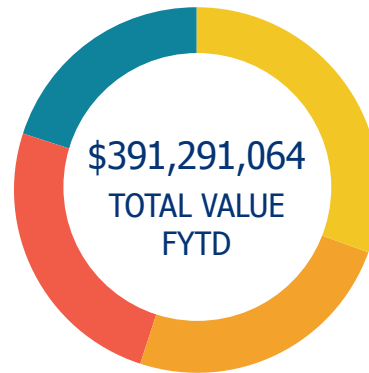


Insights

Perhaps the longer we collect monthly data, the more difficult it becomes to parse out trends to highlight. As we can now readily compare the ebbs and flows of monthly and fiscal year-to-date data with that of past years, what stands out might be – as with this month – that we are simply on track with the prior fiscal year.

What doesn't change is the goal of this reporting – to help not only illuminate statistical trends, but also the daily work that goes into facilitating the development process in the short term, and into planning for the long-term future of Columbia.



FY 2024-2025 TO DATE

- SINGLE/TWO-FAMILY/TOWNHOME NEW CONSTRUCTION
613 permits, \$119,863,166
- MULTI-FAMILY NEW CONSTRUCTION
23 permits, \$96,159,982 (692 units)
- COMMERCIAL
201 permits, \$97,834,531
- TRADES/OTHER
1,713 permits, \$77,433,385

*Values rounded to the nearest whole number.

Getting Started

Helping Facilitate the Development Process in January

PRE-DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS

14

ANNEXATION REQUESTS

1

ZONING CONFIRMATIONS

78

Meetings to discuss development proposals prior to formal plan/permit submittal

Property owner petitions for annexation into the City

Requests to confirm zoning associated with new business ownership, business relocations, etc.

FY 2024-2025 TO DATE

86 14

673

773

LAND USE BOARDS & COMMISSION REVIEWS

January 2025

CONSENT AGENDA

REGULAR AGENDA

Board of Zoning Appeals (BoZA)

1 CASES / 33%

2 CASES / 67%

Design/Development Review Commission (D/DRC)

3 CASES / 50%

3 CASES / 50%

Planning Commission (PC)

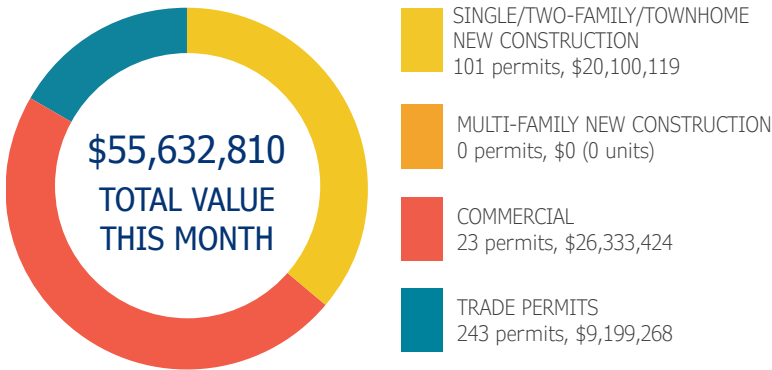
3 CASES / 50%

3 CASES / 50%

Under Construction

Permits Issued in January

PERMIT VALUATION* & NUMBER OF PERMITS

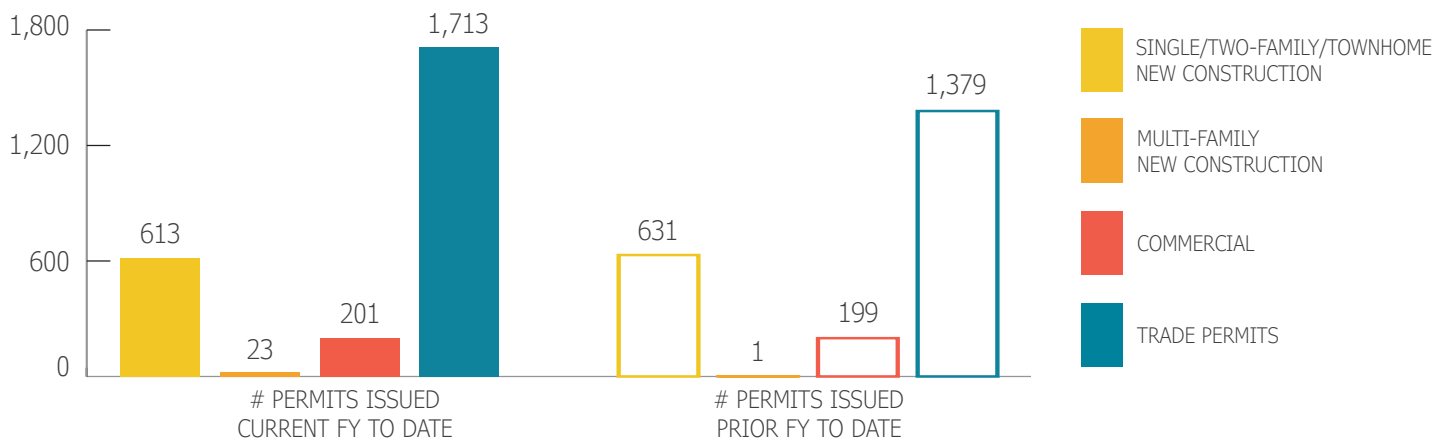


*Values rounded to the nearest whole number.

Planning Ahead

Did you know that developments within the City's four Urban Design Overlay Districts go through a distinct design review process? This review is most efficient when applicants engage with Urban Design staff during the project's earliest phases to identify pertinent plan recommendations and guidelines.

Department staff is always glad to connect with property owners, developers, and design professionals early in the process! Reach out to Tristan Kercher (tristan.kercher@columbiasc.gov) to discuss urban design guidelines, and to our Development Center staff (developmentcenter@columbiasc.gov) to schedule pre-development meetings - which are free and can be held at multiple stages throughout the process if desired.



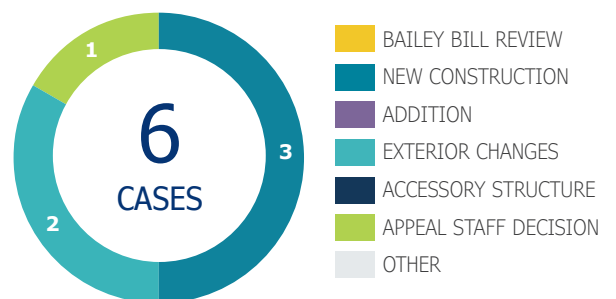
DESIGN REVIEW

Design review is required for certain projects within the City's urban design and historic preservation zoning overlays. The vast majority of these reviews are completed at the staff level, however certain types of projects require D/DRC review.

All applications for the Bailey Bill tax abatement program must be reviewed by the D/DRC per ordinance; you can learn more about the Bailey Bill and other preservation incentives [here](#).

COMMON D/DRC REQUESTS

Cases Heard in January



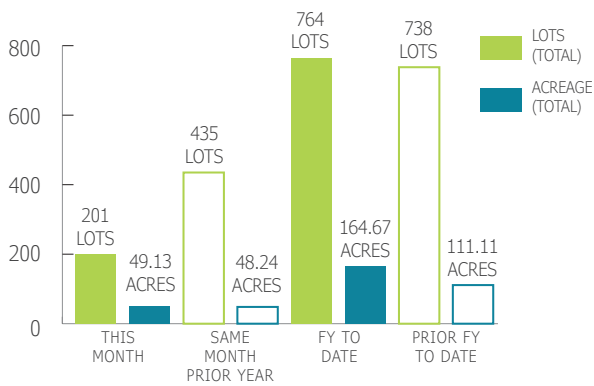
Under Construction

Land Development Reviews

Approval for Major Subdivisions and Major Site Plans is granted at the Planning Commission level, whereas Minor Subdivisions and Minor Site Plans are reviewed solely by staff for compliance with the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). **Major Subdivisions** are subdivisions of lots where platting, construction, opening, or extension of at least one of the following occurs: new streets, improvement of existing streets, water or sewer facilities, storm drainage facilities, and other utilities. **Major Site Plans** propose at least one of the following: nonresidential development of 100,000 square feet or greater, multi-family development of more than 25 units, or the development of new principal uses and structures on a lot.

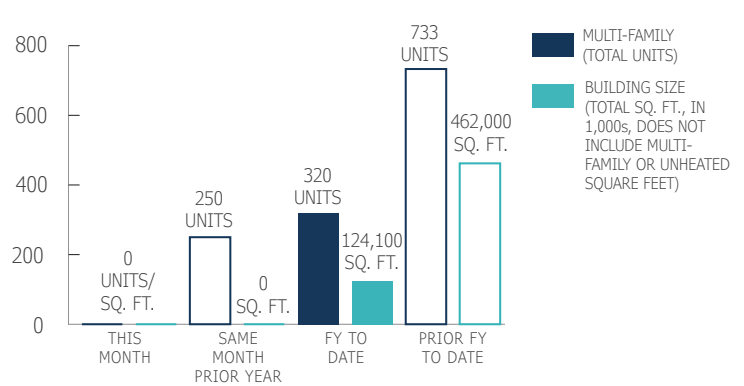
MAJOR SUBDIVISIONS

Approved by Planning Commission



MAJOR SITE PLANS

Approved by Planning Commission



BY THE NUMBERS - JANUARY

<h1>1</h1> <p>MAJOR SUBDIVISIONS APPROVED BY PC</p>	<h1>0</h1> <p>MAJOR SITE PLANS APPROVED BY PC</p>	<h1>8</h1> <p>MINOR SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS PROCESSED</p>	<h1>6</h1> <p>LAND DISTURBANCE PERMITS ISSUED</p>
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Ensuring Compliance

Inspection & Enforcement Activities in January

<p>CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY ISSUED</p> <h1>83</h1>	<p>BUILDING INSPECTIONS</p> <h1>1,530</h1>	<p>LAND DEVELOPMENT INSPECTIONS</p> <h1>10</h1>	<p>ZONING SITE VISITS</p> <h1>53</h1>
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Permitting by the Numbers

Dive into the Details

Permit Type	#
Certificate of Design Approval	13
Commercial Building	23
Commercial Building Trade - Electrical	32
Commercial Building Trade - Gas	8
Commercial Building Trade - Mechanical	22
Commercial Building Trade - Plumbing	20
Commercial Roofing	15
Construction Trailer	2
Curb Cut	1
Demolition (Commercial)	2
Demolition (Residential)	7
Fire Alarm System	12
Fire Extinguishing System	5
Fire Sprinkler System	23
Land Disturbance	6
Oversized Moving	0
Prescribed Grazing	0
Residential Building	181
Residential Building Trade - Electrical	55
Residential Building Trade - Gas	18
Residential Building Trade - Mechanical	59
Residential Building Trade - Plumbing	29
Residential Roofing	47
Sign	9
Swimming Pool	5
Urban Forestry	0
Zoning Permit *	24
Zoning Temporary	1
Zoning Wireless Communication Facility	0
Total Permits	619

Permits Issued For	This Month	Same Month Last Year	FY to Date	Last FY to Date
Residential Building New One Family/Townhouse	90	66	590	621
Residential Building Two Family	11	2	23	10
Residential Building Renovation	74	67	604	475
Commercial Building New	5	1	51	21
Commercial Building Renovation	18	36	168	170
Swimming Pools	5	4	27	28
Demolition	9	8	30	48
Zoning Permits	24	30	235	209
Total Value of Buildings	\$83,302,549.75	\$49,408,848.62	\$560,732,675.04	\$521,056,561.62
Total Building Inspections Made	1,530	1,983	10,708	11,320
Total Fees Collected **	\$238,696.00	\$179,959.00	\$1,518,628.90	\$1,423,532.45
Plan Reviews	149	107	937	872
Fees Collected Plan Review	\$3,999.00	\$4,217.00	\$32,071.90	\$30,275.25

* Zoning Permits are combined with Building Permits. The Zoning Permit count is for Zoning Only Permits (fences, temporary signs, Wireless Communication Facilities, etc.)

** Totals provided are specific to Planning & Development Services fees only; other fees that are collected by the Development Center as part of the permitting process, such as business license or land disturbance permit fees, are not included in the above totals.



Volunteer for our Spring Pedestrian + Bicyclist Counts

By counting pedestrians and bicyclists, volunteers and city staff help to ensure that all of the City's residents count: transit riders, pedestrians, and bicyclists are often not accounted for in traffic studies – the same traffic studies used to make important decisions about our City's landscape.

Counts are taken during a two-hour time period, on a weekend (Saturday from 10am – noon) or weekday (Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday from 7:30 – 9:30am). This Spring, we'll be counting on Saturdays, 10am – 12pm (March 29, April 5, and April 12) + on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 7:30 – 9:30am (April 1-3 and April 8-10). Volunteers are able to select from a predetermined list of locations selected by the Planning Division when signing up to count.

Set aside a couple of hours on your calendar – you can learn more about the count program, and sign up to volunteer at bit.ly/COC_counts.

Paws for Preservation Sales Report

The Coalition of Columbia's Historic Districts (CCHD) is winding down 2025 wall calendar sales with over 100 calendars sold this year - and over \$1,700 in funds raised to support future hands-on preservation workshops. These workshops, which are a key part of the CCHD mission, help equip property owners with the knowledge and confidence to maintain and repair their historic homes. These workshops are scheduled throughout the year in partnership with

the City of Columbia; find out more about the CCHD and their efforts by visiting [their webpage](#).

City of Columbia + Bloomberg Philanthropies Partner on Youth Climate Action Fund

The Youth Climate Action Fund provides technical assistance and funding for 100 mayors to activate tens of thousands of young people ages 15-24 to design, produce, and govern urgent climate solutions in cities across the globe. The City of Columbia has been an active participant since 2024, and in January, the City announced a second round of funding, with \$100,000 to distribute in microgrants to youth-led projects.

The call for applications is open through March 22, 2025, and local groups, organizations, nonprofits, and schools are encouraged to apply. Awards will be announced April 22, 2025, and funded activities must occur between April 22 and October 31. Eligible projects and efforts might include:

- » Youth-led awareness, education, research and development initiatives
- » Youth-driven climate mitigation and adaptation projects
- » Co-governed youth climate action plans

Find out more by visiting strategicinitiatives.columbiasc.gov/columbias-youth-climate-action-fund

SCDOT Bike + Pedestrian Planning PILOT

SCDOT is still asking individuals in Richland, Lexington, Newberry, and Fairfield Counties to help map known barriers to biking and walking, destination points, safety hazards, and excessive speeds along corridors throughout the region. While the [interactive map](#) was initially open through November, SCDOT anticipates extending this feedback opportunity at least through the end of February. The planning process timeline has shifted slightly, and is now anticipated to wrap up in Summer 2025.



Want to access a digital version of this report or others? Check out our reporting + outreach page - visit bit.ly/PDS-report or use this QR code.