

**DRAFT V2**  
**DOWNTOWN DESIGN PLAN PROCESS**  
**CITY OF COLUMBUS**

## **Phase 1 – Project Initiation & Preparation (April–June 2026)**

### **1.1 Project Start-Up**

- Project management plan

### **1.2 Baseline Data Collection**

- Parcel and land use inventory
- Transportation and parking conditions
- Utilities and infrastructure mapping
- Downtown market + demographic snapshot

### **1.3 Initial Site Analysis**

- Field documentation (photos, videos, measurements)
- Streetscape and public realm assessment
- Historic district character review

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## **Phase 2 – Early Public Engagement (June - July 2026)**

### **2.1 Stakeholder Identification and focus groups**

- Map interest groups
- Invite participants to focus groups

### **2.2 Focus Groups (Front-Loaded Input)**

Conduct focus groups:

- Downtown business owners and property owners
- City Committees – one rep from each city committee (plus chamber rep?)

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- City resident group
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## **Phase 3 – Visioning & Concept Development (Aug– Dec 2026)**

### **3.1 Downtown Vision Framework**

- Define identity themes
- Establish design principles and priorities

### **3.2 Urban Design Alternatives**

- Streetscape conceptual layouts
- Public space/plaza options
- Gateway and signage ideas
- Facade and building frontage concepts
- Parking, alley activation, pedestrian links

### **3.3 Working Sessions**

- Review concept alternatives
  - Select preferred design direction(s)
  - Identify unresolved issues
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## **Phase 4 – Draft Downtown Design Plan (Jan 2027–March 2027)**

### **5.1 Draft Write-Up**

- Design vision and typologies
- Streetscape materials palette
- Architectural/facade guidelines
- Wayfinding/branding recommendations
- Implementation strategies
- Capital cost estimates

### **5.2 Staff + Committee Review**

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- Technical edits
- Policy alignment review
- Integration with TID and capital plans

### **5.3 Draft Plan Open House**

- Display boards with draft recommendations
  - Comment wall + interactive feedback stations
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## **Phase 6 – Final Plan & Adoption (Apr–June 2027)**

### **6.1 Final Revisions**

- Incorporate all comments
- Produce polished final graphics

### **6.2 CDA Review**

- Presentation
- Recommendation to City Council

### **6.3 City Council Adoption**

- Final approval
- Plan is officially adopted