

Department of Public Service annual report



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR



Columbus is America's Opportunity City and home to some of the best neighborhoods anywhere. The city boasts a growing population of working people of all ages, college students, Millennials, senior citizens and New Americans. Residents enjoy an affordable cost of living and the choice to live in historic neighborhoods, some still undergoing transformation, new developments appointed with state-of-the-art features, streets dotted with Mid-Century Modern homes and most all housing forms of the last hundred years. The Department of Public Service works to improve and maintain the public infrastructure that surrounds all those households plus commercial properties, schools, hospitals, houses of worship, government offices and more.

The department's work includes roadway enhancements, refuse and yard-waste collection, recycling, traffic management, parking, pedestrian and bicyclist accommodations, traffic calming and more. The men and women in Public Service make the nation's 15th largest city cleaner, safer and more efficient. I am pleased and grateful for the enormous contribution they make 365 days a year for residents, business owners, visitors and central Ohio employees.

Mayor
Andrew J. Ginther



Message from Director Jennifer L. Gallagher, P.E.



Jennifer L. Gallagher, P.E.
Director

The staff in the Department of Public Service provides many services that make driving, walking, bicycling, parking and mass transit safer and easier than anytime in Columbus' history. The team operates at peak efficiency to improve roadways, maintain traffic signals and signs, clean and maintain streets, collect trash and recycling, inspect the public right-of-way, keep traffic flowing smoothly, design and build street features to aid the mobility-impaired and more. Our clients are more than 860,000 residents and hundreds of thousands of visitors,

business owners and people from suburbs and nearby towns who work, shop and play here. The staff makes Columbus one of the most desirable places to live, work and play.

This annual report features the accomplishments made by Public Service in 2016, including completion of 21 roadway, sidewalk and bicycle projects; our collaboration with the Ohio Department of Transportation on improving and widening Hard Road; installation of the Columbus' first pedestrian-hybrid beacons at four locations; completion of the Hamilton Road "S-Curve" just south of State Route 161; winning the Smart Cities Challenge and much more.

The Public Service team enjoys a fruitful alliance with elected officials and constituents. I am proud to represent the team on Mayor Ginther's cabinet and with City Council. We look forward to maintaining our ongoing commitment to deliver the best in services and infrastructure.



Department of Public Service

The Department of Public Service consists of Director Jennifer L. Gallagher, P.E.'s office and four divisions: Design and Construction, Infrastructure Management, Refuse Collection and Traffic Management. Keep Columbus Beautiful and management of the City's residential recycling and yard-waste contracted programs are part of the Division of Refuse Collection.

The department's operating budget in 2016 totaled \$106 million, while the capital budget was \$125 million. Department staffing included 707 full-time and 20 part-time employees who provide a wide range of services that are essential to Columbus and central Ohio residents' quality of life.

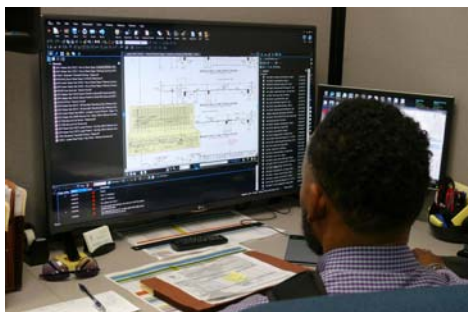


Director's Office

The Office of the Director consists of Director Jennifer L. Gallagher, P.E., two Deputy Directors, four Assistant Directors, Human Resources, Office of Support Services and the Communications Section. The office is staffed by one part-time and 47 full-time employees.

Highlights of 2016:

- Managed six operational funds totaling \$92.2 million in expenditures
- Completed electronic encumbrances totaling \$82.2 million and electronic vouchers totaling \$66.2 million
- Facilitated 302 pieces of legislation
- Coordinated 159 new hires, promotions and transfers plus 104 terminations, resignations and retirements; hired new Deputy Directors (2), Public Information Officer and Human Resources Officer
- Promoted a drug-free workplace, including training and 251 pre-employment and random drug tests
- Exceeded its safety goals of reducing recordable injuries and lost workdays by 10% compared to 2015
- Reduced recordable injuries by 26% and lost workdays by 52%
- Created first Public Service diversity report
- Held first all-department staff meeting
- Conducted 16 public meetings for constituents to learn about major roadway projects
- Won U.S. Department of Transportation nationwide Smart City Challenge





SMARTCOLUMBUS

The City's *Smart Columbus* vision won the U.S. Department of Transportation \$40 million *Smart City Challenge* in June after competing against 77 cities nationwide to become the country's first city to fully integrate innovative technologies – self-driving cars, connected vehicles, smart sensors and more – into their transportation network. Columbus was also awarded a \$10 million grant from Paul G. Allen's Vulcan, Inc., foundation to accelerate the transition to an electrified, low-emissions transportation system. The City is augmenting the USDOT and Vulcan grants with \$367 million in pledges from public and private sector partners.

The infrastructure built through the *Smart Columbus* program will enable Columbus to become the nation's epicenter for intelligent transportation systems research to improve safety, enhance mobility, create ladders of opportunity for those who may have been left behind and address climate change by reducing emissions.



Smart Columbus program office will work to:

- Improve access to jobs through expanded mobility options in major job centers
- Better connect visitors to transportation options
- Compete globally through smart logistics
- Connect Columbus residents to safe, reliable transportation that can be accessed by all



MOBILITY



CLIMATE
CHANGE



OPPORTUNITY



SAFETY



Division of Design and Construction

Highlights of 2016:

- Resurfaced 351 streets, totaling 215 lane miles, and built 2,130 curb ramps at a cost of \$32 million
- Concluded design on 22 and construction on 21 capital-improvement projects
- Continued planning for roadways in the Scioto Peninsula area downtown, of which the Broad Street streetscape and Scioto Peninsula undergrounding design was completed. The project is a joint effort with the departments of Public Utilities and Development plus the Columbus Downtown Development Corporation.
- Completed 92% of 1,204 plan reviews within performance standards
- Finished inspection of 239 private-construction agreements totaling \$9,466,166
- Continued collaboration with the Ohio Department of Transportation on several phases of the Columbus Crossroads long-range project to reconstruct Interstates 70, 71 and 670 downtown

The Division of Design and Construction, led by Administrator James D. Young, completed and continued work on projects that improved road, bridges and bikeways and, in turn, the safety of motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists and the mobility impaired in Columbus. The division's duties include design and administration of transportation infrastructure improvement projects, capital project prioritization, scoping, project management, plan review, in-house design, construction contract management, construction inspection surveying and materials testing. The division is staffed by 138 full-time and 17 part-time employees.





Division of Infrastructure Management

Under the leadership of Administrator Frank Williams, the Division of Infrastructure Management's primary duties are long-term planning and management services for transportation infrastructure, including pavement and structures, pedestrian and biking facilities, zoning and right-of-way permit reviews, plat reviews, street sweeping, litter control, graffiti removal, alley maintenance, pothole patching, mowing and snow & ice control. The division is staffed by one part-time and 185 full-time employees. Street maintenance operations are conducted from five facilities plus an administrative and training facility.

Highlights of 2016:

- Planned and initiated installation of 15 miles of bikeways on 23 streets and nine miles of sidewalks
- Managed repair or replacement of 783 sidewalk locations as part of resolution of 1,145 sidewalk service requests
- Issued over 15,000 right-of-way permits for occupancy and excavation on streets, sidewalks, curbs and driveways, 10% more than 2015; collected over \$2.2 million in fees
- Issued 5,030 new addresses
- Inspected 217 bridges in the right-of-way
- Coordinated installation of the first traffic signals in Columbus with bicycle symbols, on protected bike lanes on Summit Street
- Installed Warrior Watch 2.0 in street-maintenance vehicles, adding features such as vehicle-management tools, an internal dashboard and streamlined reporting for snow & ice control program
- Implemented improvements to pavement-repair program to mitigate repeat pothole patching





Division of Refuse Collection

Under the leadership of Administrator Tim Swauger, the Division of Refuse Collection maintained and expanded its essential mission of keeping Columbus' right-of-way clean and the city healthy through collection of refuse, yard waste and recycling. The division's duties include trash and bulk-item collection from over 340,000 households, management of the contracted residential recycling and yard-waste services, management and operation of the Keep Columbus Beautiful program, and collection of dead animals and trash from containers in the public right-of-way. The division is staffed by 198 full-time employees. Operations are conducted from three stations plus an administrative facility and warehouse.



Highlights of 2016:

- Disposed of 306,429 tons of solid waste, 21,543 tons of bulk items, 43,317 tons of recycling, 33,047 tons of yard waste, 289 tons of hazardous waste
- Repaired or replaced over 20,000 refuse and recycling containers for residents
- Keep Columbus Beautiful gave 44 presentations to 2,517 youth and adults, and managed 425 neighborhood cleanups, 58 beautification projects and 172 Adopt-an-Area groups
- Continued to collaborate with The Ohio State University to provide 12 free bulk trash drop-off locations in the off-campus area during the annual student Move-out/Move-in period in summer, collecting 1,817 tons of trash and bulk items in 2016





Division of Traffic Management

The Division of Traffic Management, which includes the Parking Violations Bureau, focuses on parking services and enforcement, traffic-engineering services and traffic maintenance. The work, led by Administrator Reynaldo Stargell, includes safety, parking and speed studies; traffic-capacity reviews and signal-warrant analysis. The division also installs and maintains pavement markings, parking meters and traffic signals and signs. The division is staffed by one part-time and 139 full-time employees.

Highlights of 2016:

- Gathered data at 302 locations for use in traffic studies and traffic-calming evaluations
- Participated in a Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission project to improve pedestrian safety at 35 locations by installing countdown signals and high-visibility crosswalk markings at 33 intersections
- Continued developing the Connect Columbus thoroughfare plan for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists
- Added 47 new residential, handicap-parking spaces
- Issued 7,205 residential-parking permits and implemented online renewal
- Installed 7,700 traffic signs and fabricated 4,287 street-name signs
- Managed 33 valet zones, 125 loading zones and 38 motorcycle parking locations
- Repaired or upgraded 2,125 parking meters, 8,918 traffic signals and 3,554 pavement markings
- Collected \$6.59 million for parking tickets, \$6.38 million from meter usage and \$211,136 from scofflaw offenders

