



NOT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Embargoed until Wednesday, November 20 at 6 a.m.

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NEW RENDERINGS SHOW UPDATED DESIGN FOR PHASE ONE OF THE DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS CAPITAL LINE

Columbus, Ohio – Following the February announcement of the Capital Line project, Downtown Columbus, Inc. (DCI), hired engineering and design teams WSP USA Inc. and MKSK to design and construct the new urban pathway.

On Wednesday, Nov. 20 from 5-6:30 p.m., Downtown Columbus, Inc., is hosting a community meeting to share the latest updates with Gay Street businesses, Downtown residents and visitors. While design is ongoing and subject to change, the latest plans show:

- A curbsless design of Gay Street from Wall Street to Pearl Alley, denoting it as the central event space for the Gay Street district.
- A dedicated shared-use path for both cyclists and pedestrians, which would be separated from the vehicular traffic, outdoor dining and sidewalk areas.
- Strategically located street parking spaces and loading zones.

“The Capital Line is more than just a transportation project – it’s a transformative vision for the future of Downtown Columbus and Gay Street. As we move forward with the design, we are focused on connecting communities, boosting local businesses, and expanding opportunities for all residents,” said Mayor Andrew J. Ginther. “The Capital Line will lay the groundwork for economic growth and inclusivity for generations to come.”

WSP has extensive experience with roadway and public realm design including serving as the lead on the Columbus’ Downtown Multimodal Study, Hamilton Road Phase A, and Parsons Avenue Road Diet. MKSK is deeply ingrained in the Downtown Columbus landscape, serving as the lead design firm for the Scioto Greenways riverfront restoration, Dorrian Green and High Water Alley on The Peninsula. MKSK also served as the lead consultant for DCI on the Downtown Columbus Strategic Plan.

“Throughout the 2022 Downtown Strategic Plan, the community was clear: the future of Downtown Columbus must be more connected. The Capital Line is a key component of achieving that goal,” said Amy Taylor, President of Downtown Columbus, Inc. “Following the announcement by Mayor Ginther and Jeff Edwards in February, DCI quickly mobilized, assembling a world-class team to turn the vision of a pathway linking key Downtown destinations into the reality of the Capital Line.”

The selected team has been working on the design for Phase I, which will run along Gay Street from Fourth Street to Front Street. Phase I will impact the entire right-of-way on Gay Street, completely reimaging this corridor in Downtown Columbus. The 2-mile Capital Line is a loop that will extend from the Gay Street District, over the Broad Street Bridge to The Peninsula, to Belle Street, over the Rich Street Bridge and along Rich Street then along Fourth Street, connecting back with Gay Street.

“The Capital Line will be people-focused, providing easy access to Downtown amenities, creating an even more connected community. WSP is proud to lead this team to complete Phase I on Gay Street and continue to help Columbus thrive,” said Jared Love, WSP’s Ohio Transportation Business Lead.

Updated plans will be submitted to the City of Columbus in February 2025, and the project is projected to go before the Downtown Commission for review in May 2025. Construction is expected to start in late summer 2025.

This project is a partnership with The City of Columbus, Edwards Companies and Downtown Columbus, Inc. The State of Ohio granted the Capital Line \$10 million in state capital dollars.

“The Capital Line is a game-changer for our city,” said Columbus City Council President Shannon G. Hardin. “Through partnership and collaboration, Downtown Columbus is becoming more connected, more prosperous and more inclusive for all.”

The idea for the Capital Line came from community input into the 2022 Downtown Columbus Strategic Plan. Residents asked to create a more connected Downtown Columbus and directly link some of the city’s most vibrant attractions.

“We’re excited to contribute to the vision that emerged from the community’s input during the recent Downtown strategic planning process,” said Chris Hermann, Principal with MKSK. “The Capital Line will build upon decades of work, linking together key developments and strengthening Downtown Columbus as a dynamic, people-centered urban neighborhood.”

Connection points along the route are iconic Columbus attractions, including the *Current* sculpture suspended above Gay and High Streets, the Scioto Mile riverfront, National Veterans Memorial & Museum, Columbus Commons, Ohio Statehouse, The Peninsula, Dorrian Green and COSI. In-progress and future developments on the Capital Line include Preston Centre, Preston Park, Madison White-Haines Building, 195 E. Broad, The Continental Centre and The Peninsula.

Conceptual renderings are here, credit MKSK Studios: <https://downtowncolumbus.canto.com/b/T4PHD>

Capital Line Community Meeting

Wednesday, November 20

5 – 6:30 p.m.

Downtown Innovation Lab, 139 S High St

Complimentary parking at Columbus Commons Underground Garage, 191 S Third St.

To learn more visit www.thecapitalline.com

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About the City of Columbus

The City of Columbus is the 14th largest city in the United States, with a population of 907,865 residents. The Columbus economy is balanced with a combination of education, technology, government, research, insurance and healthcare entities as major employers within the City. Columbus is nationally known for its booming downtown, historic neighborhoods, arts and sporting districts, open attitude and a noticeably affordable quality of life. Learn more at new.columbus.gov.

About Downtown Columbus, Inc.

Downtown Columbus, Inc., is a private nonprofit organization whose mission is to lead city-changing projects and collaborations that improve the connectivity, livability, and inclusivity of the Downtown Columbus experience. Downtown Columbus, Inc. drives development and progress of the Downtown Columbus Strategic Plan, working across sectors toward the vision for Downtown Columbus to become a neighborhood of connected, people-first urban districts that can be enjoyed by all. Learn more at downtowncolumbus.com.

About WSP

WSP USA is the U.S. operating company of WSP. As one of the largest professional services firms in the world, WSP exists to future-proof our cities and our environment. It provides strategic advisory, engineering and design services to clients seeking sustainable solutions in the transportation, infrastructure, environment, building, energy, water and mining sectors. With approximately 19,000 employees in 300 offices across the U.S., WSP's trusted professionals are united by the common purpose of creating positive, long-lasting impacts on the communities it serves through a culture of innovation, integrity and inclusion.

Locally, WSP has proudly served Ohio for the past 40 years. With 150 professionals located in our offices in Columbus, Cincinnati, Miamisburg, and Cleveland, we are dedicated to helping shape communities of tomorrow. www.WSP.com

About MKSK

MKSK is a collective of Planners, Urban Designers, and Landscape Architects who are passionate about the interaction between people and place. MKSK is a 100% employee-owned company with a 120+ person team who work throughout the Midwest, Southeast, and East Coast Regions from a network of twelve metropolitan studios in eight states and the District of Columbia. MKSK works to solve the pressing issues in our cities and communities, and create places where people want to live. We are known for inspired solutions addressing economic, social, environmental, historical, and cultural challenges within our cities. We shape place to improve lives, and we share our transformational stories and the power of strong planning and design to inspire ourselves, our peers, and the world to work together for the common good. Together we plan and design a world in which we all want to live.

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