



THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

CITY OF COLUMBIA BUDGET SUGGESTIONS—MAY 26, 2021

COLUMBIA RECOVERY & ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLAN

The City of Columbia, Missouri is expected to receive approximately \$25.2 Million from The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Here in Columbia, we have an opportunity to use these limited, one-time funds to make catalytic investments to transform Columbia's economy to make us even stronger in the future, by:

- Addressing disparities exposed by the pandemic.
- Supporting workforce development for those who may have been laid off, experienced reduced hours, or whose job may have changed.
- Stimulating economic activity.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

\$2,000,000 to continue increased funding for infrastructure projects that connect our community.

- The FY 2021 budget includes \$2,000,000 in Transportation Sales Tax funding that was temporarily reallocate from Transit and Airport operations when these operations received federal CARES funding.
- Continuing this funding will continue to accelerate investment in asphalt, mill and overlay, ADA ramp replacement and curb cuts, and sidewalk improvements.

RAPID ACCESS TREATMENT CENTER

Immediate access and early intervention for behavioral health and substance abuse will give first responders 24/7 crisis stabilization to provide faster, more effective service to the community while reducing unnecessary incarcerations and hospitalizations. RATC would serve as an alternative to the hospital or jail.

- **\$3,000,000** for a two-year pilot project (\$1.5 million x 2 years) to develop a 24-hour crisis stabilization center that will accept law enforcement referrals, walk-ins and direct referrals from public health professionals.
- Funding for providing stabilizing care such as peer recovery, therapeutic support and medication while connecting individuals to their appropriate level of care. Pilot project will encourage public-private partnership between city and county law enforcement, emergency rooms and healthcare providers, and behavioral healthcare providers.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

\$1,450,000 for workforce development initiatives that prepare future workers, re-train dislocated workers for family-supporting jobs in Columbia's high-tech manufacturing economy, and encourage entrepreneurs who want to start their own business, including:

- Early college
- Commercial/ Industrial electrician training
- Community maker-space

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

\$1,000,000 to significantly expand the Mechatronics program to prepare high school graduates for a career in high-tech manufacturing in Columbia's economy.

- MACC's Early College Program with Columbia Public Schools allows students to complete an Associate of Arts degree at the same time they graduate from High School. Grant dollars have been used to fund the expansion of the Mechatronics program.
- This investment will support 4-years of construction costs and ongoing expenses associated with the program, and to provide awards to cover course fees to support Columbia Public Schools Early College students who want to enroll in the program.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

\$300,000 to add a 1-year certificate program teaching advanced Commercial/Industrial electrical skills.

- Several area companies have need to hire people trained in advanced electrical skills. Individuals with this training will be better prepared to enter the IBEW apprenticeship program where they will be paid while they work and learn a trade.
- Envisioned as an extension of Moberly Area Community College's Mechatronics program, this could be completed as a stand-alone certificate or as a focus area in the Mechatronics Program currently offered by the college.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

\$150,000 for a 4-year community membership in a Makerspace. At 5,000 square feet, MACC's Makerspace houses a variety of equipment such as electronics, laser engravers, injection molding, wood and metal shops with CNC machines, vinyl cutters, frame shop, embroidery machine, sewing machines, long-arm quilting machine, 3D printer, and computers for design.

- The Makerspace will offer people who are interested in learning a new skill or who are in the fledgling stage of creating a new business, the chance to work in a collaborative environment learning the skills required before investing in expensive equipment.

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- The Makerspace will also give area and student entrepreneurs the chance to do small-scale production while testing a new product or starting a new business.
- Much of the development for the Makerspace has been grant funded. Additional funds are being pursued to complete outfitting the space, purchase membership management software, and to provide initial membership scholarships to successfully launch.

STORMWATER DIVERSION

Stormwater capture is a major barrier to redevelopment of the Business Loop.

- Developing a watershed to capture and repurpose onsite storm water runoff between properties north of the Business Loop and south of I-70, from West Boulevard east to the Municipal Power Plant would jumpstart private development in the area and provide much-needed greenspace for the area.
- As collected stormwater is circulated through water features and wetland plants, multi-use trails would connect neighborhoods with grocery stores, higher education and job training, and transit-oriented developments.

STORMWATER DIVERSION

\$2,500,000 to begin easement acquisition and design process involving residents, businesses, and property owners, including:

- \$370,000 for detention basin opportunity located north of the east end of Business Loop. This basin would collect stormwater runoff from the 15.6 acre drainage area on the east end of Business Loop. This area drains north to the Bear Creek Watershed.
- \$445,000 for detention basin opportunity located at the southeast corner of Providence Road and I-70 junction. This basin would collect stormwater runoff from the 34.7 acre drainage area along the Business Loop and it drains north to the Bear Creek Watershed.

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EMERGENCY SHELTER

During the pandemic, shelter-providers have had to change the way human—and humanitarian—services are delivered. Columbia currently lacks a consistent venue for emergency shelter. Setting aside multi-purpose space can be a community resource for many. This is not intended to be permanent housing. But rather space for weather-related shelter, space for quarantine, Red Cross disaster space, and space for multiple human services.

- **\$1,000,000** for emergency shelter and drop-in facilities including satellite office space for wraparound service providers, job training, Medicaid enrollment, public restrooms and shower facilities, cot storage, food prep and storage.

COMMUNITY BROADBAND

The pandemic exposed inequities not just for those who have access to healthcare, and those who do not, but those who have access to technology, and those who do not. For many, work-from-home is not just a fad of 2020, but could likely continue for many.

- Making high-speed internet affordable and accessible to everyone will help students, families, and businesses.
- It also makes Columbia attractive to entrepreneurs, innovators and start-ups.

COMMUNITY BROADBAND

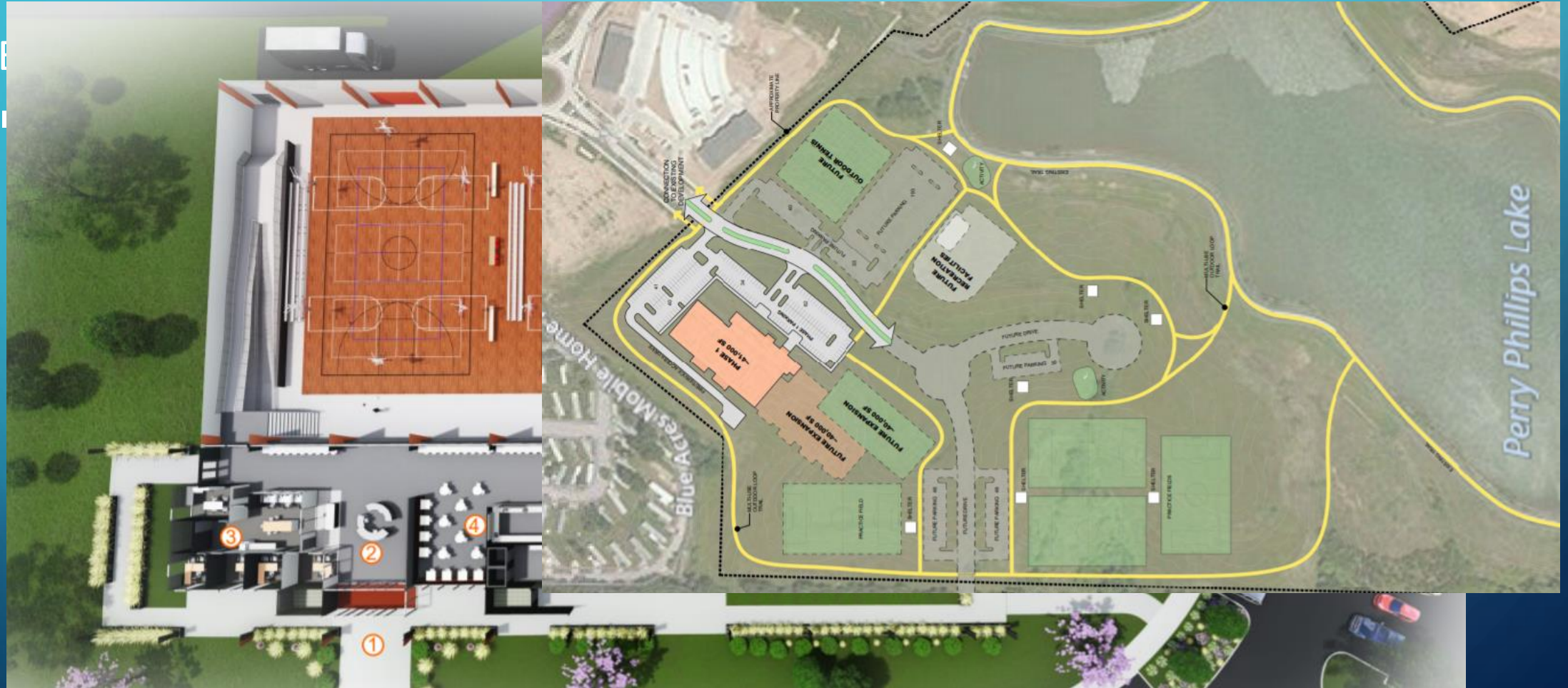
\$10,000,000 to expand the Columbia Utility Department to include a broadband utility designed to:

- Better account for existing fiber in the City right-of-way.
- Complete gaps in the City's existing fiber inventory.
- Explore additional funding opportunity including voter-approved general obligation bonds and public-private-partnerships to extend high-speed internet, at an affordable cost, that is accessible to everyone.

SUMMARY

Streets & Sidewalks	\$2,000,000
Rapid Access Treatment Center	\$3,000,000
Workforce Development	\$1,450,000
Stormwater Diversion	\$2,500,000
Emergency Shelter	\$1,000,000
<u>Community Broadband</u>	<u>\$10,000,000</u>
TOTAL	\$19,950,000
Remaining	(\$5,250,000)

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION



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- **\$850,000** to finish the second floor shell of the Molly Bowden Neighborhood Policing Center for additional, more efficient, modern police administration.



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Be bold and forward thinking. Consider a feasibility study to:

1. Convert the COLT rail bed to a pedestrian bikeway from Rogers Street to Paris Road to connect Fay Street, Columbia College, North Village Arts District, and Arcade District to neighborhoods and Route B manufacturing corridor.
2. Convert 1904 Power Plant for adaptive reuse.
3. Create new boulevard-style Downtown Exit that connects I-70 to Wilkes Boulevard for Stephens College, Columbia College, North Village, Arcade District and Downtown.

