

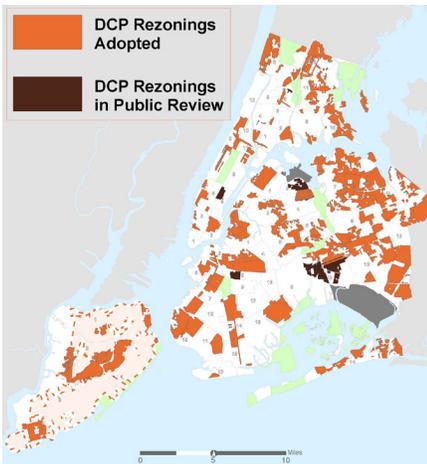


DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING

Amanda M. Burden, Director

What We Do

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.



Since 2002 DCP has initiated or completed 125 rezonings citywide, about 37% of the City's land area.

Visit the [DCP website](#) for more information on rezonings and other initiatives.

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 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 and planning expertise to other City agencies and the public to support decision making.

How We Performed in Fiscal 2013

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.

Furthering PlaNYC's objectives to spur economic growth and housing opportunities proximate to transit while fostering sustainable neighborhoods across the five boroughs, the Department advanced 29 land use proposals and rezoning initiatives. This represents the largest number of proposals advanced in the past five years and nearly twice the number advanced in Fiscal 2012. Since 2002, 37 percent of the City has been rezoned to protect neighborhoods and foster transit oriented growth.

Fiscal 2013 proposals include the [East Midtown Rezoning](#), which was referred for public review in April 2013, and is expected to facilitate sustainable, transit-oriented commercial growth in the area surrounding Grand Central Terminal to ensure East Midtown's future as a world class business district and major job generator. The plan provides zoning incentives to promote development of new, state-of-the-art commercial buildings and will generate thousands of permanent new jobs and fund improvements to the surrounding subway and pedestrian network.

The Department initiated neighborhood rezonings in [Crown Heights](#), Brooklyn and along [East Fordham Road](#) in the Bronx to create modest growth and housing opportunities, including affordable housing, while preserving neighborhood character. In [Bellerose-Floral Park-Glen Oaks](#) and [East Elmhurst](#) in Queens, the

Department referred for public review neighborhood preservation proposals that will protect quality of life and character within these low-density neighborhoods.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Desired Direction	5yr Trend
	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY13	FY14		
Economic development and housing proposals completed and presented to the public	11	9	9	11	16	*	*	Up	Up
Neighborhood enhancement proposals completed and presented to the public	16	15	8	4	13	*	*	Up	Down

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

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.

The Department reviews land use applications for technical accuracy and consistency with City land use and environmental review procedures and policy objectives. In Fiscal 2013 the Department referred 442 land use applications and completed 169 environmental review applications. Both the number of land use applications referred and the number of environmental review applications completed declined, reflecting a continuation of the downward trend in submissions. This trend can be attributed, in part, to economic conditions.

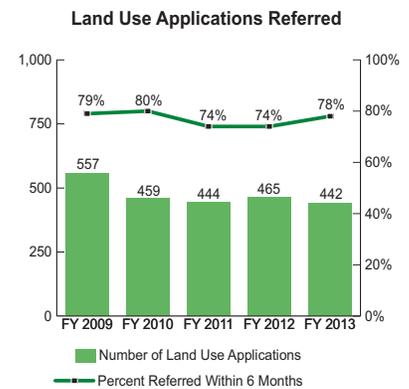
Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Desired Direction	5yr Trend
	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY13	FY14		
Land use applications referred	557	459	444	465	442	*	*	Neutral	Down
Environmental review applications completed	224	249	208	199	169	*	*	Neutral	Down

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

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

Consistent with the Department's performance of the prior four years, the percent of land use applications referred within six months remained better than the 70 percent target. The median time to refer applications improved from 43 to 32 days due, in large part, to streamlined processing procedures resulting from the agency's implementation of the BluePrint process reform effort and successful intra-agency coordination on complex projects.

Eighty-three percent of environmental review applications were completed within six months and the median time to complete an application decreased for the third consecutive year, reaching a record low of 9 days. These improvements can be attributed to the dedication of significant internal and interagency resources required to advance several large, complex environmental assessment and impact statements while advancing the Department's pipeline of smaller scale applications.



Based on performance trends and process efficiencies, the Department revised three of its Fiscal 2014 targets, setting more ambitious performance goals for the coming year.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Desired Direction	5yr Trend
	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY13	FY14		
★ Land use applications referred - Within 6 months (%)	79%	80%	74%	74%	78%	70%	74%	Up	Neutral
★ Median time to refer land use applications (days)	33	28	37	43	32	*	45	Down	Up
★ Environmental review applications completed - Within 6 months (%)	71%	61%	74%	87%	83%	*	75%	Up	Up
★ Median time to complete environmental review applications (days)	22	47	39	12	9	*	40	Down	Down

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

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

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

The Department advanced 24 policy initiatives and planning reports, and provided critical planning expertise and technical support to interagency recovery and rebuilding efforts following Hurricane Sandy. Several initiatives referred for public review addressed complex issues raised by Sandy. The Department’s climate studies promote long-term resilience to future weather events, including coastal flooding and storm surges. The studies significantly informed *A Stronger, More Resilient New York*, the report resulting from Mayor’s Bloomberg’s [Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency](#), which provides recommendations for coastal protection and resilience.

In response to newly amended FEMA flood zones, the Department’s [Flood Resilience Zoning Text Amendment](#) was referred for public review in May 2013. The new regulations would enable new and existing buildings within the 100-year flood zone to meet the latest federal standards.

In June the Department released two reports to strengthen the City’s resilience to coastal flood risks: [Designing for Flood Risk](#) identifies key principles to guide the design of new buildings in flood zones, and [Urban Waterfront Adaptive Strategies](#) provides an assessment of the coastal flood hazards, a survey of coastal protection and adaptation strategies, and a framework for evaluating coastal protection alternatives.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Desired Direction	5yr Trend
	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY13	FY14		
Planning information and policy analysis initiatives presented to the public	8	11	15	28	24	*	*	Up	Up

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

Agency Customer Service

In Fiscal 2013 the Department responded to 81 percent of e-mails within 14 days, below the established target of 85 percent but an improvement over last fiscal year. The percent of letters responded to within 14 days decreased from a year ago to 44 percent, falling short of the established target of 50 percent, as a high proportion of letters required thorough consideration and policy evaluation prior to response.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		5yr Trend
	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY13	FY14	
Customer Experience								
E-mails responded to in 14 days (%)	NA	95	96	75	81	85	85	NA
Letters responded to in 14 days (%)	NA	42	70	52	44	50	50	NA
Completed customer requests for interpretation	NA	4	3	1	4	NA	NA	NA
CORE customer experience rating (0-100)	NA	83	81	83	88	80	80	NA

Agency Resources

Resource Indicators	Actual					Plan ¹		5yr Trend
	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY13	FY14	
Expenditures (\$000,000) ²	\$26.9	\$26.2	\$23.7	\$22.8	\$24.5	\$24.4	\$20.8	Down
Revenues (\$000,000)	\$3.3	\$2.7	\$1.7	\$2.4	\$3.5	\$2.1	\$2.1	Neutral
Personnel	311	284	263	253	256	275	266	Down
Overtime paid (\$000)	\$38	\$38	\$40	\$45	\$9	\$15	\$9	Down

¹Authorized Budget Level ²Expenditures include all funds. "NA" - Not Available in this report

Noteworthy Changes, Additions or Deletions

None.

For more information on the agency, please visit: www.nyc.gov/dcp.