



# DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING

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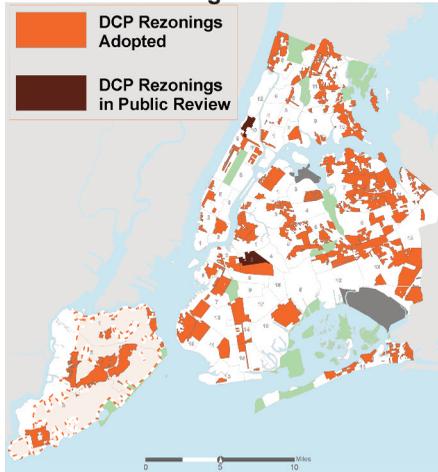
## Key Public Service Areas

- ✓ Promote strategic growth, transit-oriented development and sustainable communities in the City.
- ✓ Conduct land use and environmental reviews.

## Scope of Agency Operations

The Department of City Planning (DCP) promotes strategic growth, transit-oriented development and sustainable communities to enhance quality of life in the City, in part by initiating comprehensive, consensus-based planning and zoning changes for individual neighborhoods and business districts, as well as establishing policies and zoning regulations applicable citywide. It supports the City Planning Commission and each year reviews approximately 450 land use applications for actions such as zoning changes, special permits and other discretionary approvals. The Department assists both government agencies and the public by providing policy analysis and technical assistance relating to housing, transportation, community facilities, demography, waterfront and public space.

### DCP Rezoning: 2002 - Present



Since 2002 DCP has initiated or completed 119 rezonings citywide, about 36% of the City's land area. Visit the [DCP website](#) for more information on rezonings and other initiatives.

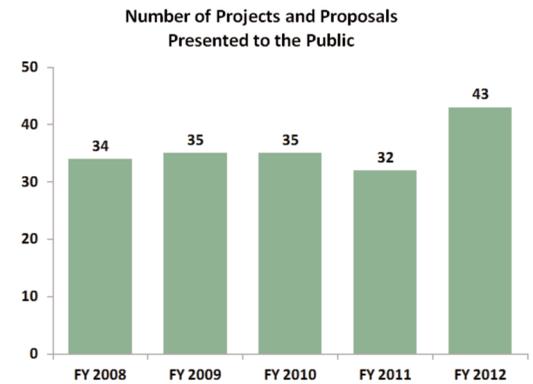
## Critical Objectives

- Strengthen housing and economic development throughout the City.
- Enhance the City's neighborhoods, urban design and public spaces, including use of the waterfront and waterways.
- Provide effective planning information and analysis.
- Process land use and environmental review applications efficiently.

## Performance Report

- ✓ **Promote strategic growth, transit-oriented development and sustainable communities in the City.**

- During Fiscal 2012 DCP completed 43 planning projects and proposals spanning all five boroughs. Typically these proposals analyze a wide range of land use, housing, urban design, transportation and economic development issues, and recommend



strategies to achieve specific planning goals. The proposals are developed in consultation with key stakeholders and often result in zoning changes, which require a formal public land use and environmental review, including continued public outreach and review, approval by the City Planning Commission (CPC) and adoption by the City Council. Planning proposals and technical analyses that do not require zoning changes or formal land use review, such as transportation plans and demographic studies, are typically released as public reports and made available on DCP's website.

- As part of the Mayor's commitment to better assist New Yorkers doing business with the City and improve customer service, DCP publicly announced its launch of [BluePRint](#), a business process reform initiative that simplifies and streamlines the Agency's review of land use applications prior to the formal start of the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), the City's land use review process. Developed in partnership with industry professionals, BluePRint's goal is to reduce the time most projects spend in pre-certification by having a clear and predictable review process for both applicants and Agency staff. When fully implemented, City Planning will be able to review two-thirds of all applications 25 to 50 percent faster, saving property owners seeking to improve or develop their property hundreds of millions of dollars in soft and carrying costs.

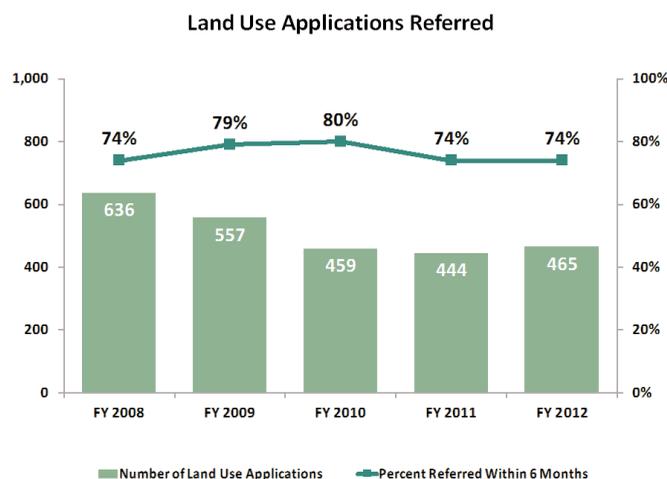
- In March 2012 revisions to New York City's [Waterfront Revitalization Program \(WRP\)](#) were referred for public review by the Department. The revisions aim to improve projects within the coastal zone by promoting climate resilient designs, increasing public access to the waterfront, facilitating economic development while protecting natural resources and improving interagency coordination to foster a clear, predictable development process. These revisions will advance and complement [Vision 2020: NYC Comprehensive Waterfront Plan](#), released in 2011, and the City's Waterfront Vision and Enhancement Strategy (WAVES), a sustainable blueprint for NYC's waterfront and waterways.
- In April 2012 the City Council adopted [Zone Green](#), the Department's citywide zoning text amendment that removes zoning impediments to allow for more energy-efficient buildings throughout New York City. Zone Green will help facilitate green investment, such as generating solar energy on rooftops, and has the potential to greatly increase energy savings for property owners through building improvements. Building on PlaNYC objectives, Zone Green is one of several DCP green initiatives that promote sustainable communities throughout New York City.
- Following extensive outreach with community partners, the Department advanced for public review four rezoning initiatives to reinforce and preserve the existing built character of residential neighborhoods across the City; these include Manhattan's West Harlem; Woodhaven and Richmond Hill, Queens; and Bedford Stuyvesant North, Brooklyn. The Department's Upper West Side Neighborhood Retail Streets Initiative, adopted by the City Council in June 2012, identified zoning solutions to reinforce existing local retail character and support a lively, pedestrian friendly environment along main shopping corridors.
- In September 2011 DCP launched [ZoLa](#), the Zoning and Land Use web application, providing a new and simple way for the public to access a wide range of land use and zoning information in an interactive, highly readable map format. ZoLa provides an easy way to see the zoning changes that have been adopted or proposals under consideration in a neighborhood or citywide and is a part of NYC Simplicity, Mayor Bloomberg's plan that harnesses technology to make government more transparent, customer-focused, innovative and efficient.
- The Department, in conjunction with the New York City Economic Development Corporation, released [North Shore 2030: Improving and Reconnecting the North Shore's Unique and Historic Assets](#) in December 2011. This report outlines a twenty year vision for Staten Island's North Shore through four strategies: promote jobs that strengthen maritime and industrial businesses; reconnect people with the working waterfront through increased public access; support and create neighborhood centers through more local retail, services and housing options; and improve connections and mobility for residents and businesses through coordinated transportation improvements. The plan will be accompanied by the North Shore 2030 Action Agenda that highlights new and on-going commitments of City and regional agencies.
- In June 2012 the Department referred a zoning text amendment that modifies parking requirements in Downtown Brooklyn to simplify regulations, encourage affordable and mixed-income housing by eliminating parking requirements for affordable housing units, and provide more opportunities for use of existing parking spaces by residents, employees and visitors. This innovative policy proposal to reduce parking regulations in an area well served by mass transit was developed in consultation with public stakeholders who called for revising regulations to better reflect actual demand in the high-density civic center.
- DCP continued to collaborate with government agencies and stakeholders during Fiscal 2012 to advance projects and proposals in Lower Manhattan and the Hudson Yards area, as well as for significant open spaces throughout the five boroughs. These include:
  - In Lower Manhattan, Pier 15 of the East River Waterfront esplanade was completed and opened to the public introducing new public seating areas and landscaping. Four new storefront improvements were completed under the Fulton-Nassau Crossroads program, and completion of the Pearl Street Playground and Fulton Street sidewalk improvements conclude the Fulton Open Spaces Project.
  - In Manhattan's Hudson Yards area, text amendments affecting implementation of the Eastern Rail Yard and the Highline were approved by the City Planning Commission.
  - A new 2.26-acre waterfront park was mapped as part of the Department's Lower Concourse rezoning in the Bronx. The new park would provide easily-accessible open space and much-needed active recreational opportunities for existing and new residents.

Performance Statistics	Actual					Target		5-Yr. Trend
	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY12	FY13	
<i>Projects and proposals completed and presented to the public</i>	34	35	35	32	43	*	*	Upward
- <i>Economic development and housing proposals</i>	7	11	9	9	11	*	*	Upward
- <i>Neighborhood enhancement proposals</i>	16	16	15	8	4	*	*	Downward
- <i>Planning information and policy analysis</i>	11	8	11	15	28	*	*	Upward
★ <i>Number of significant milestones achieved for DCP-facilitated projects related to Lower Manhattan</i>	6	6	6	6	8	*	*	Upward
★ <i>Number of significant milestones achieved for DCP-facilitated projects related to Hudson Yards</i>	11	12	11	2	3	*	*	Downward
★ <i>Number of significant milestones achieved for DCP-facilitated projects related to significant open-space proposals</i>	5	5	5	5	7	*	*	Upward

★ Critical Indicator "NA" - means Not Available in this report

✓ **Conduct land use and environmental reviews.**

- The Department referred 465 land use applications for public review, a nearly 5 percent increase from last fiscal year. Seventy-four percent of applications were referred within six months, similar to Fiscal 2011 and better than the established target of 70 percent. The median time to refer applications rose by 6 days to 43 days, reflecting a higher proportion of more complex applications requiring interagency review.
- Many land use actions considered by the City Planning Commission are subject to the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) process which identifies any potential adverse environmental effects of proposed actions as well as measures to mitigate significant impacts. In Fiscal 2012 the Department completed 199 environmental review applications with 87 percent of reviews completed within six months, a 13 point improvement over the prior fiscal year. The median time to complete an application decreased by 27 days to 12 days as fewer projects required extensive environmental review.



Performance Statistics	Actual					Target		5-Yr. Trend
	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY12	FY13	
<i>Land use applications referred</i>	636	557	459	444	465	*	*	Downward
★ - <i>Within 6 months (%)</i>	74%	79%	80%	74%	74%	70%	70%	Neutral
- <i>Within 6-12 months (%)</i>	10%	6%	7%	12%	9%	*	*	Upward
- <i>Within 13 months or more (%)</i>	16%	15%	13%	14%	17%	*	*	Neutral
★ <i>Median time to refer land use applications (days)</i>	48	33	28	37	43	*	*	Neutral
<i>Environmental review applications completed</i>	288	224	249	208	199	*	*	Downward
★ - <i>Within 6 months (%)</i>	71%	71%	61%	74%	87%	*	*	Upward
- <i>Within 6-12 months (%)</i>	8%	8%	7%	6%	2%	*	*	Downward
- <i>Within 13 months or more (%)</i>	21%	21%	32%	20%	11%	*	*	Downward
★ <i>Median time to complete environmental review applications (days)</i>	46	22	47	39	12	*	*	Downward

★ Critical Indicator "NA" - means Not Available in this report

## Agency Customer Service

Performance Statistics	Actual					Target		5-Yr.Trend
	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY12	FY13	
Customer Experience								
Percent of e-mails responded to in 14 days	NA	NA	95	96	75	NA	85	NA
Percent of letters responded to in 14 days	NA	NA	42	70	52	NA	50	NA
Completed customer requests for interpretation	NA	NA	4	3	1	NA	NA	NA
CORE customer experience rating (0-100)	NA	NA	83	81	83	NA	80	NA

## Agency Resources

Resource Statistics	Actual					Plan <sup>1</sup>		5-Yr.Trend
	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY12	FY13	
Expenditures (\$ millions) <sup>2</sup>	\$24.4	\$26.9	\$26.2	\$23.7	\$25.9	\$24.7	\$22.7	Neutral
Revenues (\$ millions)	\$2.3	\$3.3	\$2.7	\$1.7	\$2.4	\$3.0	\$2.7	Downward
Personnel	324	311	284	263	253	277	269	Downward
Overtime paid (\$ thousands)	\$39	\$38	\$38	\$40	\$15	\$17	\$15	Downward

<sup>1</sup> Authorized Budget Level      <sup>2</sup> "NA" - Not Available in this report  
<sup>3</sup> Expenditures include all funds.

## Noteworthy Changes, Additions or Deletions

- Beginning with the Fiscal 2013 Preliminary Mayor's Management Report, the MMR will be restructured to focus on the goals that the agency intends to achieve during the fiscal year. Each goal will be accompanied by a performance measure or measures that will quantify the agency's progress toward achieving that goal. For Fiscal 2013 the Department of City Planning's services and goals are:

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 economic development, housing and neighborhood enhancement land use projects and proposals for public review.

Service 2: Manage land use and environmental review processes to assure consistency with applicable City policies and regulations.

Goal 2a: Ensure that discretionary land use and environmental review actions subject to City Planning Commission review are consistent with sound planning principles.

Goal 2b: Conduct timely and thorough review of land use and environmental applications.

Service 3: Prepare information and policy analysis for other government agencies, elected officials and the public.

Goal 3a: Provide quality technical expertise and planning to other City agencies and the public to support decision making.

- Also beginning in Fiscal 2013, performance targets were added for select customer service indicators. For DCP, performance targets were added to three such indicators.

For more information please visit the website at: [www.nyc.gov/dcp](http://www.nyc.gov/dcp)