



# Progress Report

## Downtown Streetcar Working Group Rolling Along

With names like Columbus City Trolley, Downtown Special, the Coleman Car, A Desire Named Streetcar, 3C – Columbus Community Connector, Buckeye Hop and the Slider, more than 65 people offered suggestions for names and routes for Columbus' possible streetcar system at a public meeting the evening of June 14.

### Group Progresses at Meetings

In addition to the public meeting, the Mayor's Downtown Streetcar Working Group has held four meetings, offered suggestions on possible routes and received initial technical analysis of them.

### Portland Offers First Hand Experience

In addition to its meetings, 15 Working Group members and staff, including Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman, traveled to Portland on a self-funded trip to see that city's streetcars. Since opening in 2001, \$2.28 billion has been invested along Portland's streetcar line, including nearly 7,300 new housing units. The

system averages 9,000 riders a day. An expansion is due to open this fall.

"Seeing the success in Portland reinforces that streetcars are a low-cost, high-impact development tool that can help us continue the transformation of Downtown Columbus into a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood for everyone," said Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman. "It also will help residents save costs on gas if they can park and use streetcars to get around Downtown."

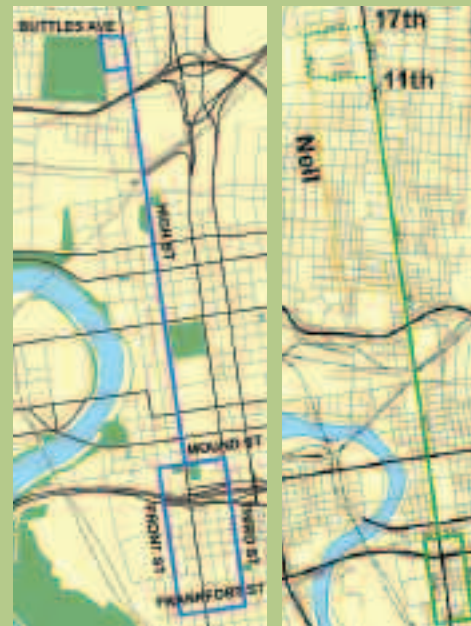
### What's Next?

The Working Group will continue to meet throughout the summer. It will then make a recommendation to the Mayor and City Council in early fall. Another public meeting will take place to present the technical studies' findings.

Learn more and sign up for updates at [downtowncolumbus.com](http://downtowncolumbus.com), click on the streetcar link.

## Proposed Streetcar Routes

Three possible routes being analyzed by Working Group members and CDDC's technical consultants.



High St. Route

OSU Line



East-West Route

## Downtown Streetcar Working Group Mission

To determine whether a reliable, affordable and inviting streetcar system can be built that spurs and sustains economic development and connects workers, residents and visitors with Downtown destinations.

## Downtown Streetcar Working Group Goals

The Working Group has identified three goals for its work —

- Spur and sustain desirable economic development to attract jobs and people to Downtown, increase property values and stimulate pedestrian and retail activity.
- Connect important destinations with residents, workers and visitors.
- Build a system that is affordable and viable.

*"The Lazarus renovation is the city's largest green initiative. Through the end of May, 4,740 tons of the 9,287 tons of material removed from the building have been recycled – that would be 135 semi truck loads."*

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

## Progress on Lazarus Building Rebirth Continues

With new windows being installed and crews of construction workers framing in offices and conference rooms where there was once a shoe department, the former Lazarus building is being reborn as a new landmark for the city.

Office space for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will be complete by early 2007. As this work progresses, CDDC is now beginning to

look at the northern end of the building. It has issued RFQs to seek qualifications from developers to begin considering converting that area into parking.

The Lazarus building will anchor the redeveloped RiverSouth District in the southwest corner of Downtown. The District also includes the new Franklin County Courthouse complex that will be built at Mound and High Streets.

## Downtown Office Vacancy Reductions Continue

As the Mayor's Strategic Business Plan for Downtown is being implemented, confidence in the center city, as well as jobs, are returning. These include OhioHealth's upcoming move this fall to 180 E. Broad St, as well as new and expanded businesses in the Arena District – Diamond Hill Investments and Collier's International, and Downtown companies Hexion Specialty Chemicals and Exesite LLC.

"This drop in office vacancies is great news for Downtown and the city. There is still much work to be done to align Downtown's office vacancy rates with the national average," said Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman.

Another factor in the falling vacancy rate is the conversion of many older office buildings into condominiums.

Strategic investments have been the key, according to Columbus City Council President Matt Habash. "Targeted tax incentives helped to convert old office space into vibrant residential buildings. More importantly, our investments have convinced dozens of companies to move jobs back Downtown."

Several companies have taken advantage of the city's Office Incentive Program that gives employers tax credits when moving jobs Downtown from outside of the city.

Learn more about the Incentive Program at [downtowncolumbus.com](http://downtowncolumbus.com).



*Downtown's office vacancy rates have hit a five-year low, reaching 18.7% at the end of the first quarter of 2006.*

## High School is Another First for Downtown

A new high school is the latest first for Downtown. This spring, Columbus Public Schools (CPS) received approval from the Downtown Commission to move forward with demolition in preparation for the construction of a \$24 million, 136,000 SF project to be located on East Mound Street, between Fourth and Fifth Streets.

The school is being designed as an alternative high school featuring academic offerings with a core focus on business and technology courses. Because of its

location, students will have easy access to internships with many businesses, the Franklin County Complex and a fire station are within walking distance.

The school's academic offerings will include accounting, logistics, information technology and emergency medical technician training, as well as cosmetology and culinary arts. The latter will offer students real world experiences with a planned, on-site salon and restaurant that will be open to the public.

"This school will be more centrally located for all of our students throughout the district," said CPS Superintendent Dr. Gene T. Harris. "It also will have the flexibility to be open to the public for extended learning opportunities, including adult education classes and shared facility spaces for community use."

Site work, including demolition of the warehouse-office building is underway. Construction will begin by the end of the year. The school will be open for the 2008-2009 school year.

## County Names Courthouse Project Manager

Franklin County Commissioners have chosen Pizzuti Solutions LLC to manage the \$100 million Courthouse project, at Mound and High Streets, that will be the southern anchor of the redeveloped RiverSouth district. The firm has more than 25 years of combined experience working in the public sector.

Pizzuti Solutions has assembled an impressive development team, including:

- The principal court management consultant and judicial facility planner for the National Center for State Courts
- Schooley Caldwell Associates, whose projects include renovations of the Ohio

Statehouse, federal Joseph P. Kinneary U.S. Courthouse and Ohio Judicial Center

- MSI-Columbus, landscape architects and planners
- Miles-McClellan Construction

In addition, the Commissioners have entered into contract negotiations with DesignGroup and Gilbane Building Company as the project's design team and construction manager, respectively.

Columbus-based DesignGroup has worked with many local organizations, including The Ohio State University, Columbus Public Schools, Columbus Metropolitan Library,

Columbus College of Art and Design, and the Westerville Library.

Gilbane Building Company, with regional offices in Columbus, lists the McConnell Heart Health Center, Value City Arena, OSU's Max M. Fisher College of Business and the Port Columbus parking garage and terminal expansion among its local projects.

"Pizzuti and its team care about our Downtown and are excellent planners and developers," said Franklin County Commission President Paula Brooks. "The County will benefit from their creativity and the construction of a new Hall of Justice."

