



**Columbia Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, March 10, 2026**

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**Call to Order**

The Columbia Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Peter M. Brown, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. The Honorable Will Brennan and The Honorable Tyler D. Bailey were present.

**Approval of Minutes**

1. February 10, 2026 Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Brennan, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the February 10, 2026 Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Bailey, the Committee voted unanimously to adopt the agenda subject to adding Project Kick and 2001 Taylor Street to **Item 4**.

**Presentations**

2. Columbia Ambassador Program – Ms. Payton Lang, Policy and Programs Advisor / Office of the Mayor

Ms. Payton Lang, Policy and Programs Advisor / Office of the Mayor introduced the Columbia Ambassador Program as a collaborative effort designed to bridge the City's vision with the private sector. The initiative aims to cultivate storytellers and advocates who can promote Columbia's growth and opportunities. The program will focus on three key areas: industry feedback, organic lead generation, and story amplification, while advancing a unified city message. The proposed pilot includes a cohort of 10 ambassadors serving a one-year term. The inaugural class will be nominated and approved by the committee, with the long-term goal of expanding the program through a formal application process.

There was discussion about the Port Ambassador Program; proposal timeline; ambassador expectations; cost of participation; and naming of the group.

**Presentations from Economic Development Partners**

3. USC/Columbia Technology Incubator – The MIX Update – Mr. Rick Finch, Executive Director, The Midlands Innovation X-Change

Mr. Rick Finch, Executive Director, Midlands Innovation X-Change provided an update on

Innovation Plaza, noting that bids for the two-building project vary by about \$185,000 and that the Middletons are willing to fund all but approximately \$100,000 of the up fit costs. He emphasized that the space is important for attracting and retaining companies and investment dollars. He also described a broader shift toward a regional innovation strategy, focused on collaboration, gap identification, and tackling larger issues beyond a traditional incubator model. Efforts include building partnerships with organizations such as AT&T, the Andrews Institute, Palmetto College, and regional academic institutions to strengthen long-term innovation capacity.

There was discussion about a funding stairstep; lack of private equity; and exploring partnerships.

### **Executive Session**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Bailey, the Committee voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 11:36 to discuss **Item 4** as amended.

4. Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(5)
  - Project Bowtie
  - Project Perimeter
  - Project WF

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, MMC, CPM  
City Clerk