



# Progress Report

## Downtown Streetcars Getting a Look

Following up on his announcement at his State of the City speech, Mayor Michael B. Coleman has created the Downtown Streetcar Project Working Group to study the feasibility of returning streetcars to Downtown Columbus.

Retired Admiral Dennis McGinn, Senior Vice President of Energy, Transportation and Environment Division of Battelle, chairs the Working Group. Vice chairs are community representative Kate Anderson and Floyd Jones of *The Columbus Dispatch*.

"We are beginning a new public discussion, and researching the facts, so that our community can make an informed decision about whether or not streetcars are a smart solution to address connectivity challenges in our Downtown," said Mayor Michael B. Coleman at the announcement of the Working Group.

"We need a better way to move people around Downtown. The Working Group will help us determine if streetcars can connect Downtown's destinations and

spur economic development," said Columbus City Council Member Maryellen O'Shaughnessy, who chairs Council's Public Service and Transportation and Development Committees.

The Streetcar Working Group will study the overall feasibility of streetcars, including their economic development potential, ridership, construction and operation costs, and funding.

"Other cities show us that streetcars can play an important role in Downtown revitalization," said Admiral McGinn.

The effort is being funded through a partnership of private companies and the City of Columbus, including: OhioHealth, Grange Insurance, Battelle, Nationwide, the Convention Facilities Authority, *The Columbus Dispatch* and Columbus Downtown Development Corporation.

Get updates at [downtowncolumbus.com](http://downtowncolumbus.com), click on the streetcar link.

### Fast Facts

#### Moving People Around Downtown

- Downtown is the economic heart of central Ohio
- About 100,000 people work Downtown
- 33,000 students attend classes in the area
- About 4,500 people currently live Downtown
- 1,154 new homes have opened Downtown since April 2002
- Another 2,639 homes are under construction and in the development pipeline
- 20,000 people live in the nearby neighborhoods
- 1 million conventioners visit Downtown annually



Rendering of aerial view of Huntington Park — the Clippers' new home.



Fans of all ages will be able to see the Clippers at the new Huntington Park.

## Huntington Park — New Home for the Hometown Team

As part of a \$12 million naming rights deal, the Columbus Clippers Triple A baseball team will play ball in the new Huntington Park in the 2008 season.

Located at the northwest corner of Neil Avenue and West Nationwide Boulevard, the \$65 million ballpark will be financed through private and public funds, and revenue bonds.

"We are excited to formalize our involvement with the Columbus Clippers, a wonderful asset to our community. Huntington Park will be an attractive

family destination, one that complements the already vibrant Arena District. We also hope that it will underscore the appeal of Downtown living for many central Ohio residents," said Huntington CEO Thomas E. Hoaglin.

County Commissioners also recently announced they are negotiating with Nationwide Realty Investors (NRI) as owners' representative.

"NRI has extensive experience developing the Arena District, having worked on more than 20 projects there. It's in

their backyard. They bring a wealth of knowledge and a commitment to quality that will make this stadium one of the best in the minor leagues," said Franklin County Commission President Paula Brooks.

"We are excited to have this opportunity. Nationwide is committed to the Arena District and Downtown Columbus, so we are waiving our fees as part of our contribution to the project," said NRI President Brian J. Ellis.

Details about the project are at [franklincountyohio.gov/commissioners](http://franklincountyohio.gov/commissioners).

## Ohio Health Moving Headquarters Downtown

As was announced in Mayor Michael B. Coleman’s 2006 State of the City Address, Downtown is seeing one of the most notable private sector relocations in recent memory, as OhioHealth prepares to move its corporate headquarters to 180 E. Broad Street.

About 400 employees will occupy 90,000 SF on five floors. The move will be complete by late fall.

“The office market Downtown is on the rebound. OhioHealth’s move will continue our progress in the right direction,” said Columbus City Council President Matthew D. Habash.

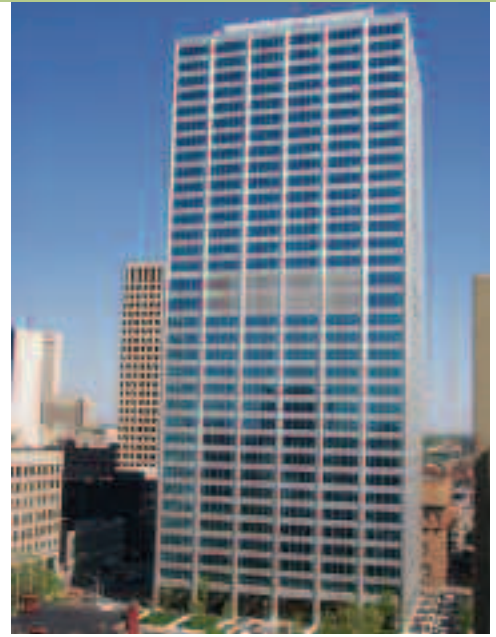
“I am pleased to have one of the area’s largest employers—OhioHealth—move

*“Downtown is the heart of the region we serve, it only makes sense to centralize our operations here,”*

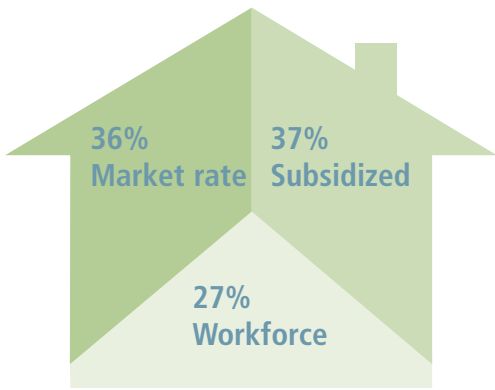
– OhioHealth CEO David P. Blom

Downtown,” said Columbus City Council Member and Economic Development Committee Chair Mary Jo Hudson. “It is good news for Downtown and all of Columbus.”

Learn more about the decreasing Downtown office vacancy rate at [www.downtowncolumbus.com](http://www.downtowncolumbus.com).



Ohio Health is taking advantage of the Columbus Office Incentive Program for its upcoming relocation Downtown.



### Existing Downtown Housing

Source: Downtown Development Resource Center, February 2006

## Something for Everyone in Downtown Housing

While much attention has been made of the high-end condos being built Downtown, the majority of the housing fits Mayor Coleman’s description of “everybody’s neighborhood.” Sixty-four percent of all Downtown housing is either subsidized or workforce-priced, according to a housing analysis by the Downtown Development Resource Center.

While the market for Downtown housing remains hot, 30% of the for sale homes

built or under construction cost less than \$200,000.

“We are striving to create a Downtown housing market that supports a wide range of housing, within reach of a large number of people,” said Columbus Downtown Development Corporation President and CEO Lawrence L. Fisher.

Get updates on Downtown’s housing progress at [downtowncolumbus.com](http://downtowncolumbus.com), click on the housing update link.

*“We are striving to create a Downtown housing market that supports a wide range of housing, within reach of a large number of people,”*

– Columbus Downtown Development Corporation President and CEO Lawrence L. Fisher

### Housing Terms

#### Subsidized

Housing where tenants pay less than the current market rates for rent; and meet eligibility standards based on their income.

#### Workforce

Market rate rental and owner-occupied housing that is affordable to private and public sector workers — like teachers, police officers, fire fighters, retail clerks, restaurant servers.

#### Market rate

All other housing

### Downtown Housing—By The Numbers

	Units	Private Investment
Opened	1,154	\$154 million
Under Construction	1,151	\$185 million
In Pipeline	1,488	\$94 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,793</b>	<b>\$433 million</b>

(January 2002—May 2006, Source: Downtown Development Resource Center)

