



INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

January 26, 2021

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

- Other Local Option Sales Tax (OLOST)
- Paving Fund
- Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST)
- GDOT Grants
- LMIG

STORMWATER FUNDING

- Other Local Option Sales Tax (OLOST)
- Stormwater Fund

RECENTLY COMPLETED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

- MLK Jr. Blvd.
- Calumet Drive Culvert
- River Road/Bradley Park Drive



Martin Luther King Jr.
Outdoor Learning Trail

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. OUTDOOR LEARNING TRAIL

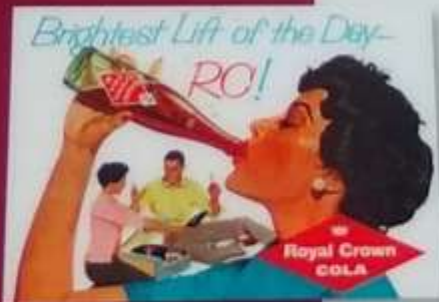
A BOTTLE CAP— MORE THAN A LID



Clayton Halchuk moved production of RC Cola from the basement of his pharmacy (est. 1905) to this factory in 1911. Courtesy of The Columbus Museum.

This large brick building housed the soft drinks manufacturer RC Cola. In the mid-20th century, six RC bottle caps allowed African American children free access to the movies at Liberty Theatre a few blocks south.

This image was developed for display in stores selling RC Cola (ca. mid-1950s). From Royal Crown Cola Company Records (MC 204). Courtesy of Columbus State University Archives.



Located at the northeastern corner of the Liberty District, during the Jim Crow period this neighborhood was home to residences and a vibrant black commercial district of doctors, lawyers, restaurants and stores. Like RC Cola, the district's Liberty Theatre was a white-owned institution. Hosting entertainers such as "Ma" Rainey, a Columbus native known as the "Mother of the Blues," and blues singer Bessie Smith, it also regularly showed movies.

During the 1950's and 60's, RC Cola and the Liberty Theatre developed a fondly remembered promotion, RC sold its bottles of soda in six packs. The Liberty Theatre agreed to give free admission for patrons who presented six RC bottle caps at the ticket booth. When money was short, African American boys and girls saw many movies through this agreement.



RC Cola bottle caps. Six of these earned admission for movie goers to see a film at the Liberty Theatre. Courtesy of The Columbus Museum.

This bottle cap promotion had its roots in a 1946 African American customer preference survey in Baltimore which revealed that RC Cola ranked lowest (16%), after Pepsi (45%) and Coca Cola (25%). Just as the post-war sugar rationing lifted in 1947, RC Cola began a national campaign. Marketing directly to black audiences, it asked celebrities to taste test RC versus other colas. One such advert included the African American jazz trumpeter Oren Thaddeus "Hot Lips" Page. Page, who had played with the likes of Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Count Basie and Charlie Parker, was quoted in the advertisement saying:

"My blues just blew away," he said, "when I found RC! I took the famous taste-test—tried leading colas in paper cups. RC won in a breeze."

Subsequently, Royal Crown used images of both blue collar and young black models, sending the message that RC Cola was for everyone.



Built in 1928 by white business owner Roy E. Martin, the 400-seat theatre, at the time the largest in Columbus, was built to service the African American community. It is now one of only a handful of historic theatres standing in Georgia. Courtesy of The Columbus Museum.



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. OUTDOOR LEARNING TRAIL

A CITY IN FLAMES

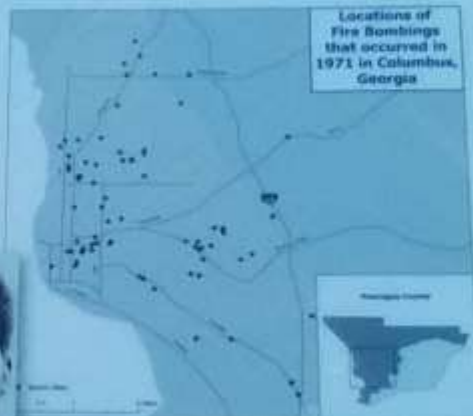
Columbus's civil rights struggles came to a head in 1971 after the death of a young black man combined with systemic racial discrimination in the city's police force.



Columbus police protesters Joseph Starnes and Robert C. Leonard at a press conference. Courtesy of The Columbus Museum.

Though the city's police department had integrated in 1954, African American policemen were routinely given the most unpleasant tasks, few black police officers were promoted, and pay was less than that of their white counterparts. Early in 1971, police representatives called for change. Their call for meaningful changes in department policy were complicated by the death of 17-year old black youth Willie J. Osborne, shot by a white officer.

TURN AROUND
Columbus
Georgia's Capital
Metropolis of Hospitality



The fire bombing of white-owned properties occurred throughout the community. From research conducted by Dr. Gary Sprayberry. Courtesy of Dr. Wood Huff, Department of History & Geography, Columbus State University.



Interior of dental exam room in mid-1970s. Courtesy of Dr. Henry L. Cook Sr.

In response to racism, harassment, and brutality, in May, 1971 members of the recently formed Afro-American Police League (AAPL) called for a strike. In protest, they tore the American flag patches from their uniforms saying, "There is no liberty or justice in the police department."

Seven black officers were fired immediately and hundreds of black residents marched through Columbus. The police department did not respond. By the end of that summer, Columbus had borne witness to 140 fire-bombings of white-owned businesses. Eighty-eight of those sites have since been mapped.

In some ways, this was surprising. The city had managed to escape much of the turmoil of the civil rights era (1954-1968) seen in cities such as Selma and Birmingham. When African Americans used direct action in protest of civil rights violations in Columbus, white city officials had acted quickly and decisively. By 1965, many Columbus businesses and public facilities had been integrated.

However, by the 1970s, the pace of advancement for African Americans was stalled. The unemployment rate among black workers was twice that among whites. African Americans were limited to substandard housing located along unpaved and poorly lit streets, schools remained segregated, and there was little decent health care for black residents.

Black middle class professionals like the dentist Dr. Henry Cook, Sr. (who's office is located across Martin Luther King Boulevard from this spot) sought to address these broader concerns by working in partnership with U.S. Representative Sanford Bishop to attract other African American professionals to meet the medical needs of the community.



together 2016

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
OUTDOOR LEARNING TRAIL**

**ACCESSING
EDUCATION AND
EMPOWERMENT**

This site was once the home of two schools named for two prominent male educators: William Henry Spence and Shadrach B. Marshall. Their lives illustrate the struggles and successes for education during the segregationist Jim Crow era.



William Henry Spence, 1854-1920, was a prominent educator and administrator. He served as the principal of the Spence School for Boys in Memphis, Tennessee, and later as the principal of the Spence School for Girls. He was also a member of the National Education Association and the American Educational Association.

Shadrach B. Marshall, 1854-1920, was a prominent educator and administrator. He served as the principal of the Marshall School for Boys in Memphis, Tennessee, and later as the principal of the Marshall School for Girls. He was also a member of the National Education Association and the American Educational Association.

The Spence School for Boys and the Marshall School for Girls were established in 1870 and 1871, respectively. They were the first schools in Memphis to be named after African American men. The schools were closed in 1954 as a result of the desegregation of Memphis schools.



A dark blue, irregularly shaped graphic with a splatter effect, containing the text "Calumet Drive" in white. The graphic has a rough, hand-painted appearance with various shades of blue and white splatters around its edges. The text is centered within the dark blue area.

Calumet Drive

BEFORE



BEFORE



BEFORE



AFTER



AFTER



AFTER





River Road Roundabout















STATE LAW
STOP
FOR PEDESTRIANS
IN CROSSWALK













ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

- Ft. Benning Road Streetscapes
- Ft. Benning Road Roundabout
- Benning Drive Culvert
- Claradon Culvert
- Reese Road Bridge
- Buena Vista Road/Spiderweb



Ft. Benning Road
Roundabout &
Streetscapes





YIELD



Brennan Rd →













Cue's
Auto Sales
Car Sales & Leasing
706-610-1384





Benning Drive Culvert









Claradon Culvert







Reese Road Bridge







LEAVE
1322-892













Buena Vista
Road/Spiderweb





Annette Av





Other Projects Under Development or Design

- Buena Vista / I-185 Interchange – Diverging Diamond
- Cusseta Road / I-185 Interchange
- Bradley Park / J. R. Allen – Diverging Diamond (GDOT)
- I-185 (Southbound) at Macon Road – Adding add'l right turn lane (GDOT)
- Roundabout at Beaver Run/Macon Road (GDOT)
- Roundabout at Beaver Run/Lynch Road/Technology Parkway (GDOT)
- Oglethorpe Bridge (GDOT)

Other Projects Under Development or Design

- Infantry Road and Trail (Connect Follow Me Trail to the Riverwalk)
- Military Drive (North/South Connector)
- Mott's Green Renovation
- Fortson Rd/Williams Rd Intersection
- 10th Ave/Victory Drive Signal
- 30th Ave/Victory Drive Signal
- J. R. Allen/River Road Lighting and Signals
- MLK Jr. Blvd to the River – Dragonfly Trail Connection

Other Projects Under Development or Design

- Warm Springs Road Bridge
- 8th Street Study (Veterans Parkway to Front)
- 17th Ave. Study (17th Street to Talbotton)
- 13th Street Study (Veterans Parkway to River bridge)
- 2nd Ave. Study
- J. R. Allen Corridor Study
- Steam Mill Road Study
- Psalmont Road/Beaver Run Improvements

Other Projects Under Development or Design

- Riverwalk Repair – Gabion Basket Failure
- 19th Street Flood Abatement
- Lindsey Drive Slope Failure

Future Projects Under Development or Design

- Cusseta Road Widening and Improvements
- Whitesville Road Widening
- Buena Vista Road Corridor Improvements
- University Avenue
- South Lumpkin Road Streetscapes
- Brennan Road Improvements
- Williams Road Widening
- Liberty Theater – 8th Avenue Streetscapes

Future Projects Under Development or Design

- County Line Road/Mehaffey Road/Central Church Road Improvements
- Schomburg Road/J. R. Allen Parkway Improvements
- Schomburg Road/Blackmon Road Connector
- J. R. Allen Parkway/US 80/Blackmon Road
- 13th Ave./17th St./Linwood Blvd.
- 2nd Ave. Streetscapes
- Dragonfly Trail Connections

Future Projects Under Development or Design

- Wynnton Wall
- Front Avenue Combined Sewer System Replacement
- Wynfield Loop Storm Drain Rehab
- Edgewood Drainage
- College Drive Channel Reconstruction and Detention Rehab

QUESTIONS

