

City of Stamford Comprehensive Plan 2025-2035

INFRASTRUCTURE SCOPE
JUNE 17, 2024



June 17, 2024

Infrastructure

There is no one-size-fits-all solution in planning. Stamford's 2025-2035 Comprehensive Plan (and, specifically, work surrounding infrastructure) must be rooted in the physical, economic, and social realities of the City.

The Plan must be catered to its communities and work to guide, in broad brushstrokes, change and evolution. This process is an opportunity to assemble, review, and provide guidance on existing planning efforts, identify critical issues, and form a framework for change.



Above: Sasaki's Grand Rapids (MI) Engagement and Scoping Session

Opposite: Sasaki's Downtown Houston (TX) Framework Plan

But, change does not always mean growth, or development. Guiding change starts with understanding the complex ingredients that comprise Stamford, then synthesizing that knowledge and applying it as a roadmap to address future issues. This three-part process of understanding, synthesis, and application takes shape through study, engagement and coordination, analysis, and ideation. Part of our strategy is to summarize and communicate the planning work that has already been done, so that there is a common baseline for guidance and recommendation moving forward. This process will help to ground future action and focus future infrastructure discussion.

Specifically, we propose guiding infrastructural change by:

- Organizing, as a matrix, ongoing and in-process infrastructural studies. Key to this effort is understanding relative public investments and returns and the impacts on City services; communication of observations and findings.
- Reviewing the two previous Stamford Comprehensive Master Plans and providing a brief summary of findings and observations regarding their current applicability.
- Generating an infrastructure gap analysis based on existing data. Key to this effort is communicating current and anticipated successes and deficiencies - water, solid waste, utilities, and more - and potential follow-up studies.
- Identifying what infrastructure is City owned, controlled, and maintained, versus what resides in the private realm.





- Understanding and communicating relationships between public infrastructure and public safety.
- Analyzing the context and cross-cutting themes of infrastructure with mobility and transportation, sustainability and resilience, economics, housing and development, and how one ingredient can impact another.
- Creation of a Stamford “Infrastructure Heat Map” that summarizes infrastructure goals, objectives, opportunities, or constraints as a way of guiding future infrastructure studies.

Attachment #1 (Matrix of Existing Infrastructure Data) is a draft, living document that categorizes recent, existing infrastructure topic areas, plans and studies, and their general scope. Our hope is to advance the matrix and use it as a research and collaboration guide and an organizational tool in tackling the infrastructure scope presented herein.

It should be noted that some City infrastructure is publicly owned and maintained, and some systems are private. While we will identify the extents of private infrastructure and the City’s relationship to them, private infrastructure is not under the control of the City, thus beyond the scope of this comprehensive planning effort.

As we noted in our RFP submission, a successful Comprehensive Plan is about brokering the complex conversations about the future of Stamford, ultimately bringing residents together around a shared vision they can be proud of. And, while a comprehensive plan does not dictate specific details or actions, it does provide a flexible framework that enables and supports future initiatives. Similar to our work on other chapters of the Plan, the infrastructural piece must outline strategies, policies, and priorities that the City and community stakeholders can refer to when making decisions about change.

Our goal for the infrastructure portion of the Comprehensive Plan is to consolidate relevant planning efforts into a chapter of research and findings that serves as a roadmap for future decision making. This includes recommendations for agency coordination, studies relating to infrastructure improvements, land use, policy revisions, and community engagement initiatives. By organizing this material, the plan will help to prioritize investments and efforts towards achieving the city’s long-term vision.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sdrake".

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Above: Sasaki's Providence (RI) 2020 Plan

Attachment #1: Matrix of Existing Infrastructure Data

<u>Infrastructure Topic</u>	<u>Existing Reports & Reports</u>	<u>Existing Analysis</u>
Parking	Citywide Parking Study (Approved November 2023)	Citywide parking assessment focusing on key neighborhoods of Downtown, South End, West Side, Glenbrook, Springdale Data-based recommendations and implementation strategies to better manage parking infrastructure
Traffic / Roads	Transportation, Traffic and Parking Department (TTP) Traffic Data and Guidelines Stamford Bike and Pedestrian Plan (2016) Stamford Bus and Shuttle Study (Dec. 2016) Capital Projects	Zoning Regulations require a Traffic Study when fifty or more additional parking spaces are required, or as required by the Zoning Board. TTP also implements traffic calming projects, street re-alignments and signal projects to help manage traffic. Whenever there is a large-scale capially funded road project, TTP coordinates with Connecticut Department of Transportation to develop 20-year growth projections to build the road to anticipated capacity needs.
Schools	Stamford Public Schools Long-Term Facilities Plan (Approved October 2022)	Inventory and assessment of the District's existing school buildings, city-wide enrollment projections for the next 10 years, and long-term management plan that includes an assessment of how to meet the District's future needs.
Parks / Open Space	Citywide Parks Strategic Plan (Approved November 2023)	Addresses the question of what it would take to sustain and repair the parks/open spaces we have while adding more parks/open spaces in under-served communities.
Sewers / Sewage Treatment	WPCA Data WPCA plans of existing infrastructure	In 2023, the WPCA reported that on average, the sewage treatment plant is at less than two-thirds of its capacity. WPCA looks at

		historical treatment plant flows and projected population growth to estimate future flows for design purposes.
Water Supply (Privately Managed)	Aquarion Water Company Data	Water supply planning by Aquarion Water Company indicates there is sufficient water to meet the demands including growth projections for next 50 - 60 years. The water company ensures that there is 15% more supply at any given time than the demand for water. Actual usage of water per capita has been declining due to high efficiency appliances.
Drainage / Stormwater	Citywide Drainage Study (upcoming) (Related: Cummings Pond Area Flood and Ecological Resilience Plan; Toilsome Brook Flood Resilience Plan) City of Stamford Stormwater Drainage Manual (2020)	Identify the extent and deficiencies of existing storm drainage system. Recommend and plan for necessary improvements. Provides technical framework, stormwater management standards and design guidance for land development in Stamford. Encourages use of Low Impact Development (LID) practices
Utilities (Private)	Electric, oil & gas, phone and internet utilities are privately owned and operated. Private companies project future growth and plan for meeting future demand. These are not topics for Comp Plans in municipalities that are already well-developed like Stamford.	
Solid Waste (Public and Private)	Data and Studies from Department of Recycling and Sanitation	Route Optimization Study currently in progress by the City to optimize the process for getting residential garbage from homes to Transfer Station. Pursuing study for transfer station optimization. Re-routing waste through recycling and compost programs.
Public Safety: Police, Fire, EMS	Data from Office of Public Safety, Health and Welfare	Information on current City services. Data on response times for each public safety unit.

Health (Private)	Stamford Health Community Health Improvement Plan (2023) StamfordHealth Community Needs Assessment (2022) Wellbeing Index (2019)	Identifies the availability of health care resources in lower Fairfield county. Identify health needs of the area (Stamford and Darien). Develop an action plan to guide Stamford Health in serving the community now and in the years to come.
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