

Conversion Of Front Street To Two-Way Traffic Between Broad Street And Town Street Improves Downtown Livability, Safety

(Columbus) Front Street will become more pedestrian and bicycle friendly when the road is converted to two-way traffic between West Broad and Town Streets on Thursday, August 20. The conversion is the next step in Mayor Michael B. Coleman's vision to make downtown a safer, more livable area.

"We continue to work with our partners in neighborhoods and downtown to make Columbus a more pedestrian and bike friendly city while living within our means," said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. "Quite simply, we could not do this project without the collaboration of the federal government and State of Ohio."

The conversion of Front Street is part of the \$27.7 million RiverSouth Project, to be completed in two phases, and funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and other state and local dollars. Front Street two-way conversion is part of Phase 1 construction, which did not utilize ARRA funding:

- ARRA (Administered by ODOT—Phase 2 only) \$ 5.5 million
- Ohio Public Works Commission \$ 5.0 million
- City of Columbus (Construction, Design and Right-of-Way acquisition) \$17.2 million

"Two-way streets help to slow traffic and improve the quality of life for our residents and visitors," said Councilmember Eileen Y. Paley, chair of the Utilities Committee. "Restoring these streets to a two-way traffic pattern will also improve business opportunities in the area."

Front Street will be converted to two way traffic between Town and Rich Streets by the end of November, weather permitting. Front Street improvements with the two-way conversion include upgraded sidewalks, streetlights, storm sewers and water lines.