



NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

The Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission will hold a meeting on **Friday, July 24, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.** in the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, in **City Council Chambers** on the 1st Floor. For more information, please contact the Lincoln City/Lancaster County Planning Department at 402-441-7491.

AGENDA

July 24, 2026

1. Approval of meeting record from [May 22, 2026](#)

Public Hearing & Action

2. St. Mary's Improvement along the K Street; (Clark & Enersen; UDR26072)

Discuss & Advise

3. Rotary Peace Pole on Centennial Mall (Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs)
4. Staff report & miscellaneous

**AT THIS TIME, ANYONE WISHING TO SPEAK ON AN ITEM
NOT ON THE AGENDA, MAY DO SO.**

ACCOMMODATION NOTICE: *The City of Lincoln complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 guidelines. Ensuring the public's access to and participating in public meetings is a priority for the City of Lincoln. In the event you are in need of a reasonable accommodation in order to attend or participate in a public meeting conducted by the City of Lincoln, please contact the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights at 402-441-7624, or the City Ombudsman at 402-441-7511, as soon as possible before the scheduled meeting date in order to make your request.*



NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

APPLICATION NUMBER	Urban Design Record #26072
APPLICATION TYPE	Certificate of Appropriateness
ADDRESS/LOCATION	1400 K Street
HEARING DATE	July 24, 2026
ADDITIONAL MEETINGS	None
APPLICANT	Travis Barrett, Clark & Enersen
STAFF CONTACT	Collin Christopher, 402-441-6370, cchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Summary of Request

St. Mary's Catholic Church is currently in the process of completing a façade restoration project along the K Street side of the church and as they progress, they are now exploring site/streetscape improvements as well. In the initial phase, the improvements include a combination of landscaping and pedestrian-focused enhancements that aim to highlight the restored façade and create more people-friendly spaces along the south side of the building. This includes curbed and potentially fenced landscape beds, added shade trees, and stone benches for gathering.

In the second phase, the church has asked the city to explore the viability of a bump out at the intersection that would eliminate the awkward switchback that exists at this corner today. City staff are generally in support of this modification, as long as proper slopes can be reasonably achieved. If approved, staff will set aside funding for further development of this proposal.

The applicant is asking for a Certificate of Appropriateness for Phase 1 improvements, as well as guidance on the general appropriateness of the bump out identified in Phase 2.

Compatibility with the Design Standards

Given that this is a streetscape/street frontage project directly in front of Capitol Square, adherence to the standards is especially important. What follows are the most relevant standards and guidelines:

Design Standard 2: Proximity

The nearer a property is to the Capitol, the greater responsibility it bears in the District. Buildings and other improvements facing Capitol Square shall meet very high standards for design, construction, and maintenance. Improvements facing the Capitol Malls shall also meet high standards. Other improvements

within the District but not facing the Square or the Malls shall not intrude upon the Capitol's setting and shall contribute to the overall quality of the District.

Design Standard 18: General Landscape of All Malls

The landscape of the Capitol Malls should enhance the Capitol setting and vistas:

- by providing canopy and definition at the mall edge, but leaving the centers of the malls more open, allowing on-axis views of the Capitol,
- by creating a sense of organization and unity through form, color, texture, and spacing that may be lacking in the adjacent architecture,
- by establishing a rhythm of visual and physical movement leading ultimately to the Capitol,
- by providing seasonal change and interest.

There is a delicate balance between a landscape that enhances and one that overwhelms—color and form changes should be in large sweeps and masses to avoid creating small, distracting focal points. The landscape should be bolder and more colorful closest to the Capitol.

Facing Capitol Square and the Malls, front yards shall not contain mechanical equipment, above-ground utilities, docks, or unscreened ramps. Architectural or planted screenings may be offered, with maintenance requirements.

Active use of the Malls should be encouraged by the selection and placement of landscape elements such as seating.

Guideline 18.2:

Provide seating in as many locations as appropriate. Benches should:

- be of high quality, refined materials,
- have backs,
- be readily available commercially or easily repaired in-house,
- be of neutral colors,
- be placed along edges to take advantage of shade and allow pedestrians to be close to circulation but not in it.

To provide seating opportunities for conversation, combine benches, trash cans, ash urns and small tables of similar construction and installation.

Guideline 18.3:

Encourage the use of wide, seating-height caps on retaining walls or edge definers, including pools and fountains.

Guideline 18.5:

Use high quality pavement that is durable, neutral or natural color, able to be matched or replaced locally or regionally; nonslip but not too rough for high heels; textured or patterned subtly. Asphalt or asphalt pavers

are not acceptable. Design paved areas to allow replacement or repair to occur in sections that maintain the established pavement pattern.

Guideline 18.6:

Retaining walls, seating walls, planters, and other vertical landscape features should be constructed of durable materials, preferably masonry; neutral or natural colors; horizontal lines; no exposed form lines or form-tie holes.

Guideline 18.11:

Use high quality, permanent landscape materials for edging, containing, and paving in neutral or natural colors. Use of masonry or stone is appropriate where edging or containment is needed. Exercise caution in designing any above-ground planters or planting beds, that they be of sufficient size to support healthy growth of plant materials. Remove undersized planters from existing trees and replace trees as necessary.

Guideline 18.12:

Utilities, dumpsters, service areas, and the like should be located as inconspicuously as possible, and screened from Capitol Square and the Malls with permanent materials which are compatible with the adjacent buildings.

On the whole, the proposed project meets these standards and guidelines. Guideline 18.2 does suggest that benches include backs, but in staff’s opinion, this suggestion is not essential to the environs. Given that the benches will be located on private property, the church retains some discretion regarding the type of seating they provide to their visitors.

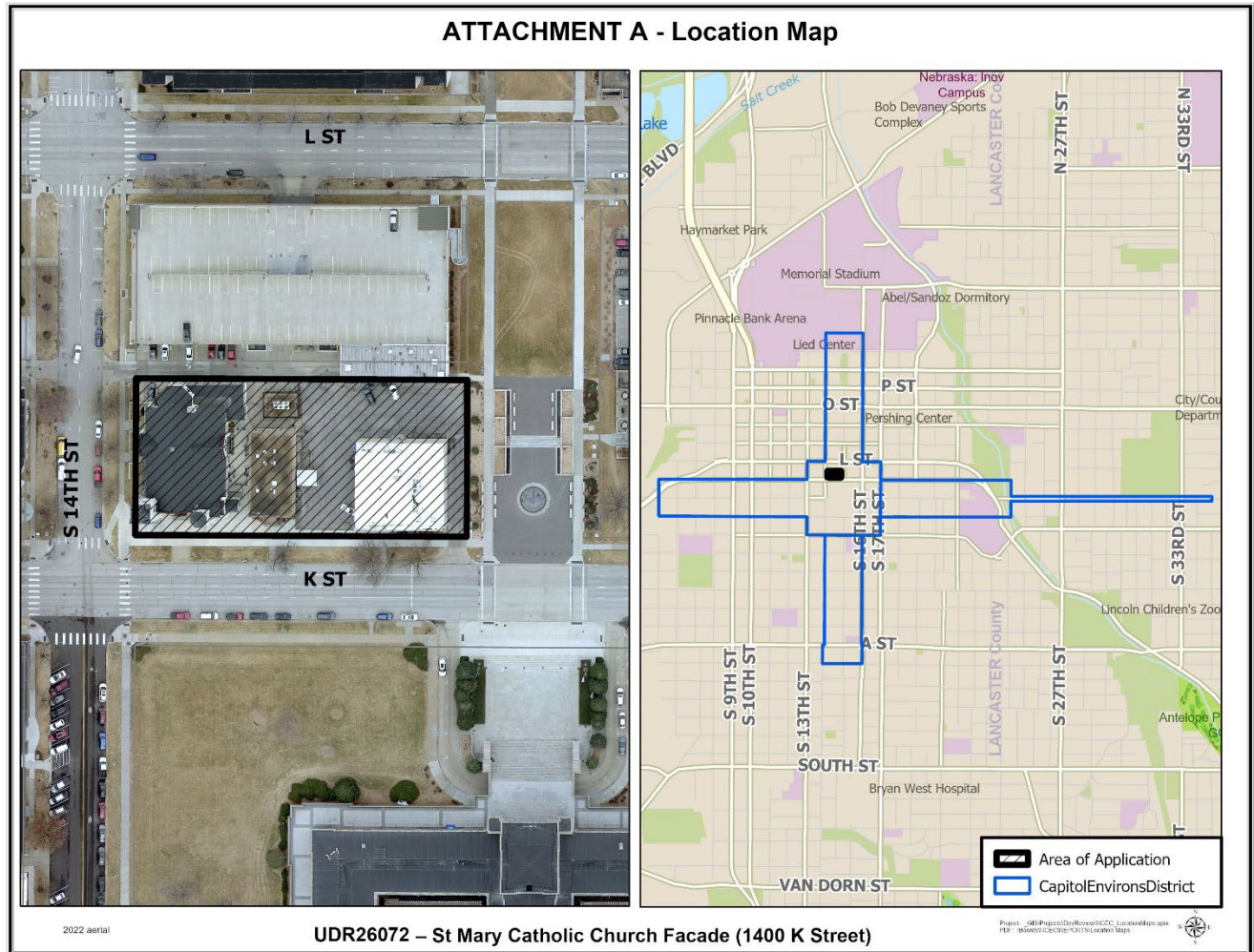
Recommendations/Action

Staff is excited to see the continued reinvestment in St. Mary’s and looks forward to working with their leadership on potential intersection improvements in the future. Regarding the proposed Phase 1 improvements, staff believe they will complement the ongoing façade restoration on the K Street side and further beautify a block directly fronting the Capitol.

Recommended finding: The proposed Phase 1 improvements for at 1400 K Street meet the intent of the relevant Capitol Environs Design Standards.

Recommended action: Approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for site and streetscape improvements along K Street at 1400 K Street.

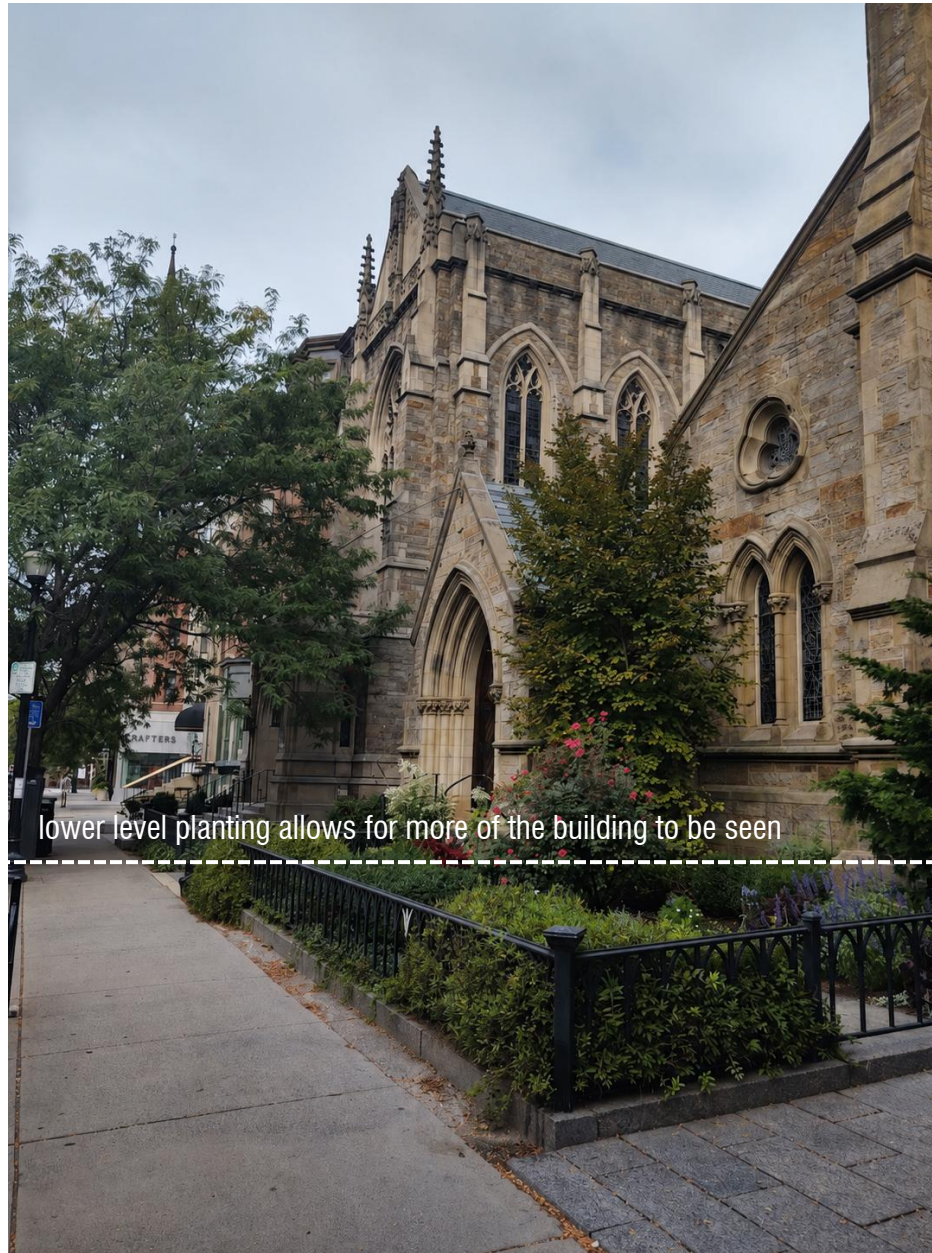
ATTACHMENT A – LOCATION MAP



St. Mary's Catholic Church

Pedestrian Experience & Landscape Design

July 24, 2026



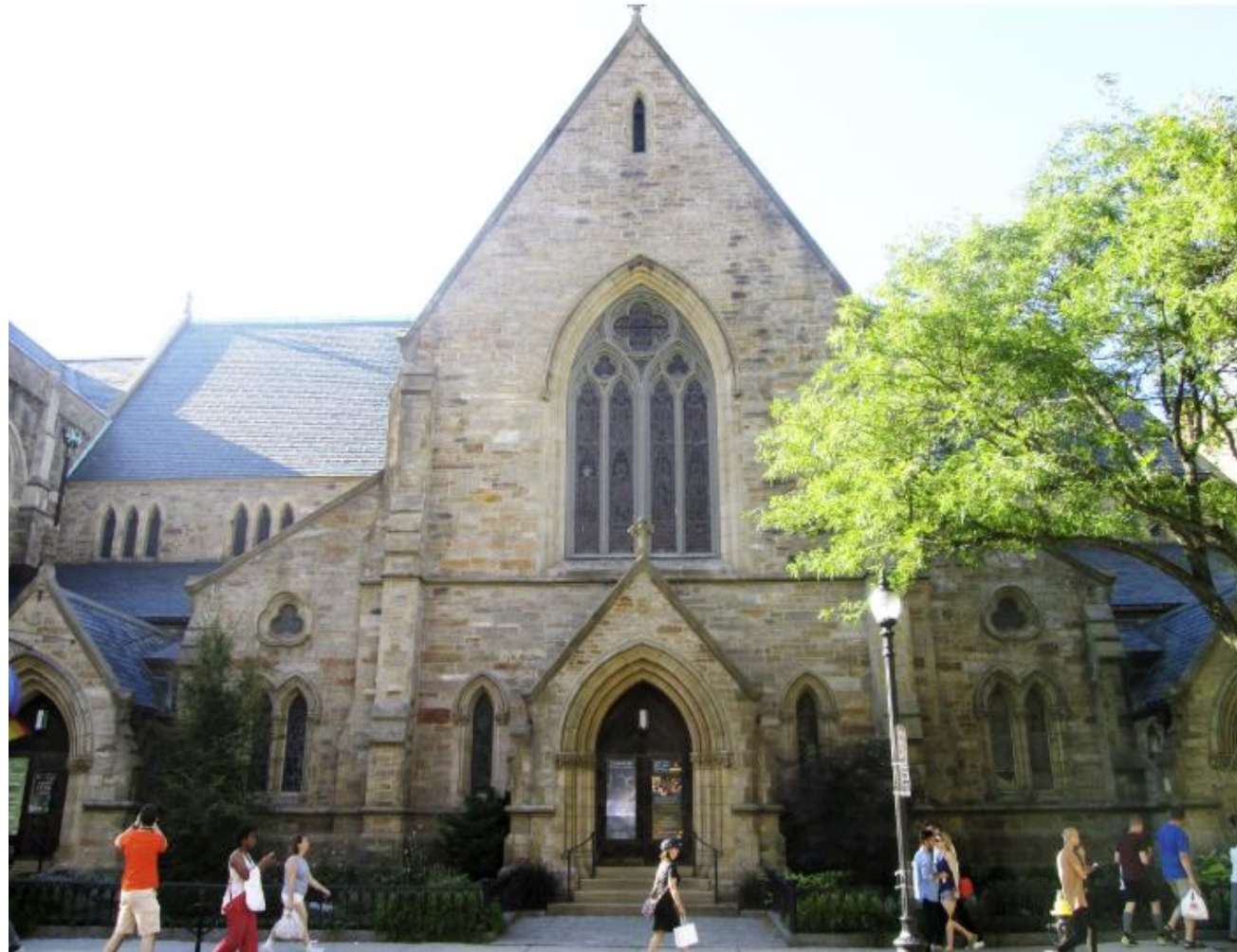
lower level planting allows for more of the building to be seen

height brought in on edges to frame the building

- street trees for additional shade and interest

option of wrought iron fencing for inground planters

- maintenance access and plant protection
- detail of fence highlighting building character



create visual interest and a welcoming environment

- signage to display service times and events

trees for additional shade

highlight entrance of the church, slowing
pedestrian traffic to take note of the building

Plant Palette

- St Mary's blue
- white, cream, purples, maroon
- variation of green + golds
- tactile + sensory
- seasonal interest

spring	hellebore
	lilac
	allium
	smoke bush
summer	verbena
	butterfly bush
	lavender
	delphinium
	false indigo
fall	cosmos
	echinacea
	prairie dropseed
	Japanese anemone

allium



Japanese anemone



cosmos



butterfly bush



lilac



prairie dropseed



maidenhair grass



hellebore



delphinium



Arkansas blue star



verbena



false indigo



lavender



echinacea



smoke bush



Details

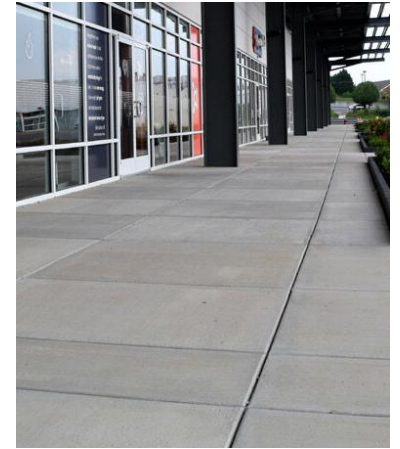
- exterior highlighting the church, drawing people towards the entrance
- create places to gather and mingle while providing a pleasant pedestrian experience
- accents to complement the newly restored brick



concrete planter curb – 14TH St.



concrete planter curb



concrete scoring



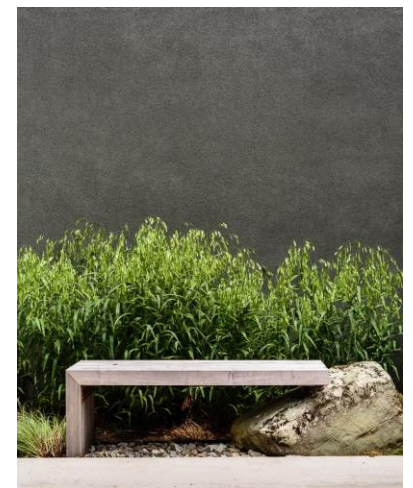
limestone block bench



backless concrete bench



classic stone bench

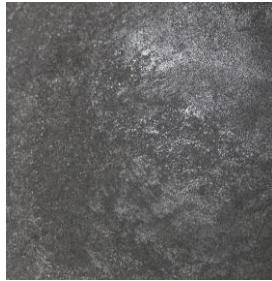


modern stone bench

Materiality



existing church facade



wrought iron



dark wood composite



corten/weathering steel



light wood composite



concrete



stone



brick pavers

- to be complementary with restoration and improvements to the church building



concrete planter curb – 14TH



classic stone bench



Phase 1: Switchback+ Central Seating

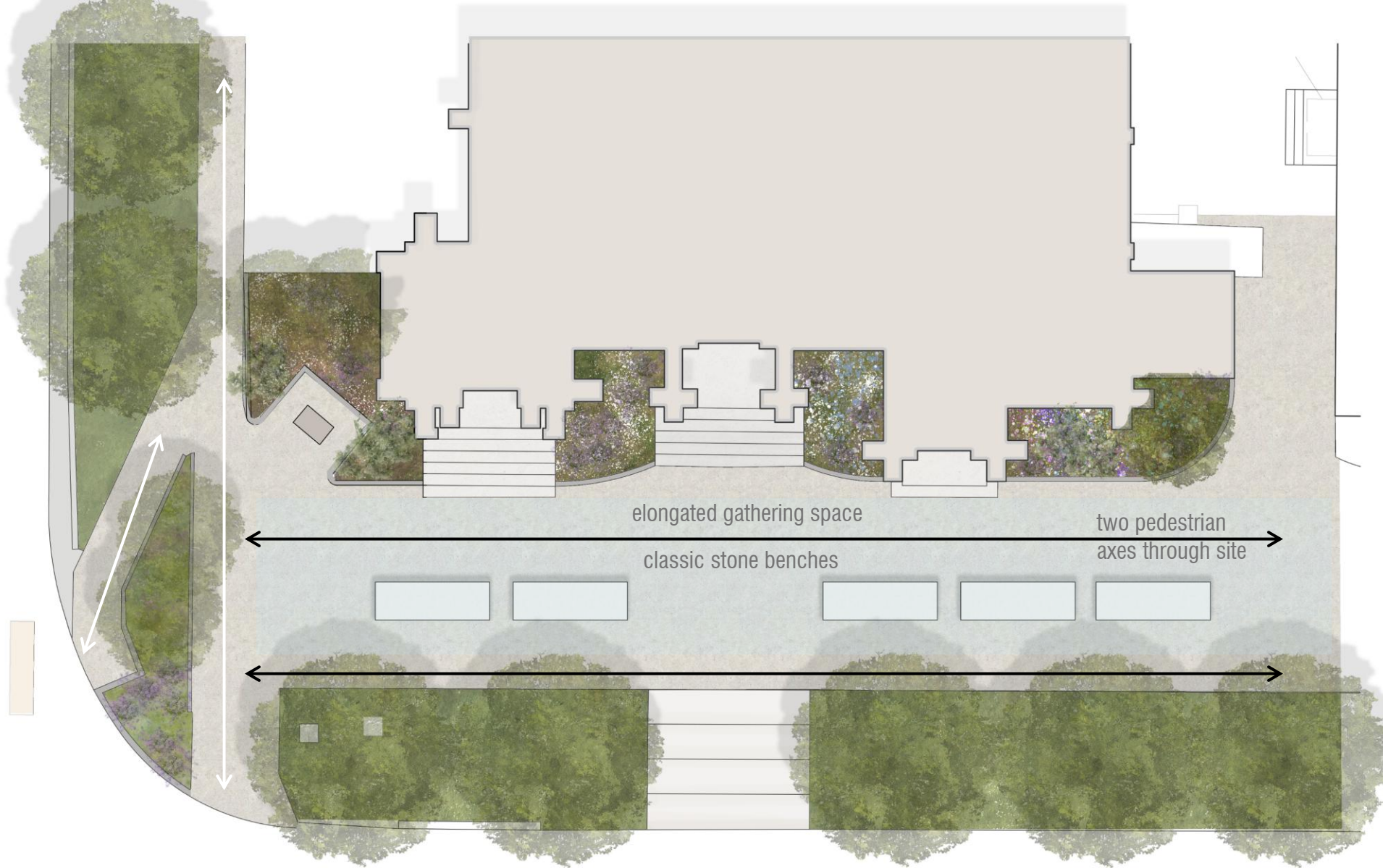




concrete planter curb – 14TH



classic stone bench



Phase 1: Switchback+ Central Seating





concrete planter curb – 14TH



classic stone bench



Phase 2: Bump Out + Central Seating

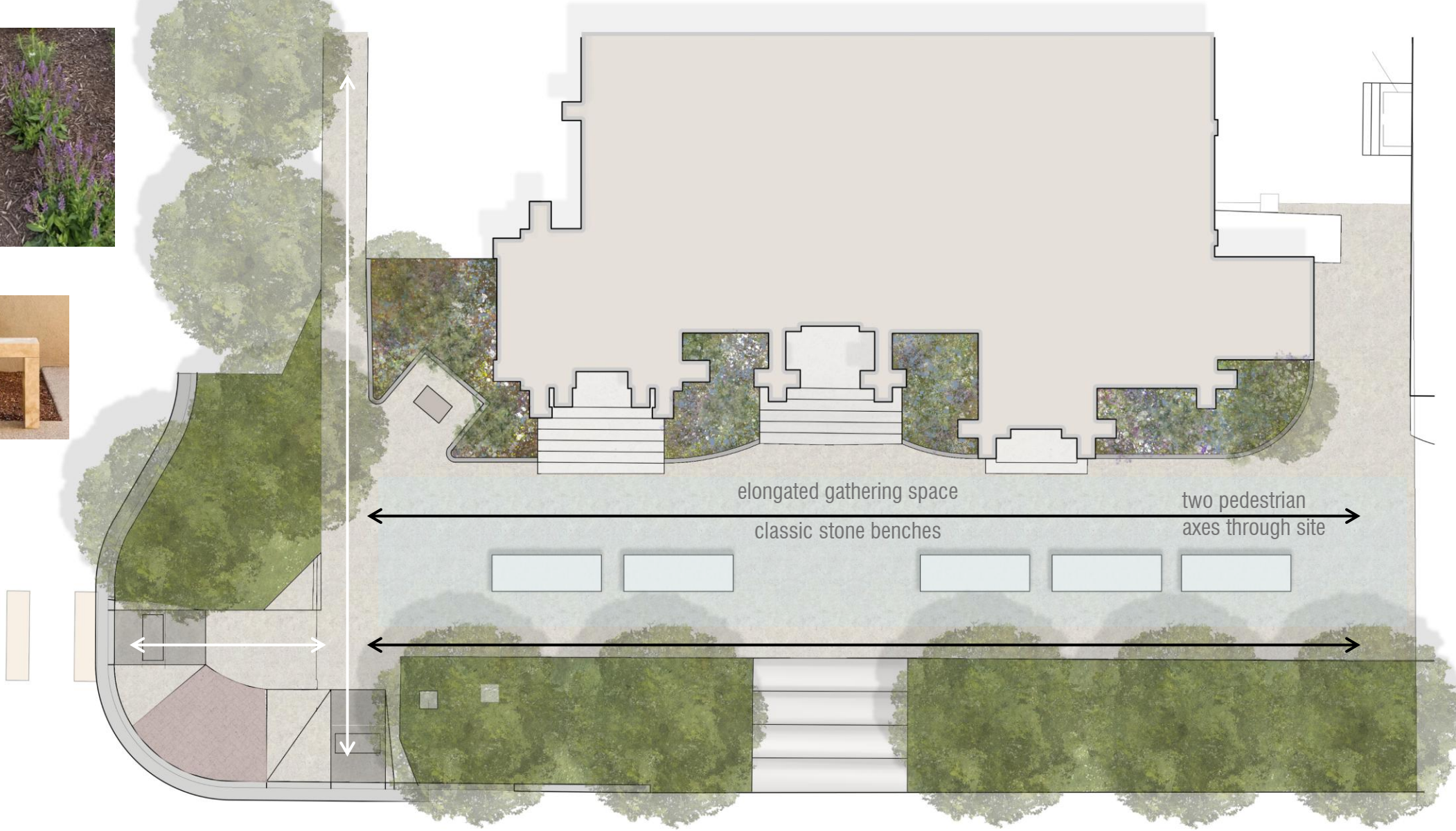




concrete planter curb – 14TH



classic stone bench



Phase 2: Bump Out + Central Seating





Jim Pillen
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS
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June 10, 2026

Mr. Collin Christopher
Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission
Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department

Dear Members of the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission:

The Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs respectfully requests preliminary consideration of a proposed Rotary Peace Pole installation near the Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte sculpture and plaza area on Centennial Mall.

The proposed Peace Pole would be an eight-foot tall (approximately six feet after placement in the ground) four-sided commemorative and educational feature recognizing Nebraska's Tribal Nations and promoting the Rotary International mission of promoting peace and understanding. The installation is envisioned as a decorative pole incorporating the Rotary emblem, tribal language elements representing Nebraska's headquartered tribes, and artwork provided by a prominent Native artist.

At this time, the proposal remains in the conceptual stage. The sponsors are seeking the Commission's initial feedback regarding the appropriateness of the location and concept before finalizing the precise placement, artwork, text, interpretive elements, and installation details.

The proposed location was selected because of its proximity to the Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte memorial and existing Native-themed interpretive features within the Centennial Mall corridor. The project would be funded through a Rotary District donation, with installation and maintenance coordinated through project partners.

Should the Commission find the concept appropriate for further consideration, the sponsors would return with additional information regarding final design, exact siting, artwork, language, interpretive content, and any other materials requested by the Commission.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working collaboratively with appropriate staff as the proposal develops.

Sincerely,

Judi M. gaiashkibos
Executive Director
Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs

Cc: **Maggie J. Stuckey-Ross**