

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Trade Center Authority – Trade Center Master Plan
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to accept the Trade Center Master Plan adopted by the Trade Center Authority for the construction of a 300-vehicle parking garage to be operated and maintained by the Consolidated Government. It will be used by hotel patrons, Trade Center patrons and the general public.
INITIATED BY:	Trade Center Authority

Recommendation: Approval is requested to accept the Trade Center Master Plan adopted by the Trade Center Authority for the construction of a 300-vehicle parking garage to be operated and maintained by the Consolidated Government. It will be used by hotel patrons, Trade Center patrons and the general public.

Background: The City of Columbus thru the Columbus Building Authority issued Series 2003B Taxable Bonds in the approximate amount of \$3,500,000 (currently \$5,000,000+ with interest) to finance the construction and equipping of a parking garage to be operated and maintained by the Consolidated Government. The garage will have spaces for approximately 300 vehicles and will be located in Downtown Columbus adjacent to an existing hotel and will be used by hotel patrons, Trade Center patrons, and the general public. The additional parking space is a part of the overall plan for improvements that support the Trade Center expansion and other parking requirements in the Downtown area. This was done in conjunction with a Memorandum of Understanding with the adjacent hotel to increase the number of rooms that are available for “blockage” for the Trade Center. This hotel expansion did not occur.

The voters approved a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) in November 2021 which included \$5,000,000 for improvements to the parking facility of the Trade Center to provide for approximately 500 spaces.

Analysis: The Trade Center Authority adopted the Trade Center Master Plan on February 27, 2025.

Financial Considerations: Funding for Scenario A of the Parking Component of the Trade Center Master Plan is available in the 2003B Columbus Building Authority Bonds (\$5,000,000+) and the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (\$5,000,000). Funding for the Green Space and Hotel Components of the Trade Center Master Plan are currently not appropriated.

Legal Considerations: City Council must authorize development of the parking garage.

Recommendation/Action: Approval is requested to accept the Trade Center Master Plan adopted by the Trade Center Authority for the construction of a 300-vehicle parking garage to be operated and maintained by the Consolidated Government. It will be used by hotel patrons, Trade Center patrons and the general public.

A RESOLUTION

NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, ACCEPTING THE TRADE CENTER MASTER PLAN ADOPTED BY THE TRADE CENTER AUTHORITY.

WHEREAS, the Trade Center Authority developed a Trade Center Master Plan to focus on three components: Parking, Green Space and a Convention Hotel; and ,

WHEREAS, the Trade Center Authority adopted the Trade Center Master Plan on February 27, 2025 and presented the plan to City Council on March 12, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, the Trade Center Authority adopted Scenario A of the Trade Center Master Plan Parking Component which provides for a new deck to be constructed on city property directly across the street from the Trade Center with a overhead walkway connected to the Trade Center; and,

WHEREAS, there is funding allocated for the Trade Center Parking Garage in the 2003B Columbus Building Authority Bonds and the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax adopted by the voters in November 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

The City Council accepts the Trade Center Master Plan adopted by the Trade Center Authority and approves the development of the parking garage to be located across the street from the Trade Center on city property. Final design will be approved by City Council prior to construction.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held on the _____ day of _____, 2025 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____.
- Councilor Anker voting _____.
- Councilor Chambers voting _____.
- Councilor Cogle voting _____.
- Councilor Crabb voting _____.
- Councilor Davis voting _____.
- Councilor Garrett voting _____.
- Councilor Hickey voting _____.
- Councilor Huff voting _____.
- Councilor Tucker voting _____.

Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor