

To: Mayor Buffaloe and the City Council

June 17, 2024

CC: De'Carlton Seewood, City Manager

Subject: Creation of the Colt Greenway

Dear Mayor and City Councilpersons,

This letter is a request to convert a section of the COLT railroad into a community-focused greenway park and trail. The 2021 Park Sales Tax included funding for a trail along the COLT RR corridor extending north to Brown Station Road. We propose early implementation of a section from the North Village Park north to Business Loop 70. This would complement the planned North Village Park by tying in northern neighborhoods and businesses to the Park. It would foster economic development by enhancing the existing retail districts along the corridor. See attached for scope and examples of urban greenway parks.

The problem:


- The rail tracks are ugly and detract from adjacent residential and commercial areas
- The North Village Park and Arts District are isolated from areas north of Rogers St.
- The rail corridor is a liability to the area but can be converted into an asset.

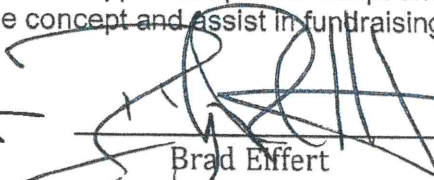
The proposal:

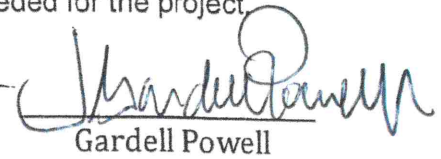
- Railbank the corridor if needed using the federal Rails-to-Trails process, to save it for future rail use. The removal of COLT tracks crossing BL 70 is a precedent.
- Remove the track and rock ballast from Rogers Street to Business Loop 70.
- Construct a trail and landscape the 1 mile, 10 acre corridor with art works, trees, benches, playgrounds, etc.
- Provide access to adjacent retail, commercial and residential properties.
- Include a pedway connector to the North Village Park and Bike Boulevard.
- Direct staff to form a committee to develop the Colt Greenway plan.

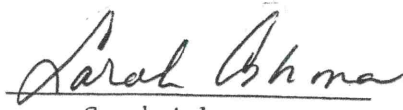
As a benefit it would provide an accessible park and trail to lower income neighborhoods. It would connect, enhance and foster additional growth in the Arcade, Stockyards and North Village Arts districts. As an attraction, it would become a magnet for Columbia residents to explore the numerous restaurants and retail establishments in the area. Families with children would have a safe place to recreate close to their homes.


The below signed individuals support the park concept and would be interested in serving on a committee to develop the concept and assist in fundraising as needed for the project.

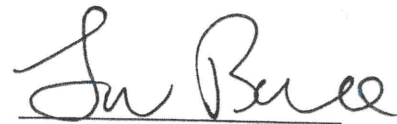

John Ott
Stockyards Property
Owner


Brad Effert
Boone County Lumber


Gardell Powell
Stockyards Property
Owner


Sarah Ashman
Walt's Bike Shop


Terry Woodruff
Mule Barn


Judson Ball
Logboat Brewing



Office of the President

Columbia College
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Columbia, MO 65216
(573) 875-7200
www.ccis.edu

DATE: June 6, 2024

TO: Mayor Barbara Buffaloe and Members of the City Council

FROM: Dr. David Russell, President, Columbia College

SUBJ: Creation of the Colt Greenway

Columbia College has been proud to be part of the North Central neighborhood of Columbia for more than 170 years. We partner with local residents and businesses to create a welcoming, safe experience for our students and visitors to the area.

With that in mind, we fully agree with the proposal to transition the COLT railroad to a proposed greenway park and trail. This impactful update will further connect our neighborhood and improve its aesthetics and safety. It will also allow our students to explore the area safely and offer them additional recreational activities, which will help with our recruitment and retention.

We are committed to helping the Arcade, Stockyards, and North Village Arts Districts thrive, and updating this area can foster the business community's growth.

Please consider this letter as a formal endorsement of the request to convert the downtown section of the COLT railroad into a community-focused greenway park and trail.

Thank you for your consideration of the project.

Sincerely,

Dr. David R. Russell



Board Officers

Pres: Charles Burgess
VP: Jon Kruse
Treasurer: Frank Schmidt
Secretary: Jaclyn Benigno

Board Members

Ashley Cooper
Cody Yoder
Jim Rothwell
Jon Crisp
Jon Kruse
Jude Tanner
Lisa Varley
Marlyn Whitney
Patricia Weisenfelder

CEO

Lawrence Simonson
Lawrence@lomocomo.org
573.999.9894

About Local Motion

Local Motion is a grassroots advocacy organization focused on transportation equity. Our mission is to provide walking, biking, and transit solutions to meet people's everyday transportation needs. Our vision is towns built for people, where it's easy to walk, bike, and ride transit, and everyone can get where they want to go.

To: Mayor Buffaloe and the City Council
CC: De'Carlon Seewood, City Manager
Subject: Support for the Creation of the Colt Greenway

Dear Mayor Buffaloe and City Councilpersons,

Local Motion is writing to express our strong support for the proposal to convert a section of the COLT railroad into the Colt Greenway.

The Colt Greenway project is an exciting opportunity to enhance Columbia's transportation network by transforming an underutilized rail corridor into a vibrant greenway that connects neighborhoods, businesses, and parks.

Local Motion particularly appreciates the emphasis on accessibility and equity in this proposal. By providing a safe and scenic route for walking and biking, the Greenway will make it easier for all community members, including those from lower-income neighborhoods, to access essential services and participate in local activities.

We are also excited about the economic benefits this project will bring. By connecting the North Village Park and Arts District with other retail and residential areas, the Greenway will stimulate economic development and support local businesses. The inclusion of amenities such as art installations, playgrounds, and benches will make the Greenway a destination, attracting visitors and fostering a sense of community.

In conclusion, Local Motion fully supports the Colt Greenway and urges the City Council to approve this transformative project. We believe it will significantly enhance the quality of life in Columbia, promote equitable transportation, and contribute to the city's long-term growth and prosperity.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence Simonson".

Lawrence Simonson
CEO

COLT GREENWAY

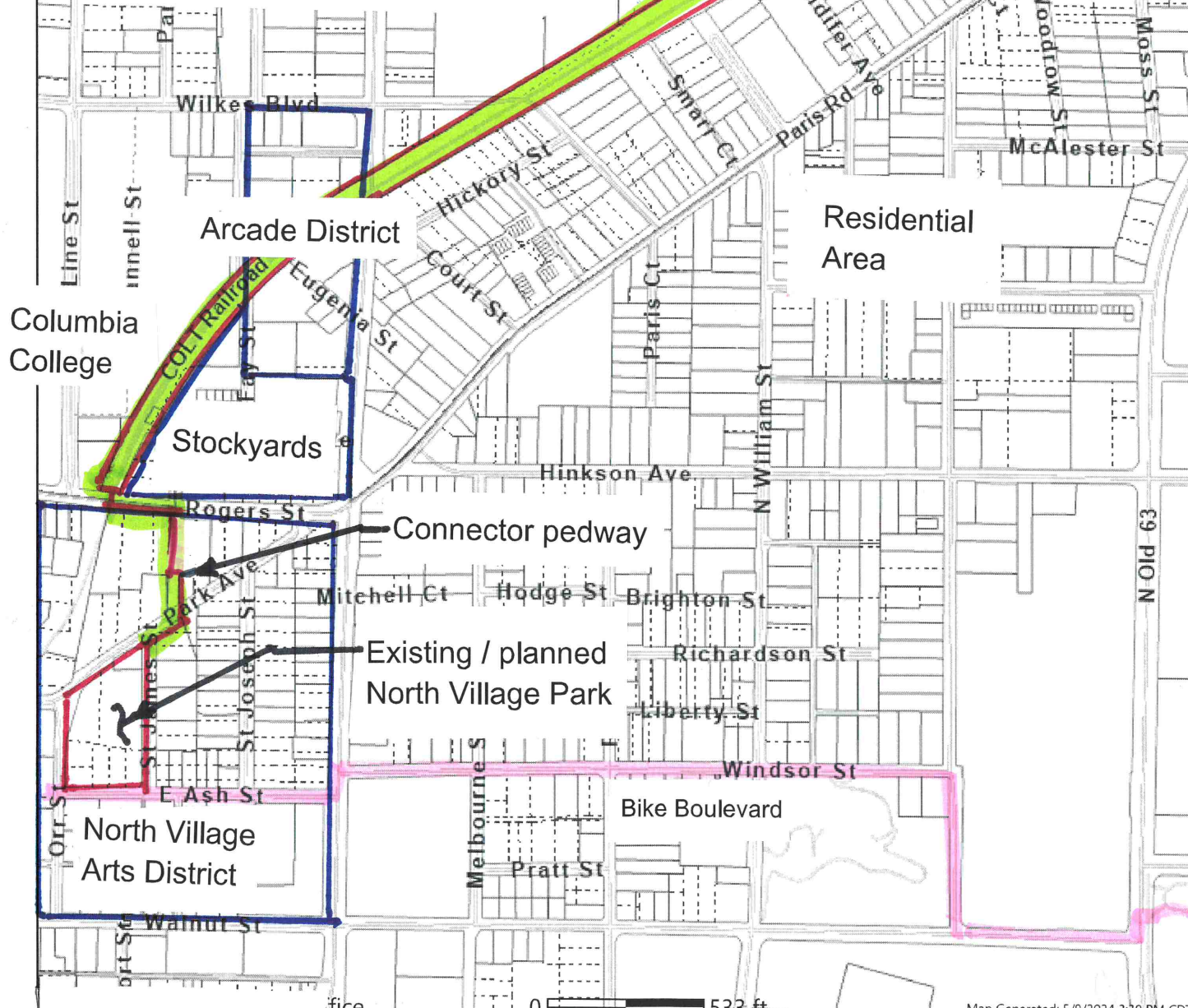
Pedestrian Bridge

E Business Loop 70

Colt Greenway

Colt RR right of way, tracks removed
 Trail, landscaping, benches, art works,
 playground, trees, etc, as linear park
 From North Village Park to the existing
 pedestrian bridge over Business Loop 70.
 Future phases to Vandiver and beyond

COLT Railroad



Columbia College

Arcade District

Residential Area

Stockyards

North Village Arts District

Connector pedway

Existing / planned North Village Park

Bike Boulevard

To Downtown

ATTENTION!!

Map Generated: 5/9/2024 3:30 PM CDT

Existing Right-of-Way



GREENWAY EXAMPLE



GREENWAY EXAMPLE

