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City Begins Installing "Wayfinding" Signs Downtown

(Columbia, MO) The Columbia Public Works Department has started installing a system of signs that will make it easier for drivers and pedestrians to find their way around the downtown district. Twelve directional signs attached to streetlights will guide people toward parking garages, the colleges, various government offices and major attractions.

The work is part of a District Beautification Plan, developed by the City of Columbia and Special Business District based on input from merchants and property owners. The beautification project includes new streetlights, new sidewalk amenities such as benches and trashcans, new street and directional signs and the removal of the Broadway canopies. According to Special Business District Executive Director Carrie Gartner, "Response has been very positive. We've received calls from merchants and customers commenting on how great the signs look."

Pedestrian maps will be installed at all four City parking garages, the Wabash Bus Station, the MKT Trailhead and at the intersection of 9th and Elm streets to assist those on foot. New kiosks will be installed, old street name signs will be replaced and stop signs will have new black posts that match the streetlights.

Installation of the way finding signs should be completed by the end of March and primarily occur in the morning hours to keep disruption to a minimum. Work on six map kiosks and two poster kiosks will continue through April. Nearly 120 street signs throughout the downtown district are scheduled for replacement by end of summer.

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The project will cost about $147,300, including the signs and installation. For more information, contact Public Works at 573-874-7217 or the Special Business District at 573-442-6816.

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