



## WHAT WE DO

The Department of City Planning (DCP) plans for the strategic growth and development of the City through ground-up planning with communities, the development of land use policies and zoning regulations applicable citywide and its contribution to the preparation of the City's 10-year Capital Strategy. DCP promotes housing production and affordability, fosters economic development and coordinated investments in infrastructure and services, and supports resilient, sustainable communities across the five boroughs for a more equitable New York City.

In addition, DCP supports the City Planning Commission in its annual review of land use applications for a variety of discretionary approvals. The Department also assists both government agencies and the public by advising on strategic and capital planning and providing policy analysis, technical assistance and data relating to housing, transportation, community facilities, demography, zoning, urban design, waterfront areas and public open space.

## FOCUS ON EQUITY

DCP promotes housing production and affordability, fosters economic development and coordinated investments in infrastructure and services, and supports resilient, sustainable communities across the five boroughs for a more equitable New York City. DCP's contributions toward development of the 10-year Capital Strategy will ensure investments in New York City's neighborhoods align strategic planning priorities with community needs. Under Housing New York: A Five-Borough, Ten-Year Plan, the Department will lead coordinated, neighborhood-based planning studies and advance regulatory changes—including mandatory inclusionary housing in newly rezoned areas and zoning changes for quality and affordability. These initiatives will remove barriers that constrain housing production and raise costs, encourage better quality buildings, reduce parking requirements, promote affordable senior housing and support more economically diverse communities and housing opportunities for New Yorkers at all income levels. Through inclusive community development initiatives with public and private stakeholders, DCP will expand access to quality jobs and services, and stimulate economic development benefitting all New Yorkers. In addition, DCP is committed to expanding public access to land use, housing and population data and planning resources through its online Community Portal, as well as supporting informed participation by New Yorkers in neighborhood planning and land use review processes.

## OUR SERVICES AND GOALS

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### **SERVICE 1 Shape the use and development of land in the City's neighborhoods, business districts and waterfront through participatory planning and zoning changes.**

- Goal 1a Advance land use projects and proposals for public review that promote housing and affordability, economic development, sustainability and neighborhood quality of life.

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### **SERVICE 2 Prepare information and policy analysis for the public, other government agencies and elected officials.**

- Goal 2a Provide quality technical and strategic planning expertise to the public, other City agencies and elected officials to support decision making.

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### **SERVICE 3 Manage land use and environmental review processes to facilitate public and private development citywide.**

- Goal 3a Conduct timely and thorough review of land use and environmental review projects subject to City Planning Commission review to ensure project submissions are technically complete and adhere to all applicable requirements and procedures.

# HOW WE PERFORMED IN FISCAL 2015

## SERVICE 1 **Shape the use and development of land in the City's neighborhoods, business districts and waterfront through participatory planning and zoning changes.**

**Goal 1a** Advance land use projects and proposals for public review that promote housing and affordability, economic development, sustainability and neighborhood quality of life.

Furthering its objectives of expanding housing and economic development opportunities in all five boroughs and fostering more livable, equitable and resilient neighborhoods through consensus-based community planning, the Department advanced and presented 59 land use proposals and initiatives to the public during Fiscal 2015 in alignment with the vision and goals of [One New York: The Plan for a Strong and Just City](#), a sharp increase from 18 in Fiscal 2014.

Several neighborhood planning studies in support of [Housing New York: A Five-Borough, Ten Year Plan](#) were launched across the City in Fiscal 2015, with the Department engaging local communities, businesses and stakeholders early in the planning process to identify and evaluate opportunities to provide and support new and existing affordable housing and economic development, as well as strategies to address the current and future needs of the growing neighborhood. These studies include:

- [Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Plan](#) in the Bronx, spanning a 73 block area along Jerome Avenue;
- [Bay Street Corridor @ Downtown Staten Island Neighborhood Plan](#) building upon the recommendation of the Department's North Shore 2030 report to create a vibrant downtown environment providing stronger connections to New York Harbor;
- [Flushing West Neighborhood Plan](#) a 10-block area located in the western portion of Downtown Flushing in Queens;
- [Long Island City Core Neighborhood Plan](#) includes the Queens Plaza and Court Square neighborhoods, and the Jackson Avenue and Northern Boulevard corridors in Queens;
- Additionally, the Department continues the community engagement process as it advances the [East New York Community Plan](#).

The Department's [Vanderbilt Corridor](#) proposal to facilitate commercial development along Madison and Vanderbilt avenues in Manhattan, improve pedestrian circulation within Grand Central Terminal and its vicinity, and allow greater opportunity for area landmarks to transfer their unused development rights was adopted by the City Council in May 2015.

In Fiscal 2015 several [resilient neighborhood studies](#) were launched in neighborhoods across all five boroughs including Edgemere Park, Old Howard Beach, Hamilton Beach, Broad Channel, and the Rockaways in Queens; Harding Park in the Bronx; Gerritsen Beach, Canarsie, and Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn; and the East Shore neighborhoods of Staten Island. The Department engaged local residents, civic organizations, elected officials and community boards to create a community-supported vision. The studies will consider the unique character of each community and the specific issues and opportunities each faces while guided by a common set of goals to reduce risks from natural hazards such as flooding and coastal storms; foster economically and socially vibrant communities that are able to adapt to changing conditions; and coordinate land use planning with rebuilding activities and infrastructure investment.

Complementing the resilient neighborhoods studies, in March 2015 the Department referred its [Special Regulations for Neighborhood Recovery Zoning Text Amendment](#) to the public. Applicable in certain areas of Staten Island, Queens and Brooklyn that have experienced a high concentration of damage and where thousands of properties are expected to be elevated or rebuilt to comply with flood-resistant construction standards, this proposed text amendment would provide zoning relief to facilitate the elevation of existing homes and replacement of substantially damaged homes with more resilient ones.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Desired Direction	5yr Trend
	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY15	FY16		
Economic development and housing proposals completed and presented to the public	9	11	16	10	29	*	*	Up	Up
Neighborhood enhancement proposals completed and presented to the public	8	4	13	8	30	*	*	Up	Up

★ Critical Indicator "NA" - means Not Available in this report ↕ ↗ shows desired direction

## SERVICE 2 Prepare information and policy analysis for the public, other government agencies and elected officials.

### Goal 2a

Provide quality technical and strategic planning expertise to the public, other City agencies and elected officials to support decision making.

In Fiscal 2015 the Department presented 85 policy initiatives, planning reports and releases of datasets to the public.

In September 2014 the Department updated its [NYC: A City of Neighborhoods Map](#), which displays the neighborhood names and community district boundaries along with informative statistics on the geographic, demographic and economic profile of NYC.

The Department continues to collect, analyze and share data with stakeholders on land use, zoning, housing and population, releasing datasets and applications of software, data and geographic base map files to the public as free downloads. Known under the umbrella name [BYTES of the BIG APPLE](#), this family of data and geographic files, with the appropriate Geographic Information System (GIS) software, provides users access to spatial data that assists in all aspects of planning, from a local to citywide area. The information ranges from a tax lot-level to area-wide program areas such as the Inclusionary Housing Designated Areas, as well as boundaries for administrative and political districts, FRESH Food Stores Zoning, and Hurricane Evacuation Zones.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Desired Direction	5yr Trend
	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY15	FY16		
Planning information and policy analysis initiatives presented to the public	NA	NA	NA	87	85	*	*	Up	NA

★ Critical Indicator "NA" - means Not Available in this report ↕ ↗ shows desired direction

## SERVICE 3 Manage land use and environmental review processes to facilitate public and private development citywide.

### Goal 3a

Conduct timely and thorough review of land use and environmental review projects subject to City Planning Commission review to ensure project submissions are technically complete and adhere to all applicable requirements and procedures.

Beginning in Fiscal 2015 the Department introduced new performance indicators that reflect recent business process reforms to streamline its pre-certification review process. The new indicators more accurately measure the pre-certification review process from the customer's perspective – from the time the applicant formally engages the agency to the certification or referral of their project for public review. Through these reforms, the Department aims to reduce overall processing times for project review.

In Fiscal 2015 the Department certified a total of 263 projects compared to 274 projects in Fiscal 2014. More simple (59 versus 41) and complex (40 versus 38) zoning actions were certified/referred in the current reporting period and fewer non-zoning City projects (47 versus 62) and renewals and natural area approvals (117 versus 133).

Sixty-seven percent of Fiscal 2015 projects were certified or referred within their target timeframes, below the 70 percent baseline target, and 11 percentage points lower than last year's overall performance. However, projects with a start date after January 2014, when the reforms went into full effect, have met the 70 percent target.

Within project types, performance varied, with 73 percent of simple zoning actions certified/referred within 12 months and 70 percent of non-zoning City projects certified/referred within six months, while only 63 percent of complex zoning actions and renewals and natural area approvals were certified/referred within their respective timeframes of 15 months and six months. In all cases, the percent of projects meeting target timeframes was lower than in Fiscal 2014. In the renewals and natural area approvals category, DCP attributes the decrease to the lower volume of South Richmond School Seat certifications – about half as many as it received in Fiscal 2014 – as these certifications have limited technical review and short project durations.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Desired Direction	5yr Trend
	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY15	FY16		
Zoning actions (simple) certified/referred	NA	NA	NA	41	59	*	*	Neutral	NA
★ - Certified/referred within 12 months (%)	NA	NA	NA	93%	73%	70%	70%	Up	NA
Zoning actions (complex) certified/referred	NA	NA	NA	38	40	*	*	Neutral	NA
★ - Certified/referred within 15 months (%)	NA	NA	NA	68%	63%	70%	70%	Up	NA
City projects (non-zoning) certified/referred	NA	NA	NA	62	47	*	*	Neutral	NA
★ - Certified/referred within 6 months (%)	NA	NA	NA	87%	70%	70%	70%	Up	NA
Renewals and natural area approvals certified/referred	NA	NA	NA	133	117	*	*	Neutral	NA
★ - Certified/referred within 6 months (%)	NA	NA	NA	73%	63%	70%	70%	Up	NA

★ Critical Indicator "NA" - means Not Available in this report ↕ shows desired direction

## AGENCY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Desired Direction	5yr Trend
	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY15	FY16		
Customer Experience	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY15	FY16	Desired Direction	5yr Trend
Emails responded to in 14 days (%)	96%	75%	81%	87%	90%	85%	85%	Up	Neutral
Letters responded to in 14 days (%)	70%	52%	44%	44%	64%	50%	50%	Up	Down
Completed customer requests for interpretation	3	1	4	1	2	*	*	Neutral	Down
CORE customer experience rating (0 - 100)	81	83	88	89	92	80	80	Up	Up

## AGENCY RESOURCES

Resource Indicators	Actual					Plan <sup>1</sup>		5yr Trend
	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY15	FY16	
Expenditures (\$000,000) <sup>2</sup>	\$23.7	\$22.8	\$20.9	\$20.6	\$29.9	\$29.5	\$38.1	Up
Revenues (\$000,000)	\$1.7	\$2.4	\$3.5	\$3.6	\$1.6	\$2.1	\$2.1	Up
Personnel	263	253	256	256	274	313	352	Neutral
Overtime paid (\$000)	\$40	\$45	\$56	\$55	\$9	\$9	\$9	Down

<sup>1</sup>Authorized Budget Level

"NA" - Not Available in this report

<sup>2</sup>Expenditures include all funds.

## NOTEWORTHY CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

- Due to a minor adjustment in calculation methodology to better reflect actual DCP performance, Fiscal 2014 data for six of the eight indicators under Goal 3a have been revised. Revisions were relatively minor.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For additional information on items referenced in the narrative, go to:

- Housing New York: A Five-Borough, Ten Year Plan:  
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/housing/pages/home/index.shtml>
- Community Portal:  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/neigh\\_info/nhmap.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/neigh_info/nhmap.shtml)
- One New York: The Plan for a Strong and Just City:  
<http://www1.nyc.gov/html/onenyc/index.html>
- Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Plan:  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/jerome\\_ave/index.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/jerome_ave/index.shtml)
- Bay Street Corridor @ Downtown Staten Island Neighborhood Plan:  
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/bay-street-corridor/index.shtml>
- Flushing West Neighborhood Plan:  
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/flushing-west/index.shtml>
- Long Island City Core Neighborhood Plan:  
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/long-island-city-core/index.shtml>
- East New York Community Plan:  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/east\\_new\\_york/index.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/east_new_york/index.shtml)
- Vanderbilt Corridor:  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/vanderbilt\\_corridor/index.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/vanderbilt_corridor/index.shtml)
- Resilient Neighborhoods Initiative:  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/resilient\\_neighborhoods/index.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/resilient_neighborhoods/index.shtml)
- Special Regulations for Neighborhood Recovery Zoning Text Amendment:  
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/special-regulations-neighborhood/special-neigh-reg1.shtml>
- NYC: A City of Neighborhoods Map:  
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/neighbor/index.shtml>
- BYTES of the BIG APPLE:  
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/bytes/applbyte.shtml>

For more information on the agency, please visit: [www.nyc.gov/dcp](http://www.nyc.gov/dcp).

