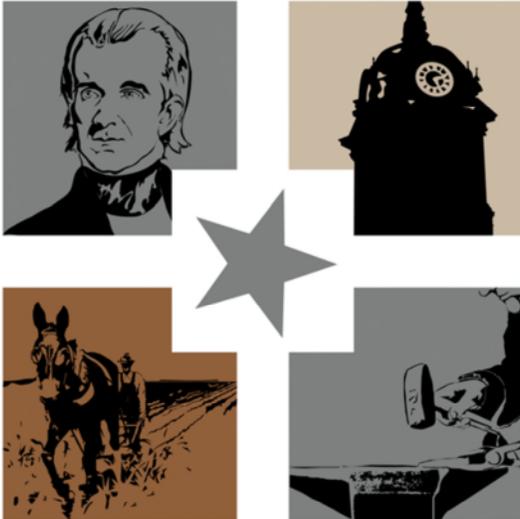


CITY OF COLUMBIA



Mayor's Lunch
City Report

Dean Dickey, *Mayor*
City of Columbia
August 9, 2016



T E N N E S S E E
Something good around every corner.

Welcome by Mayor Dean Dickey. I am pleased to invite you all too learn about the progress and initiatives underway in our great city and see firsthand how Columbia continues to work to live up to our motto: "Something good around every corner."



Columbia's
Strategic Priority
#1

Growing Our
City Economy



The City of Columbia continues to focus on successes in growing our city economy. We support our existing businesses as well as work to recruit new employers to offer good quality jobs. New and expanding businesses and renewed residential construction continues to grow citywide. Residential growth continues to increase as 2016 permits have already outpaced the entire 2015 calendar year. Unemployment continued to drop during the last year to a 4% low in June.

Downtown Columbia business development includes *Marcos 822 South*, *Red 7 Pizza*, *the Unique Corner*, *the Faded Farmhouse* and *the Nook Bookstore and Coffee Shop*, among others. *Muletown Coffee* opened a second store on Hampshire Pike, and Puckett's opened Hattie Jane's Creamery next to their Downtown Columbia location.

Attraction, recruitment and expansion of manufacturing and other industries and services include expanded operations by *Global Manufacturing Services*, the *Tennessee Distillery* adding a second building, and 50,000 SF expansion of *Samuel, Son and Co.* metal processing facility at Northpointe. New firms recently locating in the city include *Sleep Solutions* call center and partners *National HealthCare* and Maury Regional's skilled nursing and transitional care center in Columbia opening in the Fall. The *Muletown Rec* opened several months ago at the former YMCA site after significant investment and extensive renovations.

Retail and hospitality industry firms also continue to locate in Columbia, which include national brands *Starbucks*, which opened a full-seated store inside Kroger's on James

Campbell Blvd., a *Speedway* gas station, *Dairy Queen*, *Sleep Inn* and *Comfort Inn* building hotels on Bear Creek Pike off of Exit 46, and the recent groundbreaking by incoming *Hyundai of Columbia* on the Nashville Hwy.

CITY OF COLUMBIA

SPORTS COUNCIL

CITY OF COLUMBIA

ARTS DISTRICT

HOTEL TAX

MIDSTATE CLASSIC

RIDLEY PARK COLUMBIATH
MARCH 8, 2016

CHARGERS

BELMONT BRUINS

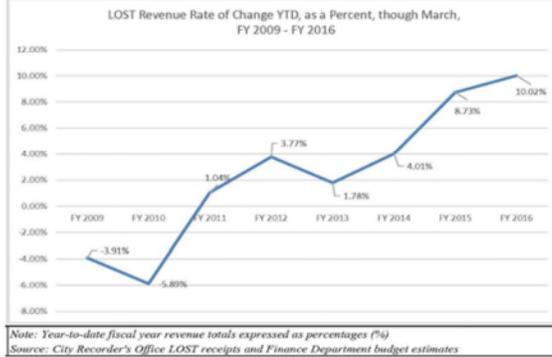
Unique Destinations bring people!
Special events & activities, “sense of place” and history, public and private amenities and a great story all provide Columbia and Maury County advantages and opportunities

We are also taking a more strategic approach towards promoting tourism in Columbia. Our vibrant downtown features great restaurants, shopping, music venues, and many historic treasures. The city recently hired marketing firm *ChandlerThinks* to develop a marketing plan for the city.

The City created a Sports Council this year to recruit and promote sports tournaments for the city. We also began development of new 7-field, tournament-level soccer facility to complement the tournament-level softball fields at Ridley Park to attract more visitors through tournaments that will serve to boost the city’s economy and increase hotel-motel and local sales tax revenue.

Finally, we established the *City of Columbia Arts District* in June. The new Arts District offers the potential for redevelopment on South Garden and High Streets and the development of a new local arts and culture industry in Columbia.

Figure 2: Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) Revenues, as a Percent (%), Rate of Change Over the Eight (8)-Year Period from FY 2009 - FY 2016



**Columbia's
Strategic Priority
#2**

**Financially
Responsible City
Providing
Excellent Services**



Columbia is a financially responsible city that strives to ensure the highest quality municipal services at the best value for taxpayers. The city has been recognized for 16 years for excellence in financial reporting. The fiscal year that ended in June was the first year that local sales tax collections exceeded \$9 million in city history which is an increase of 10% compared to the year before, and an 18% increase over two years ago. The City refinanced General Fund and Sewer Fund debt in January which will save Columbia taxpayers over \$1,000,000 in debt service payments.

Public Safety remains our highest priority for Columbia. The Columbia Fire Department received and continues to maintain an ISO Class 1 fire rating, the best rating possible for cities and one of only two Class 1 cities in the state. The Class 1 rating speaks to the highest level of service possible and saves our residents and businesses on property insurance. The Columbia Police Department recently finished accreditation meetings. We will learn in November the department's accreditation status. This is something that we feel very positive about at this time.



Making Columbia a more attractive and livable community remains a most crucial goal. We continue to deploy anti-litter strategies and promote our free curbside recycling program.

The city's "Columbia Works" is an annual program with dedicated funding for high impact, citywide infrastructure improvement projects. Columbia Works projects over the last year include parking lot construction at the Riverwalk Park Pavilion, parking expansion at Ridley Park leading up to the 2016 Mid-State Classic, and Sidewalk Replacements like the one on West 8th Street and Garden to High Street. "Columbia Works" will also be used to make key sidewalk repairs and streetscaping improvements in the new Columbia Arts District area.

The city is now home to the new Woodland Park Disc Golf Course. Designed and built by Ambassador Disc Golf using supplies donated by the Noon Rotary Club, the course has drawn more visitors than expected from Columbia citizens to regional and out of state players using the course each day.



Jack-n-Jill Building



Columbia's
Strategic Priority
#4

**Fantastic
Downtown**



New Matthews Building

Columbia is dedicated to making downtown a wonderful destination for our citizens, businesses and visitors. The city continues invest in downtown's future with projects like the stabilization of the Jack-n-Jill Building on N. Main Street. The Jack-n-Jill Project follows from a similar project last year when we renovated 814 South Main. Downtown Columbia also continues to enjoy ongoing private investment, such as the new Matthews Building at the corner of 6th and North Main.

Plans for a Downtown Columbia Banner Program to place new lamppost banners with different themes on a quarterly basis begins in January 2017. Most recently, the City in partnership with Columbia Main Street Corp and the South Central Tennessee Development District is preparing to apply for a state Facade Improvement Grant which seeks funds to help downtown businesses improve their storefronts, signs and other improvements.

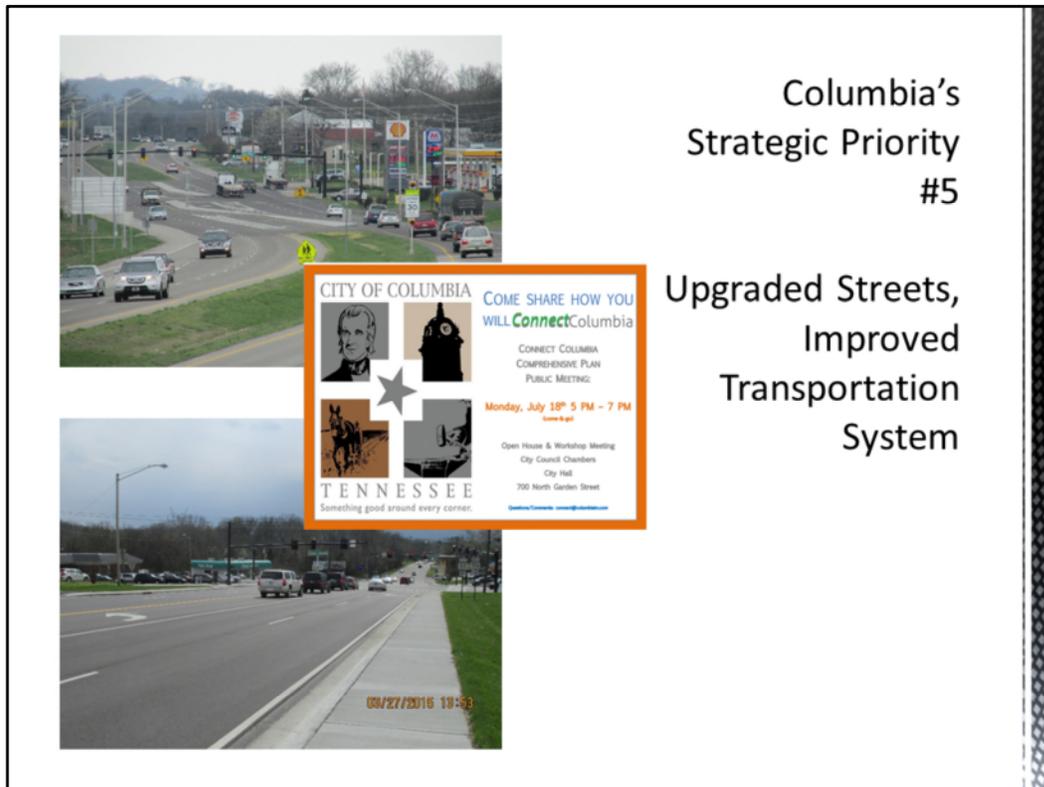
We will continue to work with our private sector friends in Downtown to promote revitalization and work to enhance tourism in Columbia.



With the creation of the Columbia Arts District, the city has received a high level of interest in the new Arts initiative. Inquiries from Columbia to Nashville to Rhode Island have all been positive. Three artists live and / or work in the new District, the Windmill Bakery is nearly ready to open, and property has been purchased for plans to open a gourmet cigar shop.

The location of the new Arts District compliments Downtown Columbia with arts and culture on the rise in both areas of the city. The Building Blocks School for the Arts recently opened in downtown as well as a new dance theatre next door. The new arts and culture assets complement existing arts organizations and events.

The City plans to host the 2nd Annual BBQ Cook-off again this September at Riverwalk Park, after the first year proved such a success. The Riverwalk Park will also host the 45th Meriwether Lewis Arts and Craft Fair in October, the two day event bringing visitors and crowds to Downtown Columbia.



Columbia's Strategic Priority #5

Upgraded Streets, Improved Transportation System

Columbia works to continually improve our streets and transportation system. An update and revision of the city's Comprehensive Plan is currently underway. Two main areas being updated include the city's transportation and land-use plans.

Intersection improvements have been made at Trotwood Ave. and James Campbell Boulevard and new turn lanes completed at the intersection of Patterson Drive at Bear Creek Pike. A project to make the Intersection of Campbellsville Pike and Highland Avenue at James Campbell Boulevard safer and more appealing is underway with construction beginning this Fall.

A project at Highway 31 at Neapolis focuses on Roadscaping, beautification and a new stone monument sign to welcome folks through our northern gateway driving into Columbia. We are waiting on final TDOT approval to start construction.

The City recently received state grant funds for a streetscape project on West 6th Street, which will improve the existing corridor with improvements on North Garden Street to the Riverwalk and ultimately connect the Riverwalk to the planned improvements for the Historic West 7th Streetscape and Corridor.

Paving and resurfacing streets in all five wards of the City is underway. The City budgeting \$900,000 for paving for this year which includes a \$100,000 increase above the amount initially planned to include more street paving improvements.

The I-65/Bear Creek Pike Interchange Project is in the preliminary design stage. The project

has been approved in TDOT's three year work plan with dedicated funding for the project.
Construction is estimated to begin in Spring 2019



The West 7th Streetscape Project is a nearly \$2 million project using \$1.5 million in state funds to enhance the streetscape, beautify the area, and add new pedestrian access to the historic West 7th Street Corridor. The redesigned West 7th Street will better connect residences and businesses and enhance the Historic West 7th District from Trotwood intersection to North Garden Street. This slide shows the existing streetscape on the left and renderings of the improvements planned on the right.

Improvements include the extension of the same style of improved roadways, landscaping design, pedestrian-friendly walkways and mass transit access that matches existing Downtown streetscaping improvements.

The city plans to move to the construction phase of the West 7th Project after 2017 Mule Day to ensure that the project does not disrupt the event.



Thank you to our City Manager Tony Massey and his staff, including Assistant City Manager Thad Jablonski who made this presentation possible. We are grateful to Mr. Massey's for his leadership and hard work to make our city better and to all the department heads and city employees dedicated to making Columbia a Great City.

I also want to thank City Council members. Together, city leaders and city staff will continue to make Columbia the Best City to live, work and raise a family.

THERE IS SOMETHING GOOD AROUND EVERY CORNER.