

DRAFT

RESOLUTION NO. R26-51

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO REQUEST AND APPLY TO THE NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE COMPLETION DATE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT NO 23-DTR-003 FOR DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION TO MAY 14, 2027.

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus, Nebraska, has been awarded Community Development Block Grant (23-DTR-003) from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development in the amount of \$435,000, of which \$200,000 was to be used for commercial rehabilitation, \$200,000 for sidewalks, \$25,000 for general administration and \$10,000 for construction management; and

WHEREAS, this underlying grant agreement was approved by the City via Resolution No R24-75; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus, Nebraska, had a contract completion date of May 14, 2026; however, the City needs an additional twelve months to complete the grant, and therefore, an extension of the completion date is being requested.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA that City Staff is hereby authorized to apply for and request from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development an extension of the completion date for Community Development Block Grant No. 23-DTR-003 for downtown revitalization to May 14, 2027.

This resolution shall repeal all resolutions or portions thereof in conflict herewith.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER _____

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY



Accountability - Dedication
Honesty - Integrity - Respect

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 12, 2026
TO: City Administrator, Tara Vasicek
FROM: Jean Van Iperen, Planning & Economic Development Coordinator
RE: 23-DTR-003 Extension Request

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of the Resolution Requesting an Extension to 23-DTR-003 and Authorize the Mayor to Sign

DISCUSSION: The City of Columbus was awarded CDBG Downtown Revitalization (DTR) grant 23-DTR-003 and are currently requesting a 12-month extension. The current contract end date for the grant is May 14, 2026 and we are requesting an extension to May 14, 2027 to allow additional time to complete remaining project activities. Through the Downtown Revitalization grant, the City of Columbus has awarded ten commercial rehabilitation projects. To date five have been completed and five projects remain under construction.

When the grant was received there was a total of \$200,000 in Commercial Rehabilitation funds awarded. Currently, \$151,356.68 remains available. Once the projects that are presently under construction are completed, the remaining balance is expected to be approximately \$100,000. The City was also awarded \$200,000 for sidewalk improvements. One sidewalk project was completed utilizing \$114,355.58 of the available funds leaving \$85,644.42 remaining that can be used for additional sidewalk improvements.

The City is requesting the extension for the following reasons. Several commercial rehabilitation projects are still in the construction phase and require additional time to reach competition. In addition, the City has recently received renewed interest in the program and would benefit from additional time to review and accept potential new applications. Additional time is also needed to identify another sidewalk location within the downtown district and plan a second sidewalk improvement project using the remaining funds.

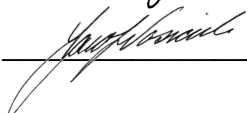
FISCAL IMPACT: None

ALTERNATIVE: Do not approve.

SIGNATURE:

By: 

Concurrence By: Betsy Eckhardt

Approved By: 



City Hall
2500 14th St.
Columbus, NE 68601
402-562-4232
columbusne.us

April 6, 2026

Nebraska Department of Economic Development
Attn: Gina Doose
245 Fallbrook Blvd, Suite 002
Lincoln, NE 68521

Dear Ms. Doose:

On April 6, 2026, the Columbus City Council approved a motion to request a 12-month extension for Community Development Block Grant 23-DTR-003. The current contract end date is May 14, 2026 and the City is requesting a completion date of May 14, 2027.

Commercial Rehabilitation: Columbus has awarded ten (10) projects. To date, five (5) projects have been completed and five (5) projects are pending completion. \$200,000 of Commercial Rehabilitation funds were awarded for this DTR grant with \$151,356.68 currently remaining. When the current pending construction projects are completed, the remaining funding will be approximately \$100,000.

Sidewalk Project: Columbus was awarded \$200,000 for sidewalk projects in the Columbus Downtown district. One sidewalk project was completed. \$114,355.58 of Sidewalk funds were used and \$85,644.42 currently remaining.

Reasons for extension request:

- Time is needed to allow for the completion of commercial rehabilitation construction activities. Multiple projects have been completed but there are several that are still in construction phase and will need additional time to complete the projects. The City of Columbus has some renewed interest recently and would need more time to review and accept any new applications.
- Time is needed to identify sidewalk locations that are in need of replacement to plan a second project with the remaining funds.

Your consideration of this amendment is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding the progress of these projects, please do not hesitate to contact me or Sandra Goode with the Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District at (402) 379-1150 extension 111.

Sincerely,

James B. Bulkley
City of Columbus, Mayor
