

Infrastructure, Environment, and Resilience

Principles

- City government will prioritize both climate mitigation (emissions reduction) and adaptation (responding to existing and future climate risk), especially considering those vulnerable and disadvantaged populations at particularly high risk of adverse physical and mental health outcomes following exposure to climate impacts
- High-quality and well-maintained infrastructure should exist in all neighborhoods throughout the city regardless of socio-economic characteristics of residents therein
- Public expenditures will provide enhanced benefit through local contracting, hiring, and apprenticeship opportunities
- Departments will be well-prepared to compete for federal and state funds and implement those projects in a timely manner
- There will be visible change in the spring of 2022
- All initiatives will be consistent with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion objectives and meet the needs of persons with physical or intellectual disabilities

100-Day Initiatives

- Approve the allocation of additional American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds for repaving commensurate with the Operations Department's maximum ability to implement in 2022 paving season (City control with Board of Finance approval)
- Establish a participatory process convened by members of the Board of Representatives grouped by state house district and including neighborhood stakeholders to prioritize the utilization of 15% of repaving funds during the 2022 and future paving seasons for locally significant streets that may not rise to top of citywide prioritization (Mayor control)
- Task Operations Director with identifying all outstanding maintenance requests submitted through FixIt Stamford that can be completed in the winter (2021-2022) and early spring (2022), complete those projects, email individuals with submitted claims letting them know that the projects were completed, and broadly market the FixIt Stamford tool to the community (Mayor control)
- Declare a climate emergency and launch a participatory planning process with a robust community education and outreach component resulting in the creation of a climate action plan that will develop: sustainability metrics for each department, commission, and board to implement government recommendations; and private and civic partnerships to implement community-wide recommendations (Mayor control)
- Allocate ARP funds for a citywide flood risk assessment and mitigation plan and release an RFP for a consultant to complete the same (City control with Board of Finance approval)
- Meet with the Office of the Governor and State Department of Transportation on near-term focus areas including the future of the Stamford Transportation Center, CT Transit and Metro-North service, and city gateways (Mayor control)

First-Term Priorities

Achieve a 21st Century, low-carbon, and multi-modal transportation system.

- Convene a small group of public and private stakeholders to support the mayor for the duration of her term in advocating to the state and federal government for the city's transportation priorities regarding infrastructure outside of municipal control (Mayor control)
- Approve the entire request in the proposed FY23 capital plan and supplement with additional ARP resources to enable expansion of the sidewalk and bike lane network in the 2022 construction season in accordance with the recommendations contained in the complete streets, traffic calming, and bike and pedestrian plans (City control with Planning Board, Board of Representatives, and Board of Finance approval)
- Release an RFP for a micro-mobility provider to implement a citywide bike- or scooter-share system (Mayor control but will require ordinance update through Board of Representatives regarding electric bikes/scooters)
- Develop a plan in coordination with major private property owners for build-out of a robust charging network for electric vehicles

Institutionalize sustainability across all city operations and the community.

- Update job descriptions to include relevant skills and experience to make each position's actions more sustainable (Mayor control)
- Establish a department-specific training program to ensure the entire workforce understands what sustainability means within their area of action and their responsibility to implement the city's sustainability objectives (Mayor control)
- Release an RFP for rooftop solar on all feasible public buildings (City control with Board of Representatives, Board of Finance, and Board of Education approval)

Enhance the citizen and visitor experience through signage, gateway beautification, and art.

- Convene an inter-departmental and multi-sector stakeholder group to assess the existing wayfinding plan and expand it beyond Downtown and the South End to the entire city (Mayor control)
- Approve the entire request in the FY23 capital plan to enable a design of the park signage program; allocate ARP funds to fill gaps in program design (beyond that already completed in the Downtown/South End and parks funded in the above) to neighborhoods and enable installation; and release an RFP to construct and install a first phase of Downtown and South End wayfinding program (City control with Planning Board, Board of Representatives, and Board of Finance approval)
- Identify a community partner to implement a public-private partnership to achieve a city-wide mural program (Mayor control)
- Meet with State Department of Transportation to establish regular communications and metrics for success regarding maintenance and beautification of I-95 and Merritt Parkway entrance and exits and state roads (Mayor control as mechanism to influence items of state control)

- Approve the entire request in the FY23 capital plan for Government Center improvement and engage on-call contractor to start lobby improvements with inclusion of a modern welcome center (City control with Planning Board, Board of Representatives, and Board of Finance approval)
- Foster child friendly government buildings (e.g. childcare facilities, breast feeding locations)

Improve project implementation and direct community benefit.

- Publicly notice and initiate the hiring process for all funded but vacant positions related to project delivery and receive from Operations Department a list of positions necessary to be included in FY23 operating budget to eliminate bottlenecks to expending allocated capital in a timely manner (City control with Board of Representatives and Board of Finance approval)
- Establish a policy to encourage a minimum level of local employment requirements for city-funded infrastructure projects to maximum extent legally permissible (Mayor control)
- Hire a consultant with a demonstrated track record in securing federal grants to support city staff in seeking funds made available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and other federal legislation that support the city's implementation of its sustainability, resilience, and infrastructure objectives (City control with Board of Representatives and Board of Finance approval)
- Incorporate triple-bottom line assessment (with a strong emphasis on environmental equity, economic & social mobility and public health) into capital planning process in accordance with Executive Order 14008 and the White House's Justice40¹ Initiative objectives as a way to attract additional federal funds and advance resiliency in disadvantaged communities (Mayor control)
- Emphasize life-cycle cost analysis rather than lowest up-front project implementation cost in procurement process (Mayor control)

Improve speed and coordination of private utility upgrades to electrical and telecom system.

- Host the first of regularly scheduled meetings with all utilities together to talk about status of upgrades and coordination with city infrastructure projects (Mayor control)
- Convene a working group of stakeholders including public health and wireless technology experts to identify a responsible path forward on 5G deployment (Mayor control)

Mitigate flood risk and enhance water quality.

- Approve the entire request in the FY23 capital plan for stormwater infrastructure (City control with Planning Board, Board of Representatives, and Board of Finance approval)
- Apply for federal infrastructure funds to implement culvert expansion projects already identified (Mayor control dependent on federal action)

¹ See White House Interim Implementation Guidance for the Justice40 Initiative, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf>