

# DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING

Marisa Lago, Director/Chair



## WHAT WE DO

The Department of City Planning (DCP) plans for New York City's overall strategic growth and development. DCP works with communities and elected officials to build healthier, more equitable and resilient neighborhoods; develop land use policies and zoning regulations; and, in collaboration with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), share perspectives on growth and community needs with its sister agencies, elected officials and members of the public. DCP's work builds on New York City's greatest strengths, its unparalleled diversity and resilient spirit, and helps to ensure that investments, including private investments, benefit the city as a whole.

DCP's six strategic objectives are: (1) catalyzing long-term neighborhood equity and improvement through integrated planning and targeted public investments; (2) encouraging housing production, affordability and quality; (3) promoting economic development and job growth; (4) enhancing resiliency and sustainability of neighborhoods; (5) ensuring integrity, timeliness and responsiveness in land use reviews; and (6) supplying objective data and expertise to a broad range of planning functions and stakeholders.

DCP supports the City Planning Commission (CPC) in its annual review of hundreds of land use applications and works closely with OMB in developing the City's Ten-Year Capital Strategy.

## FOCUS ON EQUITY

Racism has long undermined the health and vitality of New York City's communities. As DCP examines its own role and the role of the planning profession in perpetuating practices that stymie fair, inclusive planning, the agency is committed to aggressively tackling racism and fostering a more equitable city.

DCP supports [Where We Live](#), the City's process to support fair housing principles and better understand and address how segregation and discrimination impact New Yorkers. Through projects that focus on affordable housing and job creation, DCP works to incentivize affordability and stability, and help improve the quality of life for marginalized populations.

Through [Mandatory Inclusionary Housing \(MIH\)](#) and [Zoning for Quality and Affordability \(ZQA\)](#), DCP supports [Housing New York 2.0](#), a suite of initiatives to help New Yorkers of all income levels and backgrounds find safe, affordable housing in neighborhoods throughout the city. DCP advances resiliency through work on the [Comprehensive Waterfront Plan](#) and [Zoning for Coastal Flood Resiliency \(ZCFR\)](#). It also seeks to coordinate transit improvements and land use to encourage the growth of business districts outside of the Manhattan Core to bring jobs closer to where New Yorkers live. This work includes the [Zoning for Transit Accessibility](#) project to expand zoning mechanisms to better coordinate new development with subway station accessibility improvements.

DCP works with OMB and all 59 community boards on annual [Community District Needs Statements and Budget Requests](#) and provides training for community boards on planning principles, initiatives and digital tools. DCP strives to improve transparency—including public access to Census and land use data—and access to planning resources. With the help of DCP's [digital tools](#), New Yorkers can better plan for their communities. DCP recently launched [NYC Engage](#), a portal that the public can use to participate in remote public meetings.

## 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 CPC review, to ensure that project submissions are technically complete and adhere to all applicable requirements and procedures.

# HOW WE PERFORMED IN FISCAL 2020

## 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 objectives of expanding housing and economic development opportunities in all five boroughs and fostering more livable, equitable and resilient neighborhoods through community planning, DCP advanced and presented 55 land use proposals and initiatives to the public during Fiscal 2020, in line with the 58 presented in Fiscal 2019. These numbers vary from year to year based on how much internal work must occur before public outreach, the complexity of the proposals and if a proposal is locked into a pre-existing schedule due to legislative requirements.

In Fiscal 2020, DCP advanced several major initiatives, furthering its affordable housing, economic development, equity and resiliency goals. Following the release of a [Draft Zoning Proposal](#) in 2019 for the Gowanus neighborhood, work continued on the [Gowanus Neighborhood Planning Study’s](#) environmental review in 2020. Based on extensive outreach and planning with community members and local elected officials, the Gowanus proposal seeks to facilitate a true mixed-use neighborhood with permanently affordable housing, commercial and industrial businesses, improved resiliency and new public spaces.

In November 2019, DCP presented the [Envision SoHo/NoHo report](#), a summary of recommendations around the principles of improving quality of life, addressing housing issues and supporting the mixed-use character of these neighborhoods. The report’s recommendations grew out of the [SoHo/NoHo Community Planning Process](#), a series of community meetings aimed at examining key land use and zoning issues in these two high opportunity neighborhoods.

Throughout Fiscal 2020, DCP held working group discussions on the [Staten Island Special Natural Districts Zoning Text Amendment](#). The amendment aims to take advantage of advances in ecological science to lessen the burden for homeowners making small renovations, while retaining a strong public review process for larger, more environmentally significant developments, so as to preserve the borough’s natural features.

Throughout Fiscal 2020, DCP held events and meetings where the public shared ideas on how to improve one of the City’s defining resources—its 520 miles of waterfront. This public input will help shape the city’s next Comprehensive Waterfront Plan, which is due to be published at the end of the 2020 calendar year. These sessions included a Waterfront Planning Camp in August 2019, attended by more than 200 New Yorkers, and [Walking the Edge](#), a creative online initiative that launched in May 2020 to raise awareness of the coming Comprehensive Waterfront Plan.

In Fall 2019, DCP gave presentations on the ZCFR proposal to affected community boards. The proposal aims to update zoning rules across New York City to ensure that new and existing buildings do not lose zoning flexibility as owners seek to design new or retrofit buildings to be more resilient in the long-term. ZCFR also seeks to improve the ability of the City’s many coastal communities to withstand and recover quickly from future storms.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY20	FY21	5-Year	Desired Direction
Economic development and housing proposals completed and presented to the public	42	45	74	26	12	*	*	Down	Up
Neighborhood enhancement proposals completed and presented to the public	14	28	25	22	43	*	*	Up	Up

★ Critical Indicator    "NA" Not Available    ⬆️⬆️ Directional Target    \* None

## 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.

DCP publicly presented 315 initiatives, planning reports, presentations and datasets—including digital tools—in Fiscal 2020. To increase transparency and improve public access to information, DCP released two new web application tools.

The Community District Priorities, an easy-to-use platform for community boards to formally submit their annual needs and budget requests to the City, was released in August 2019. In October 2019, DCP, alongside OMB, launched the first-ever digital version of New York City’s biennial [Ten-Year Capital Strategy](#). The new, interactive platform lays out the goals, policies, constraints, assumptions and criteria used by the City to assess capital needs, as well as anticipated sources of funding.

Each of these tools serves to provide and enhance access to planning information for more informed public participation and decision-making.

In Fiscal 2020, DCP held 30 engagement sessions regarding the 2020 Census and 50 general presentations on related demographic topics. DCP’s population experts met with Census stakeholders in nonprofits and community-based organizations, including organizations representing various ethnic and immigrant groups involved in ensuring effective Census outreach in 2020. These briefings focused on technical elements of conducting the Census and placed 2020 outreach planning activities in the broader context of Census operations.

Planning initiatives or policy reports released during Fiscal 2020 include [Assessing Storefront Vacancy in NYC](#), a report that examined recent retail trends and storefront vacancies in the context of shifting technology, economic forces and consumer preferences. Other reports include the [Ins and Outs of NYC Commuting Report](#), analyzing recent trends and characteristics of workers traveling to the five boroughs from outside the city for employment and vice-versa, and a [2019 update to the Geography of Jobs report](#), providing a deeper dive into employment, labor force and housing production trends in the region over the last two decades. A DCP info brief entitled [Emerging Industries and Sustainable Transportation](#) studied travel choices of workers and visitors to office, institutional and industrial businesses in transit-oriented locations outside the Manhattan Core.

DCP 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](#). In Fiscal 2020, DCP released 315 datasets, in line with the 326 datasets released in Fiscal 2019. The Digital City Map (DCM) is a new dataset released in Fiscal 2020. The DCM data represents street lines and other features shown on the City Map, which is the official street map of the City of New York. The DCM datasets, featured in the [NYC Streets Map](#) application, were created in an ongoing effort to digitize official street records and make them easily accessible to the public. PLUTO and MapPLUTO, datasets that contain extensive land use and geographic data at the tax lot level, were released more frequently in Fiscal 2020, increasing from biannual releases to monthly releases. The PLUTO Change File is another new dataset released in Fiscal 2020, which was created to document the changes DCP applies to selected field values to further improve data quality and consistency.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY20	FY21	5-Year	Desired Direction
Planning information and policy analysis initiatives presented to the public	222	262	267	351	315	*	*	Up	Up
★ Critical Indicator	“NA” Not Available		↕↔ Directional Target	* None					

### 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 CPC review, to ensure that project submissions are technically complete and adhere to all applicable requirements and procedures.

In Fiscal 2020, DCP certified/referred a total of 178 projects compared to 268 in Fiscal 2019. This decrease is attributed to the pause of the public review process via Executive Order in the third and fourth quarters of Fiscal 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. DCP certified/referred fewer projects across all project categories: simple zoning actions (52 in Fiscal 2020 versus 76 in Fiscal 2019), renewals/Staten Island actions (48 versus 78), zoning actions with CEQR (37 Environmental Assessment Statement and Environmental Impact Statement projects versus 71) and non-zoning City projects (41 versus 43). Overall, 75% percent of Fiscal 2020 projects were certified or referred within their target timeframes, five percent higher than the target, and three percent higher than Fiscal 2019. Many factors contribute to meeting target timeframes, including a heavy reliance on applicants to file adequate supporting materials and more complex applications having lengthier environmental review time periods.

In Fiscal 2020, DCP made progress on the second phase of a cloud-based digital project management system, the [Zoning Application Portal \(ZAP\)](#), a public transparency tool that also significantly advances DCP internal processes of ensuring integrity, timeliness and responsiveness in land use and environmental reviews. The platform now allows community boards, Borough Presidents and Borough Boards to quickly and effortlessly calendar public hearings for land use items digitally. Community boards and Borough Presidents are also now able to instantly upload their recommendations for land use applications. Earlier in Fiscal 2019, DCP launched ZAP Search, a public portal for viewing certified ULURP applications and accompanying materials.

Important ZAP Applicant Portal updates that are expected in Fiscal 2021 include allowing paperless document exchange with applicants and City agencies, and online fee payments. When completed, the public, applicants and City agencies will have access to all land use and environmental applications online, dramatically improving the transparency of the land use review process.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY20	FY21	5-Year	Desired Direction
Simple zoning actions certified/referred	59	68	63	76	52	*	*	Neutral	*
★ – Certified/referred within 12 months (%)	71%	62%	68%	79%	79%	70%	70%	Up	Up
★ Zoning actions with CEQR (EAS) certified/referred		NA	NA	NA	34	*	*	NA	*
– Certified/referred within 15 months (%)		NA	NA	NA	38%	70%	70%	NA	Up
★ Zoning actions with CEQR (EIS) certified/referred		NA	NA	NA	3	*	*	NA	*
★ – Certified/referred within 22 months (%)		NA	NA	NA	33%	70%	70%	NA	Up
City projects (non-zoning) certified/referred	50	70	60	43	41	*	*	Down	*
★ – Certified/referred within 6 months (%)	96%	96%	97%	74%	90%	70%	70%	Down	Up
Renewals and South Richmond actions certified/referred	57	58	63	78	48	*	*	Neutral	*
★ – Certified/referred within 6 months (%)	86%	88%	92%	94%	88%	70%	70%	Neutral	Up
★ Critical Indicator	“NA” Not Available		↑↓ Directional Target	* None					

## AGENCY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY20	FY21	5-Year	Desired Direction
Customer Experience									
E-mails responded to in 14 days (%)	85%	83%	45%	63%	49%	85%	85%	Down	Up
Letters responded to in 14 days (%)	72%	71%	51%	66%	42%	50%	50%	Down	Up
Completed customer requests for interpretation	6	12	14	15	2	*	*	Down	*
CORE customer experience rating (0 - 100)	100	99	99	NA	98	90	90	NA	Up
★ Critical Indicator	“NA” Not Available		↑↓ Directional Target	* None					

## AGENCY RESOURCES

Resource Indicators	Actual <sup>1</sup>					Plan <sup>2</sup>		5yr Trend
	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY20	FY21	
Expenditures (\$000,000) <sup>3</sup>	\$31.2	\$36.3	\$36.1	\$40.1	\$48.0	\$52.3	\$44.6	Up
Revenues (\$000,000)	\$3.0	\$2.9	\$5.4	\$2.9	\$3.1	\$2.0	\$2.0	Neutral
Personnel	296	333	348	347	317	386	390	Neutral
Overtime paid (\$000)	\$66	\$38	\$25	\$27	\$32	\$32	\$32	Down
<sup>1</sup> Actual financial amounts for the 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 <a href="http://nyc.gov/mmr">nyc.gov/mmr</a> for details. <sup>2</sup> Authorized Budget Level <sup>3</sup> Expenditures include all funds           "NA" - Not Available           * None								

## SPENDING AND BUDGET INFORMATION

Where possible, the relationship between an agency's goals and its expenditures and planned resources, by budgetary unit of appropriation (UA), is shown in the 'Applicable MMR Goals' column. Each relationship is not necessarily exhaustive or exclusive. Any one goal may be connected to multiple UAs, and any UA may be connected to multiple goals.

Unit of Appropriation	Expenditures FY19 <sup>1</sup> (\$000,000)	Modified Budget FY20 <sup>2</sup> (\$000,000)	Applicable MMR Goals <sup>3</sup>
Personal Services - Total	\$28.1	\$30.0	
001 - Personal Services	\$26.0	\$27.5	All
003 - Geographic Systems	\$2.1	\$2.6	2a
Other Than Personal Services - Total	\$11.9	\$17.9	
002 - Other Than Personal Services	\$11.7	\$17.6	All
004 - Geographic Systems	\$0.2	\$0.3	2a
Agency Total	\$40.1	\$48.0	

<sup>1</sup>Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2019. Includes all funds. <sup>2</sup>City of New York Adopted Budget for Fiscal 2020, as of June 2020. Includes all funds. <sup>3</sup>Refer to agency goals listed at front of chapter. "NA" Not Available \*None

## NOTEWORTHY CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

None.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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

- Where We Live  
<https://wherewelive.cityofnewyork.us/>
- Mandatory Inclusionary Housing  
<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/mih/mandatory-inclusionary-housing.page>
- Zoning for Quality and Affordability  
<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/zqa/zoning-for-quality-and-affordability.page>
- Housing New York 2.0  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/hpd/downloads/pdfs/about/housing-new-york-2-0.pdf>
- Comprehensive Waterfront Plan  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/vision-2020-cwp/vision-2030-cwp.page>
- Zoning for Coastal Flood Resiliency  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/flood-resilience-zoning-text-update/flood-resilience-zoning-text-update.page>
- Zoning for Transit Accessibility  
<https://council.nyc.gov/press/2019/09/27/1812/>
- Catalogue of Digital Tools  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/planning-level/community/catalogue-digital-tools.pdf>
- NYC Engage  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nycengage/index.page>
- Gowanus Neighborhood Planning Study  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/gowanus/gowanus.page>

- Envision SoHo/NoHo Report  
<https://www.envisionsohonoho.nyc/envision-sohonoho-report1>
- Staten Island Special Districts Zoning Text Amendment  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/si-district-text-amendment/si-district-text-amendment-overview.page>
- Walking the Edge  
<https://www.walkingtheedge.nyc/>
- Ten-Year Capital Strategy  
<https://tycs.planning.nyc.gov/>
- Assessing Storefront Vacancy in NYC  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/planning-level/housing-economy/assessing-storefront-vacancy-nyc.pdf?r=1>
- The Ins and Outs of NYC Commuting  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/planning-level/housing-economy/nyc-ins-and-out-of-commuting.pdf>
- The Geography of Jobs  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/planning-level/housing-economy/nyc-geography-jobs2-1019.pdf>
- Emerging Industries and Sustainable Transportation  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/planning-level/housing-economy/emerging-industries-sustainable-transportation-info-brief.pdf>
- BYTES of the Big Apple  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/data-maps/open-data.page>
- NYC Street Map  
<https://streets.planning.nyc.gov>
- Zoning Application Portal  
<https://zap.planning.nyc.gov/>

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