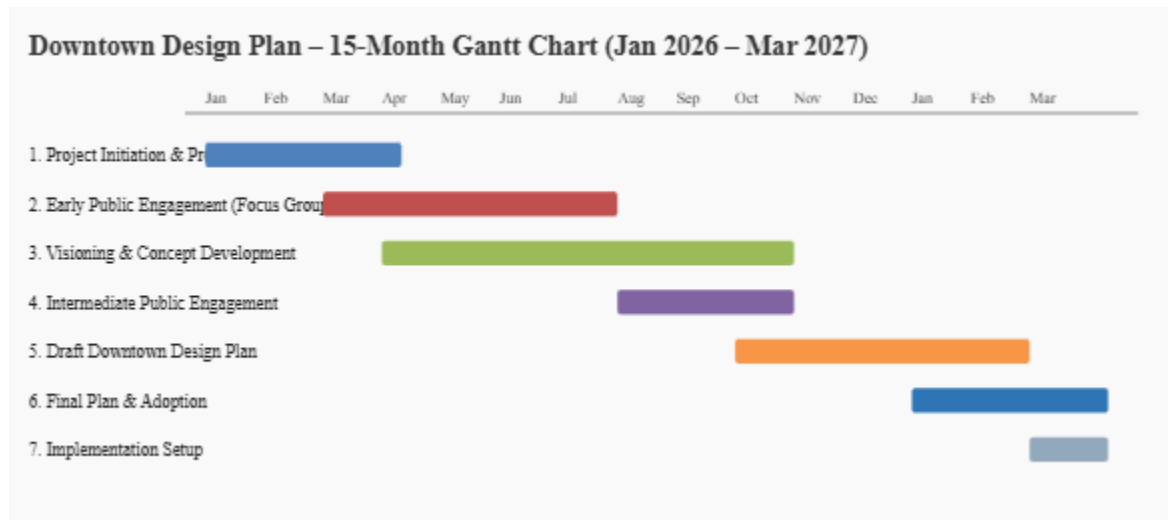


DRAFT
DOWNTOWN DESIGN PLAN PROCESS
CITY OF COLUMBUS



Phase 1 – Project Initiation & Preparation (Jan–Mar 2026)

1.1 Project Start-Up

- Establish communication protocols
- Project management plan

1.2 Baseline Data Collection

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

1.3 Initial Site Analysis

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

DRAFT

DOWNTOWN DESIGN PLAN PROCESS CITY OF COLUMBUS

Phase 2 – Early Public Engagement (Mar–Jun 2026)

2.1 Stakeholder Identification and focus groups

- Map interest groups
- Invite participants to focus groups
- Build stakeholder database

2.2 Focus Groups (Front-Loaded Input)

Conduct focus groups:

- Downtown business owners and property owners
- Developers and Financial Institutions
- Historic preservation/cultural groups
- Residents - general

2.3 Public Kickoff Meeting

- Project launch presentation
 - Issue and opportunity boards
 - Visual preference exercise
 - Public mapping session
-

Phase 3 – Visioning & Concept Development (Apr–Sep 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 Steering Committee Working Sessions

DRAFT
DOWNTOWN DESIGN PLAN PROCESS
CITY OF COLUMBUS

- Review concept alternatives
 - Select preferred design direction(s)
 - Identify unresolved issues
-

Phase 4 – Intermediate Public Engagement (Aug–Oct 2026)

4.1 Community Design Workshop (OPTIONAL)

- Concept boards
- Hands-on placement and sketching exercises
- Small-group facilitated conversations

4.2 Stakeholder Roundtables

- Business and property owners react to concepts
- Engage other City committees: plan com., open spaces com, HLPC
- General public

4.3 Synthesis of Input

- Revise concepts
 - Establish preferred concept package
-

Phase 5 – Draft Downtown Design Plan (Oct 2026–Jan 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 + Steering Committee Review

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

DRAFT
DOWNTOWN DESIGN PLAN PROCESS
CITY OF COLUMBUS

5.3 Draft Plan Open House

- Display boards with draft recommendations
 - Comment wall + interactive feedback stations
-

Phase 6 – Final Plan & Adoption (Jan–Apr 2027)

6.1 Final Revisions

- Incorporate all comments
- Produce polished final graphics

6.2 Plan Commission Review

- Presentation
- Recommendation to City Council

6.3 City Council Adoption

- Final approval
 - Plan is officially adopted
-

Phase 7 – Implementation Setup (Apr 2027)

7.1 Quick-Win Project Identification

- Signage and wayfinding
- Façade improvement focus area
- Low-cost placemaking ideas

7.2 Funding Strategy Development

- Grants
- TID tools
- Public-private partnerships

7.3 Establish Design Review Tools

- Downtown design guidelines packet

DRAFT

DOWNTOWN DESIGN PLAN PROCESS

CITY OF COLUMBUS

- Developer reference sheets
- Review process workflow