



## NEWS RELEASE

# Opportunity Winona Unveils Design for New Office Building That Will Bring Hundreds of Jobs to City's Downtown

**New Fastenal project will build on other Opportunity Winona projects and will eventually support 400 to 600 employees, thereby adding more momentum to city redevelopment**

Contact: Mike Zipko 651-269-8756  
mike@velocitypublicaffairs.com

October 31, 2019

(WINONA, MINN) Opportunity Winona, a public-private partnership focused on redevelopment in the city, today unveiled preliminary designs and released more information about an important new project that will bring hundreds of jobs and a significant investment to the city's downtown riverfront. The new Fastenal office project will be built on property along the Mississippi River adjacent to the recently rebuilt Highway 43 bridge. When completed, it will create space for approximately 400 to 600 company employees.

"Opportunity Winona was created to bring ideas, people and resources together to energize our community," said Winona Mayor Mark Peterson. "Today is another important step forward that builds on what has already happened. Not only will this project and our partnership with Fastenal bring a key part of downtown back to life, this will mean more people coming to work in our downtown who will add more energy to our city. This is an absolutely great day for Winona."

"In 1967, the Fastenal organization began operating in downtown Winona, and 50+ years later we are reestablishing a downtown presence," said Dan Florness, Fastenal President and CEO, "We believe in this community and the great things happening downtown (business development, both small and large, new housing, a new park, and other community projects) as well as the natural beauty (the river); and we believe this project will help our ability to recruit new employees both from within and from outside the community. We are also impressed with the long-term vision of Opportunity Winona."

more

Opportunity Winona was launched in 2015 to create new jobs, housing, and commercial activity in the city's downtown. Its partners have been working together to find, support, and promote projects that accomplish four key goals: make stronger downtown-riverfront connections, expand economic development, improve connectivity, and enhance the downtown streetscape. The Winona Port Authority manages the effort and the leadership team includes the City of Winona, the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce, and representative from area business, education and healthcare organizations.

Previous projects include more than \$40 million in private sector-funded downtown building investments and an additional \$6.5 million from the city. These include the Gateway to Levee Park, Main Square Development, the former Masonic Theatre to Arts Center, the Latsch and Son Building, and the 102 Walnut Street building.

Riverfront area projects include the new and restored Mississippi River bridges, the Gateway to the Levee park, Bay State Milling's new warehouse, expanded riverfront access, a planned expansion of riverfront trail system, and Fastenal's new office building. The preliminary designs released today for the Fastenal building follow work by the company to assemble the property and begin the process of moving towards construction.

#### **About the new Fastenal building.**

The four-story building was designed by The Kubala Washatko Architects (TKWA) and will be built at the intersection of 2<sup>nd</sup> and Washington Streets. The TKWA design team has previously worked on key projects in La Crosse and other area communities. Their team focused on finding a way to ensure the project created a strong connection to the rest of downtown.

"We looked at ways to create something that would fit into the character of the city," said Matt Frydach, a partner with TKWA. "Bringing the building to the street corner instead of having it set back on the site will more actively engage the streetscape and will reinforce the overall urban fabric. We chose materials and finishes that are consistent with the character and feel of existing downtown buildings to make it feel like it has always been a part of the city while also being new and current."

The building entrance will be on a street corner closer to other buildings and the four floors will share views of the downtown landscape as well as overlook the river. Click [here](#) to access digital design renderings. *(Renderings courtesy of The Kubala Washatko Architects.)*

CD Smith will be the general contractor and the project expects to break ground in 2020 with fall of 2021 as an estimated completion date.

"When we first expanded our presence on Theurer Blvd. in the 1980s, we were looking to support the future growth of Fastenal," added Florness, "In a similar step, this downtown office building is intended to support the expansion of Fastenal for years into the future. From a community perspective, this will be an exciting and very busy new addition to the city and we believe will inspire other projects along the riverfront."

more

“Winona, like so many other cities, is trying to find the right way to keep our community active and growing,” said Christie Ransom, President of the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce. “Not only do we need to find new stores and places for people to live, we also need to have an economy to create the demand and need for an active downtown. This project and the partnership that drives Opportunity Winona is making this happen. Hundreds of new people working every day in this amazing building will help support stores already here and create opportunities for others to bring their ideas and resources to Winona. Our challenge now is to keep working together to build on the momentum.”

“We have owned Engrav's Decorating since January 2017,” said Julie Kosidowski, owner of Engrav's Decorating. “It will be a boost to our business to have exposure to so many more people coming downtown every day. It means all the downtown stores and restaurants will have the opportunity to meet new people, build customer relationships and grow our businesses.”

“Bluff County Co-op is happy to welcome Fastenal to downtown Winona,” said Dawn Schreiber, Bluff County Co-op's general manager. “Having done business in downtown Winona for the last 47 years, we are excited about the new investments and development of our city center and look forward to cooperating with our fellow downtown businesses to continue to serve our community.”

### **About Opportunity Winona**

Opportunity Winona was created in 2015 by public and private sector leaders to encourage and coordinate investment in the downtown area to create new jobs, housing, and commercial activity to benefit the entire community. It brings together the Winona Port Authority, the City of Winona, the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce, and Winona Main Street along with others from the business, education and health care communities. To learn more please visit [opportunitywinona.com](http://opportunitywinona.com).

###