

DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING

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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 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 as well as 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 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 leads coordinated, neighborhood-based planning studies and has advanced regulatory changes—including mandatory inclusionary housing in newly rezoned areas and zoning changes for quality and affordability. These initiatives 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 expands access to quality jobs and services, and stimulates 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 and other resources, as well as supporting informed participation by New Yorkers in neighborhood planning and land use review processes.

OUR SERVICES AND GOALS

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.

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.

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 2016

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 56 land use proposals and initiatives to the public during Fiscal 2016 in alignment with the vision and goals of [One New York: The Plan for a Strong and Just City](#), a slight decrease from 59 in Fiscal 2015.

In Fiscal 2016 DCP completed several major initiatives in support of [Housing New York: A Five-Borough, Ten Year Plan](#). Notably, Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) and Zoning for Quality and Affordability (ZQA), the single largest changes to the City's Zoning Resolution since its inception in 1961, were approved by the City Council in March 2016. MIH and ZQA removed 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.

Shortly after the adoption of MIH and ZQA, the City Council approved the [East New York Community Plan](#), where MIH was applied for the first time. The Plan is accompanied by City investments in the neighborhood's physical and social infrastructure facilitated by the new Neighborhood Development Fund. DCP continues work on neighborhood studies throughout the City, including:

- [Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Plan](#) in the Bronx, spanning a 73 block area along Jerome Avenue; based on input received through a series of public events, DCP and an interagency team shared a draft zoning proposal and accompanying plan elements in late 2015.
- [Bay Street Corridor @ Downtown Staten Island Neighborhood Plan](#), aims to create a vibrant downtown environment providing stronger connections to New York Harbor; draft neighborhood strategies were presented to the public in May 2016.

In support of the Mayor's Industrial Action Plan, in November 2015 DCP launched the [North Brooklyn Industry and Innovation Plan](#) for the North Brooklyn Industrial Business Zone (IBZ) and adjoining areas to promote job growth and economic activity.

In addition, two resilient neighborhood studies - [West Chelsea](#) and [Lower East Side/East Village and Two Bridges](#) - were completed and presented to the public in Fiscal 2016. The remaining six studies are slated to be released in Fiscal 2017.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Desired Direction	5yr Trend
	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY16	FY17		
Economic development and housing proposals completed and presented to the public	11	16	10	29	42	*	*	Up	Up
Neighborhood enhancement proposals completed and presented to the public	4	13	8	30	14	*	*	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 2016 the Department presented 145 policy materials to the public, including initiatives, planning reports and 141 releases of datasets. The significant increase from 85 in Fiscal 2015 is mainly due to more frequent updates to datasets the Department provides to the public in support of NYC's Open Data initiatives.

In August 2015 DCP re-launched [Census Fact Finder](#), its online application which now provides not only demographic, but also social, economic and housing data for custom geographies based on the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Another key benefit of this update is that detailed statistical reliability information, including Margins of Error and Coefficients of Variation, is available for each geography.

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
	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY16	FY17		
Planning information and policy analysis initiatives presented to the public	NA	NA	87	85	145	*	*	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.

In Fiscal 2016 the Department certified/referred a total of 230 projects, compared to 264 projects in Fiscal 2015. The Department certified/referred more complex zoning actions (55 versus 40) and non-zoning City projects (50 versus 47) in the current reporting period and fewer simple zoning actions (31 versus 60) and renewals and natural area approvals (94 versus 117). Sixty-eight percent of Fiscal 2016 projects were certified or referred within their target timeframes, below the 70 percent baseline target, but two percentage points higher than last year's overall performance.

Within project types, performance within target timeframes varied. City projects certified/referred within six months improved from 70 to 96 percent and renewals and natural approvals improved from 63 to 68 percent. Sixty-eight percent of simple zoning actions were certified/referred within 12 months compared to 72 percent a year ago, which can be attributed to a higher percentage of applications requiring more advanced technical review. Forty-four percent of complex zoning actions were certified within 15 months as compared to 63 percent last fiscal year. This decrease can be attributed to a higher volume of complex projects, and applicants awaiting final approval of new MIH/ZQA regulations to finalize their land use and environmental applications.

DCP is currently reassessing internal processes and in late Fiscal 2016 began a reform initiative to help speed the review of land use and environmental applications. Examples of projects within this initiative include but are not limited to: standardizing DCP documents; updating forms for more efficient transfer of essential information; and segmenting internal processes to better fit the needs of different customers.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Desired Direction	5yr Trend
	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY16	FY17		
Zoning actions (simple) certified/referred	NA	NA	41	60	31	*	*	Neutral	NA
★ - Certified/referred within 12 months (%)	NA	NA	93%	72%	68%	70%	70%	Up	NA
Zoning actions (complex) certified/referred	NA	NA	38	40	55	*	*	Neutral	NA
★ - Certified/referred within 15 months (%)	NA	NA	68%	63%	44%	70%	70%	Up	NA
City projects (non-zoning) certified/referred	NA	NA	62	47	50	*	*	Neutral	NA
★ - Certified/referred within 6 months (%)	NA	NA	87%	70%	96%	70%	70%	Up	NA
Renewals and natural area approvals certified/referred	NA	NA	133	117	94	*	*	Neutral	NA
★ - Certified/referred within 6 months (%)	NA	NA	73%	63%	68%	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
	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY16	FY17		
Customer Experience	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY16	FY17	Desired Direction	5yr Trend
E-mails responded to in 14 days (%)	75%	81%	87%	90%	85%	85%	85%	Up	Up
Letters responded to in 14 days (%)	52%	44%	44%	64%	72%	50%	50%	Up	Up
Completed customer requests for interpretation	1	4	1	2	6	*	*	Neutral	Up
CORE customer experience rating (0 - 100)	83	88	89	92	100	80	80	Up	Up

AGENCY RESOURCES

Resource Indicators	Actual ¹					Plan ²		5yr Trend
	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY16	FY17	
Expenditures (\$000,000) ³	\$22.8	\$20.9	\$20.6	\$24.7	\$37.7	\$42.2	\$46.3	Up
Revenues (\$000,000)	\$2.4	\$3.5	\$3.6	\$1.6	\$3.0	\$2.1	\$2.0	Neutral
Personnel	253	256	256	274	296	354	381	Up
Overtime paid (\$000)	\$45	\$56	\$55	\$47	\$29	\$29	\$29	Down

¹Actual financial amounts for the most current fiscal year are not yet final. Final fiscal year actuals, from the Comptroller's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, will be reported in the next PMMR. Refer to the "Indicator Definitions" at nyc.gov/mmr for details. ²Authorized Budget Level ³Expenditures include all funds
 "NA" - Not Available in this report

NOTEWORTHY CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

- Fiscal 2015 data for the number of simple zoning actions certified/referred was updated from 59 to 60 and the percent certified/referred within 12 months revised from 73% to 72%.
- Fiscal 2016 data for Customers Observing and Reporting Experiences (CORE) ratings represents a change in methodology. For agencies with multiple service centers, inspectors focused on sites that had historically lower scores, specifically sites that received an average overall site score of 85 or lower over the last three years and sites that received a score of 85 or lower in Fiscal 2015. If all agency service centers scored above 85 last year, the service center with the lowest overall score was inspected.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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

- One New York: The Plan for a Strong and Just City:
<http://www1.nyc.gov/html/onenyc/index.html>
- Housing New York: A Five-Borough, Ten Year Plan:
<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/housing/index.page>
- East New York Community Plan:
http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/east_new_york/index.shtml
- Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Plan:
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>
- Resilient Neighborhoods West Chelsea Report:
<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/resilient-neighborhoods/west-chelsea.page>
- Resilient Neighborhoods Lower East Side/East Village and Two Bridges Report:
<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/resilient-neighborhoods/east-village-lower-east-side-two-bridges.page>
- North Brooklyn Industry and Innovation Plan:
<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/north-brooklyn-vision-plan/north-brooklyn-vision-plan.page>
- Census Fact Finder:
<http://maps.nyc.gov/census/>
- 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.

