

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Acceptance of Cash Award – People’s Choice Award, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to accept the cash reward from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials People’s Choice Awards in the amount of \$10,000 to be used for general maintenance on the Columbus Riverwalk.
INITIATED BY:	Planning Department

Recommendation: Approval is requested to accept the cash reward from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) People’s Choice Awards in the amount of \$10,000 to be used for general maintenance on the Columbus Riverwalk.

Background: AASHTO has awarded the annual People’s Choice Award to the Columbus Consolidated Government under its annual America’s Transportation Awards national competition. The Columbus Riverwalk was nominated by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) with the project competing against eleven other transportation projects throughout the country. A nationwide online vote was used to determine the overall winner. This win marks the third consecutive year that the state of Georgia and GDOT have received this award. Winning this award comes not only with the national recognition of being the best in the nation, but also bring with it a \$10,000 cash award.

Analysis: This is an achievement that very few communities have received. Receiving this award validates our efforts to provide alternative transportation options to our citizens and the surrounding areas. It also highlights the talent and expertise that went into the development of this project.

Financial Considerations: The \$10,000 will be utilized for general maintenance needs associated with the Riverwalk and will be coordinated with the Parks and Recreation Department, and the Friends of the Dragonfly Trail.

Projected Annual Fiscal Impact Statement: There will be no annual fiscal impact.

Legal Considerations: Council must approve the acceptance of the cash award.

Recommendation: Approval is requested to accept the cash reward from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) People’s Choice Awards in the amount of \$10,000 to be used for general maintenance on the Columbus Riverwalk.

A RESOLUTION

NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS (AASHTO) PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARD AND THE CASH AWARD FOR THE COLUMBUS RIVERWALK

WHEREAS, the Columbus Riverwalk was recently nominated by the Georgia Department of Transportation for the People’s Choice Award sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; and,

WHEREAS, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials is a nonprofit nonpartisan association representing highway and transportation departments in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico; and,

WHEREAS, this nomination competed against eleven other finalists on a national level and was voted on by the general public through online voting; and,

WHEREAS, the Columbus Riverwalk has won this prestigious national award making it the third year in a row that the Georgia Department of Transportation and the state has received this honor; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That we proudly accept the 2020 American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials People’s Choice Award for the Columbus Riverwalk and authorize the City Manager or his designee to accept the cash award of \$10,000 that comes with this honor to be used for general maintenance on the riverwalk. Further, we want to express our sincere thanks to Commissioner Russell McMurray and State Transportation Investment Administrator Kenneth Franks of the Georgia Department of Transportation, for their confidence in nominating the Columbus Riverwalk for this award. Also, we want to commend the local team for this project for their efforts in achieving this award: Rick Jones, Director of Planning; Ryan Pruett, Director of Inspections and Code; Donna Newman, Director of Engineering; Neil Clark, and Tim Dodds, Hecht Burdeshaw Architects; Larry French, French and Associates; Stephen Summers and Reede Hayley, Scott Bridge; and Scott Stokes, Southeastern Site Development, Inc.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the _day of_ _____ 2020 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ten members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting _____
Councilor Barnes voting _____
Councilor Crabb voting _____
Councilor Davis voting _____
Councilor Garrett voting _____
Councilor House voting _____
Councilor Huff voting _____
Councilor Thomas voting _____
Councilor Tucker voting _____
Councilor Woodson voting _____

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. “Skip” Henderson, Mayor