



# ROCHESTER

— Minnesota —



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
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## NEWS RELEASE

### Walk Bikes on Sidewalks in the Downtown Business District

### *Learn more from RPD Bike Patrol Officers at the 8/3 Thursdays on First Event*

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For the safety of pedestrians and cyclists alike, bicycle riding on sidewalks is not allowed in the Downtown Rochester Business District (see map). Cyclists are required to walk their bicycles on sidewalks or ride their bicycle in the street when in this zone. Signs and sidewalk stencils (pictured to the right) will help designate this area. Violations are subject to a \$75 fine, plus the associated court costs.

#### Why do bikes need to be walked on sidewalks in this area?

Forty-five percent of all bicycle-car collisions take place in intersections with bikes riding off of sidewalks into the street. Drivers don't expect bike traffic to come off of the sidewalk at cycling speeds. Riders are safest when bicycles are as visible as possible, which means sharing the road. The City Council is addressing the safety of all road and sidewalk users with this ordinance that was adopted at July 17, 2017 City Council Meeting.

Ordinance 131.02 is available at: [rochestermn.gov/departments/city-attorney/city-ordinances](http://rochestermn.gov/departments/city-attorney/city-ordinances)

#### What is happening at the 8/3 Thursdays on First event?

Representatives from Rochester Police Department Bike Patrol, Public Works, Olmsted County Public Health, We Bike Rochester, United by Bike, and the Rochester Public Library will be spreading the word about the new ordinance and the importance of bicycle and pedestrian safety in downtown Rochester. Visitors can see maps of the business district, understand why bicycles need to be walked on these sidewalks, learn how bikes, pedestrians and cars can safely share the road, and meet members of the re-established Rochester Police Department's Bike Patrol.

The tent will be located at the corner of Historic 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW from 11a-8p.

#### Where is more information on bike safety?

- We Bike Rochester is a local non-profit organization working to create a bicycle friendly community by encouraging ridership and providing community based education. Visit [www.webikerochestermn.com](http://www.webikerochestermn.com) to find dates of upcoming classes, panel discussions and workshops for riders and drivers.
- Visit the Rochester Public Library in person or online ([www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org](http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org)) for bike safety information and other biking-related resources.

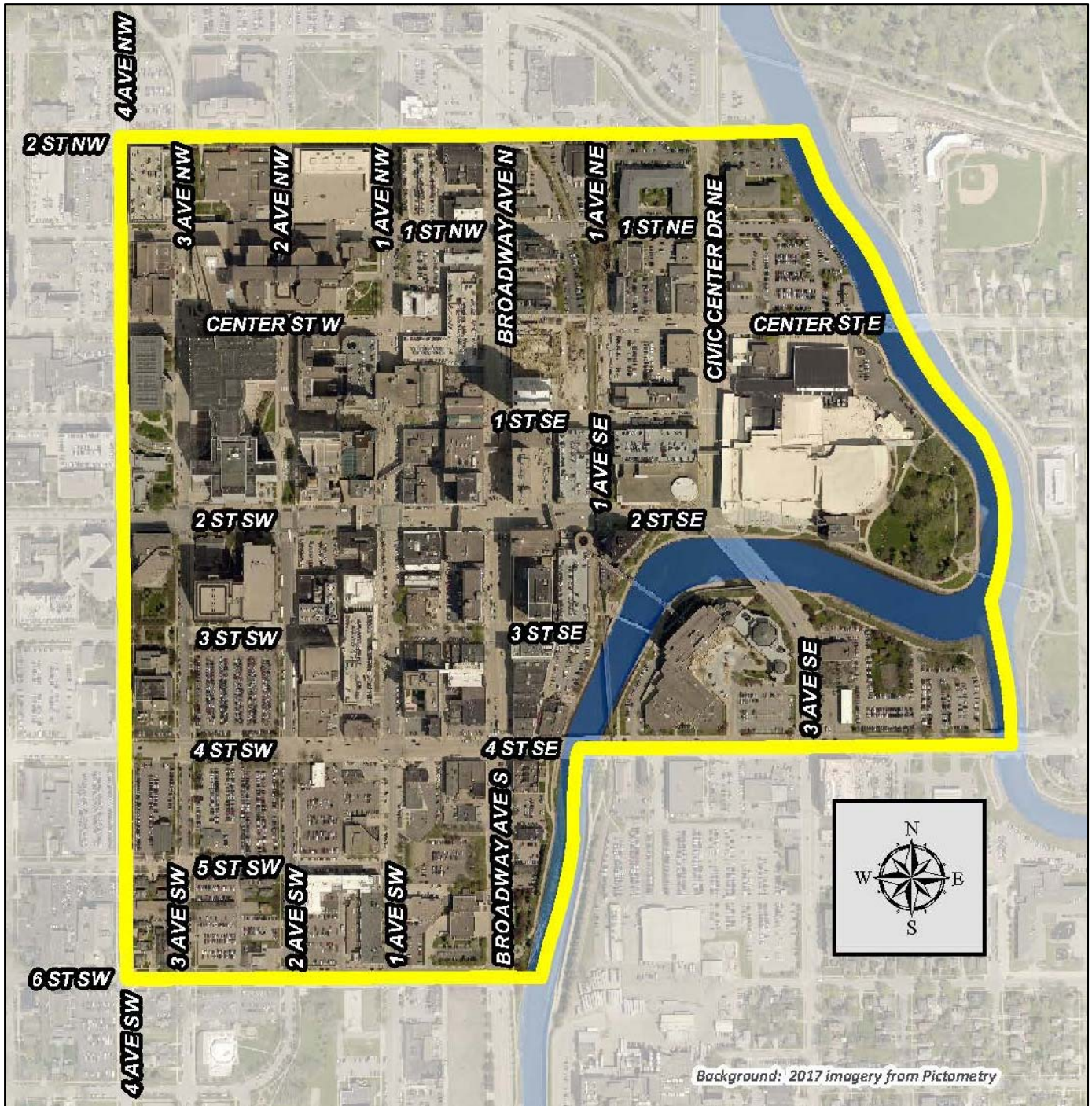


Street Sign



Sidewalk Stencil

# Downtown Rochester Business District



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