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High-tech 'Strategic Playbook' for 315 Research + Technology Corridor to grow Unprecedented Partnerships and New Jobs in Columbus

Having assembled an unprecedented partnership in economic development - including Battelle, The Ohio State University, the Columbus Chamber, TechColumbus, and the region's four major health care centers – the City of Columbus now has a high-tech "strategic playbook" to direct job growth in the emerging 315 Research + Technology Corridor.

Columbus City Council President [Matt Habash](#) and Council's Jobs and Economic Development Chair [Mary Jo Hudson](#), along with Mayor Coleman's Economic Development Director Bill Webster, unveiled an interactive CD-ROM and website to jumpstart education, development, and marketing on the Corridor.

The website (www.315corridor.com) and the CD-ROM detail the business plans to grow this world class center of jobs and innovation. There is also a first-ever directory of businesses and research facilities and a self-playing animated overview of the Corridor.

"Through collaboration and continued community education, we have the power to transform our region into a premier international destination," said Council President Habash. "But to sell the world, we have to sell ourselves. We cannot begin to convince major investors, companies, and researchers to make the Corridor their home if we cannot convince ourselves."

"The City's investment is already there, in the nearly \$2.5 million City Council has committed to infrastructure on Kinnear Road and McKinley Avenue and a first-of-its-kind Technology Growth Incentive that secured 320 health care jobs," Councilmember Hudson added. "Other state funding requests will pay for wet labs and smart offices for start ups – a whole new approach to entrepreneurial development here in Central Ohio."

One recommendation in the plan is the creation of a joint economic development approach and common zoning principles for Columbus, Grandview Heights, Upper Arlington and Clinton Township within the Corridor.

"Collaboration will be the key to moving forward," said Virginia Barney, City Manager for Upper Arlington, one of the partners in Corridor effort. "We can accomplish things together that we never could have done alone."

In addition to the community and business outreach, some of the other recommended actions in the new plans include:

- Securing additional federal and state funding to jumpstart storm water and streetscape enhancement projects along Kinnear Road and make COSI a true gateway to the Corridor
- Collaborating with local educators and learning center on workforce development, to strengthen lifelong learning opportunities and increase the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) capacity of area primary and secondary students