

4th Street – Columbus' 1st Sustainable Street

The City of Columbus has recently completed a reconstruction project on 4th Street between Jackson Street and Franklin Street. The new street is designed to provide the highest level of environmental sustainability by:

- Providing wide sidewalks to encourage pedestrian activity. **Photo**
- Reducing street width to slow or “calm” vehicular traffic.
- Removing all curbs and other barriers to accessibility.
- Reducing electrical consumption and maintenance needs by installing LED streetlights. LED’s use ¼ the power and bulbs last for several years.
- Reducing and treating stormwater runoff by installing porous pavement. **Photo**
- Installing permanent gates to allow the street to be closed easily for events and festivals. No need to transport barricades for street closures. **Photo**
- Improving vehicular and pedestrian safety by reducing speeds, installing gates for street closures, and by reducing frequency of maintenance of traffic signals and streetlights.
- Installing LED traffic signals with improved timing for improved traffic flow resulting in less delay, lower emissions, and less wasted fuel.
- Narrowing street width to minimize the crossing distance for pedestrians resulting in a safer pedestrian environment. **Photo**
- Providing bicycle parking with Columbus’ unique “C” racks. **Photo**

4th Street is designed to be a “Great Street” that recognizes the needs of all who use the street, regardless of whether they are in a vehicle, on foot, on a bicycle, or in a wheelchair. Great streets are rare today. Many of us can recall a time when our downtown streets were the center public life, the place to be and be seen. Our downtown streets defined “community”.

While you may see terms like new urbanism, smart growth and context sensitive design, the common thread is simple: a new respect for local communities and traditions in how streets are planned, built and maintained. Streets are central to building these new, “traditional” communities because of the critical role they play in creating a unique community identity, healthy business environment and public space for citizens to use and enjoy. (Great Streets.org)

The Columbus 4th Street experience includes:

- More space for outdoor seating for bars and restaurants, adding to the “Entertainment District” atmosphere.
- Electricity and water available at four locations in each block to provide for the needs of festivals and events.
- Convenient on-street parking, benches, and trash receptacles in a totally barrier-free environment.

Credit

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| Owners | City of Columbus | Columbus Redevelopment Commission |
| Designers | Janssen & Spaans Engineering | Rundell Ernstberger Associates |
| Prime Contractor | RIETH RILEY CONSTRUCTION CO. | |
| Sub-Contractors | James H. Drew Corp. | Decorative Paving |

Construction Cost \$1,778,000 80% Federal funds 20% TIF funds