



Initial Recommendations to Strengthen Intro 2186

February 23, 2021

Ensure that Comprehensive Planning will further integration without displacement

- Expand the stated goals of the plan to include reducing segregation and requiring more affordable housing in areas where it is currently lacking.
- Require that analysis and goal setting be specific about the types of housing - affordability levels, supportive services, unit sizes, etc. - that should be prioritized to address neighborhood and citywide needs.
- Include community district diversity indexes in the data to be measured and tracked over time.
- Incorporate planning for infrastructure investments necessary to expanding affordable housing options in areas where they are lacking in order to expand options for change - for example, by improving transit access

Ensure that Comprehensive Planning strongly promotes Equity in Budgeting

- Increase transparency around how budgeting decisions respond to the comprehensive plan through tools like an equity matrix and/or racial disparity reports
- Require a budget equity assessment to complement the Mayor's Management Report
- Create public tools tracking where capital budget investments are made

Include and center NYCHA residents and land in Comprehensive Planning

- Fully include NYCHA residents and land in every stage of Comprehensive Planning
 - Integrate NYCHA residents and NYCHA capital assets into the comprehensive plan, and apply the same processes regarding compliance
 - Ensure coordination between NYCHA's internal agency plans for campus improvements and the Comprehensive Plan
 - Conduct strategic and specific engagement of NYCHA residents in the comprehensive planning process
- Ensure that NYCHA residents are represented on all relevant planning bodies and committees, including the CPC and the Long-Term Planning Steering Committee

Ensure that comprehensive planning promotes inclusive, equitable Climate Resiliency Planning

- Center environmental justice and climate resiliency in comprehensive planning analysis and targets.
 - Analyze and plan for areas where fortification/retreat/changes in use may be necessary due to climate change, and/or where sustainability plans are needed, and prioritize these needs in related capital budgeting and in local growth or reduction targets
- Align the upcoming Environmental Justice plan and goals with the Comprehensive Plan
- Incorporate flexibility to respond to shifts in scientific knowledge

Ensure equitable access to robust community planning and public engagement in the comprehensive planning process

- Provide resources - including funding and technical assistance - to local communities to support engagement in the comprehensive planning process, prioritizing neighborhoods whose residents are traditionally underrepresented in planning and/or that have experienced historic disinvestment and a lack of resources
- Mandate robust outreach in each district to achieve overall participation that approximates the population distribution of the district and includes non-residential stakeholders with a wide range of interests.
- Include more meaningful public engagement opportunities in the comprehensive planning process.
 - Representative, deliberative, engagement must start early, and continue throughout the planning process. Ensure that communities have the opportunity and support to generate draft land use scenarios from the bottom-up, and that the results of community engagement in the process influence the outcomes, within the overall framework and targets set by the Citywide Goals Statement.
 - Make room for stakeholder panels at the community district level.
 - Require the Community Engagement Commission to provide "best practices" of engagement & support in using them to all agencies, committees and boards involved in public-facing work on comprehensive planning - this should go beyond traditional hearings or testimonies.
- Ensure that the Long-Term Planning Steering Committee, Borough Committees, and other relevant bodies reflect the diversity of the population at both citywide and neighborhood levels by incorporating representatives from community, racial justice, and environmental justice organizations, and ensuring representation for NYCHA residents, homeless New Yorkers, and other frequently marginalized populations

Ensure that the comprehensive plan has a maximum impact, meaningfully shaping future zoning, development, investment, and policy in NYC

- Ensure that actual zoning changes comply with plan
 - Tie the zoning resolution to the comprehensive plan, or ensure the legislative language facilitates doing this later through other means if necessary

- Clarify that the comprehensive plan should be considered authoritative and persuasive evidence of the city's land use policies in the bill and/or committee report
 - Consider codifying the comprehensive plan's land use components with a Future Land Use Map to indicate intended general uses (as distinct from zoning designations) in the plan in advance of detailed zoning changes
- Stronger tracking & reporting
 - Require the Mayor's Management Report to provide publicly accessible monthly or quarterly updates on actual development and investments once a comprehensive plan is approved or revised, with sufficient detail that elected officials and the public can understand the degree to which the comprehensive plan is being put into practice.
 - Mandate periodic evaluation or audit of the comprehensive planning process and results by an independent agency or office outside the Mayor's control. The audit could include determining how closely the development scenarios in the adopted plan adhere to community proposals, how well the adopted plans promote equity outcomes/stated goals of the legislation, extent to which actual development followed the scenarios, whether GEIS & EIS accurately assessed impacts, and community members' experiences with the process & ability to impact outcomes.
- Regional Collaboration
 - Include recommendation that the city coordinate with regional entities to encourage alignment between plans (ie, NYS, neighboring cities & counties, MTA, Port Authority, NJ)

ABOUT THE THRIVING COMMUNITIES COALITION

The Thriving Communities Coalition includes grassroots organizing, advocacy, policy and technical assistance groups who work across various issue areas and neighborhoods. We believe that the status quo approach to planning and land use in New York City does not work for most New Yorkers, and that without meaningful changes, the processes we have now will only continue to exacerbate inequality, segregation, and displacement. We are working together to win meaningful reforms to create a City where everyone has a chance to thrive.

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