zoo to house polar bears rescued due to the impacts of global warming.
 - ▣ **Building Community Through Public Art:** The Coleman administration has worked to bring art to neighborhoods in Saint Paul, through innovative partnerships like "Paint the Pavement," which brings neighbors together to organize and create their own public square or public art on low-traffic residential streets. Mayor Coleman was also a major supporter of the Steppingstone Theatre relocation, which will draw 60,000 patrons to the Summit-University neighborhood each year.

Strategies:

- **Make downtown a regional music, culture and creative arts center for all generations by creating and supporting arts and culture venues.**
- **Implement a public art policy for Saint Paul that ensures art is integrated into our public and private infrastructure.**
- **Establish and build on Saint Paul as the home of authentic and fun sporting opportunities, including high school sports tournaments, amateur sports, and Minnesota's premier major and minor league teams.**
- **Market Saint Paul's creative voices, ethnic diversity and neighborhood-based character as keys to our identity.**