

ORIGINAL

ORDINANCE NO.: 2025-042

*Adopting the Downtown Columbia Strategic Plan as an addendum to
Columbia Compass: Envision 2036*

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia and community at large recognize the value of planning for future development and growth; and,

WHEREAS, City Council adopted Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 as the City of Columbia Comprehensive Plan by Ordinance No.: 2020-028 adopting Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 along with all the maps and policies contained therein, and amended from time to time, in accordance with the South Carolina Comprehensive Planning Act of 1994 (Title 6, Chapter 29 of the SC Code); and,

WHEREAS, the study area for the Downtown Columbia Strategic Plan has seen major infrastructure projects completed (with more underway), thousands of housing units built, the adoption of a new Unified Development Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan (Columbia Compass), a shift in the way people use downtowns as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and transportation trends towards new shared and electric alternatives; and,

WHEREAS, throughout the planning process, which began in early 2024, the participants in the planning effort included residents, civic groups, business and property owners and organizations, and institutions in order to develop the plan's vision and recommendations; and,

WHEREAS, the recommendations of the Downtown Columbia Strategic Plan are derived from a community-driven vision for the public character of Downtown and has the potential to be a decision-making guide for the City and state agencies, as well as for investment in the area by individuals, families, businesses, religious organizations, and non-profit institutions; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia Planning Commission has reviewed a recommendation by staff that the Downtown Columbia Strategic Plan be adopted as an addendum to Columbia Compass: Envision 2036; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia Planning Commission has provided input and recommendations in response to the public input and findings; and,

WHEREAS, once adopted, the Downtown Columbia Strategic Plan will be consulted in concert with other existing and future plans adopted by the City; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia this 24th day of June, 2025, that the Downtown Columbia Strategic Plan, dated April 15, 2025, is hereby adopted as an addendum to Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and is effective as of final reading of this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that copies of the Downtown Columbia Strategic Plan, as addendum to Columbia Compass: Envision 2036, are available for public inspection and copying in the offices of the City Clerk and the Planning and Development Services Department; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the City of Columbia should periodically review the Downtown Columbia Strategic Plan for updates, as considered updates to the City of Columbia's comprehensive plan.

Requested by:

Assistant City Manager Palen

Approved by:

Cheresa B. Wilson
City Manager

Approved as to form:

[Signature]
City Attorney

Introduced: 06/17/2025
Final Reading: 06/24/2025

Mayor *[Signature]*

ATTEST:

Eikad M. Hammond
City Clerk