

# WOODFOREST NATIONAL BANK ATM RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY



On Tuesday, July 31, 2018, Mayor Steve Benjamin, Columbia City Council, City Manager Teresa Wilson and the Columbia Empowerment Zone, Inc. in partnership with the North Columbia Business Association and the Woodforest National Bank held a ribbon cutting ceremony for Woodforest National Bank ATM. They unveiled the local banking ATM to the Trestle District (NOMA) known as the North Columbia area in the North Main Plaza.

City of Columbia Officials, City staff, Columbia Empowerment Zone, Inc, North Columbia Business Association staff, residents of the North Main corridor and business owners all gathered to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for Woodforest National Bank ATM.

"Thank you to the Columbia Empowerment Zone, Inc. for the great work you've done in North Columbia. The ability to leverage a half million dollar investment in North Columbia continues to serve as a great partner for small businesses in this incredibly transformational neighborhood. On behalf of myself and City Council we're excited about the trajectory that North Columbia is on and Woodforest has been a key factor of that," said Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin.

"We're grateful for the commitment of Woodforest National Bank in the North Columbia area," said Felicia Maloney, Columbia Empowerment Zone, Inc. Executive Director. "Woodforest has

strongly demonstrated the definition of a community bank. They have shown strong support for the needs of the business community and lending decisions are made by people who understand the needs of the businesses and families of this community. Their commitment is in clear view and we are very happy to be a partner in their efforts."

"Today, we're here to mark the occasion that we're providing a full service ATM right here in North Main Plaza to service our customers and the community," said Andrew Rabuck, Woodforest National Bank Senior Vice President. "18 months ago Woodforest opened our very first community development and education center right here in the North Main Plaza, We chose the North Columbia area because it was an area on the verge of rebirth and we wanted to be a part of that. As community bankers, we find ways to help our communities by lending our human capital to organizations that we partner with, by finding creative ways to lend capital to small businesses to help them grow and to find ways to listen to the community and our customers' needs."

The ribbon cutting ceremony for Woodforest National Bank ATM connects with the City Council's Vision Statement focus areas and goals.

Focus area #1: Attracting & Retaining Talent

Focus area #5: Economic Prosperity Endless Possibilities

Focus area #6: Enhancing Columbia's Neighborhoods

Goal #4: Collaborate and partner with entities within the

Midlands region to become the state's prime destination for residents, visitors and businesses.