

CITY OF STAMFORD STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

July 5, 2022
Mayor Caroline Simmons

AGENDA

City's Financial Health

State & Federal Funding

Updates from the Mayor & City Departments

MAYOR SIMMONS' ADMINISTRATION'S VISION

Vision Statement: To build a more inclusive, equitable, vibrant, and innovative city where everyone can thrive.

Top Priorities:

- Advancing Economic Prosperity and Making Stamford More Affordable and Equitable
- Investing in our Infrastructure and Quality of Life
- Making Government Work Better for Residents

CITY'S FINANCIAL HEALTH

CITY'S FINANCIAL HEALTH

- **FY2022 – FY2023 Budget**
 - \$626 million operating budget; \$59 million in capital projects
 - Invests in essential services and community programs
 - Commits to long-term fiscal sustainability
 - Focused on minimizing tax burden on Stamford residents
 - Supports public safety and road maintenance



CITY'S FINANCIAL HEALTH

- \$20 million capital reserve for school capital projects
- Contingency for inflation
- Flat Debt Service
- Investments in economic development are helping to offset the costs of long-term obligations and operating expenses

STATE FUNDING



STATE FUNDING

State Bonding & Grants – Since Dec 2021, the City of Stamford has been awarded:

- \$8M+ for Atlantic St, Summer St, & Magee Ave for road repair
- \$950K for brownfield remediation
- \$2.5M in bonding for Stamford Museum & Nature Center Observatory & Northrop Field
- \$950K for renovations and updates at the Palace Theatre
- \$1M for renovations and improvements at Terry Conners Ice Rink
- \$2M for renovations and upgrades for the Stamford High School athletic fields
- \$70K for fencing at the Yerwood Center
- \$2M from the State Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program
- \$2.5M from the Connecticut Community Challenges Grant to support entrepreneurs and jobs in South End

Our goal is to continue to vigorously pursue and advocate for state funding to advance the city's priorities and reduce the burden on Stamford taxpayers.

STATE FUNDING FOR STAMFORD SCHOOLS



The recently passed state budget increased the state reimbursement for the Westhill High School project from 20% to 80%. That means the City of Stamford will receive \$206.4 million in state funding for the Westhill project.

The state budget also increased the state school construction grant formula to 60% for future projects for the next 25 years, saving Stamford taxpayers approximately \$300 million.

FEDERAL FUNDING



FEDERAL FUNDING

Federal Funding Grants – Since Dec 2021, the City of Stamford has been awarded:

- \$1.81M Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant for Boccuzzi Park
- \$2M for the Safe Routes to Schools program to improve walkability and safety around schools
- \$45K grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to launch a pilot compost program at the Bartlett Arboretum
- \$550K grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to add an additional social worker to the Stamford Police Department to assist with responses related to mental health

Our goal is to continue to vigorously pursue and advocate for federal funding to advance the city's priorities and reduce the burden on Stamford taxpayers.

FEDERAL FUNDING

We submitted five congressional directed spending requests to our Congressional delegation – Senator Murphy, Senator Blumenthal, and Congressman Himes – for the following:

- \$1M for the design and construction of up to 50 bioswales across the City to reduce pollution to the Long Island Sound*
- \$3M for the design and construction of a Ferguson Library East Side branch in Hunt Park on Courtland Avenue*
- \$1M for equipment for a regional police academy
- \$2M to install approximately 8,800 LED streetlights across Stamford
- \$2M for Safe Routes to Schools which will support the construction of sidewalks near five of our schools

*As of today, these projects have been included in the House Appropriations Bill. It will be another six months before the Senate acts on their appropriations and this funding becomes certain, however, getting them on the list is an important first step.

FEDERAL FUNDING



FEMA

The City of Stamford applied for a \$2.7 million FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant to upgrade deteriorating flood protection infrastructure at our pumping stations.



The City of Stamford applied for a \$2.1 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure Sustainably and Equitably (RAISE) grant for complete streets planning for a 1.1 mile segment of West Main Street. The project will aim to improve traffic circulation, enhance pedestrian and biking opportunities, reduce crashes, and curb greenhouse gas emissions.



The City of Stamford is working on an application for “Our Town,” which is the NEA’s creative placemaking grants program. The program supports activities that integrate arts, culture, and design into local efforts that strengthen communities. The goal is to fund an arts designer and incorporate it into the West Main Street revitalization plan.

DEPARTMENT & CITY PROJECT UPDATES

MAYOR'S CLIMATE COUNCIL

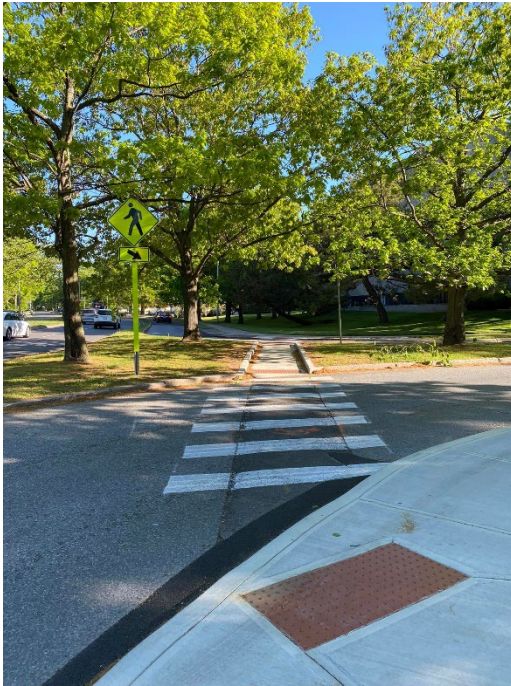
In March, we created the Mayor's Climate Council, with a focus on reducing our City's carbon footprint, creating more resilient infrastructure to mitigate the effects of climate change, and to launch sustainability initiatives. This Council has three objectives:

1. Reducing Carbon Footprint
 - a. Increasing Renewable Energy Sources – Issued the first solar RFP and working on plan to transition municipal fleet to electric vehicles
 - b. Making Stamford more walkable and bike friendly to reduce reliance on cars
 - c. Air Quality Monitoring System
2. Creating More Resilient Infrastructure
 - a. City-Wide Storm Drain Upgrades and Storm Drain Study to Mitigate Flooding
 - b. FEMA BRIC Grant to update pumping stations
3. Launching Sustainability Initiatives



DEPARTMENT & CITY PROJECT UPDATES

Office of Operations – Transportation, Traffic, & Parking Department



A new sidewalk and crosswalk has been installed at Washington Boulevard and Second Street. This project improves safety and mobility for pedestrians along this busy walking corridor.



A pilot roadway safety project was installed at the intersection of Greyrock Place and Forest Street. The project added stop signs on all approaches and bump outs to slow cars and shorten the pedestrian crossing distance.

PAVE STAMFORD

In March, we launched the Pave Stamford initiative, with the goal of increasing the amount of road paving and sidewalk restoration around the City by maximizing operational capacity and leveraging local, state, and federal funding. The initiative had four objectives:

1. Develop a two-tier paving schedule for FY2022-2023
 - a. The Tier 1 paving list is on the city's website (43 roads)
 - b. The Operations Department compiled a Tier 2 list, projecting 27 – 30 additional roads to target
 - c. Representatives and constituents can submit requests for road and street consideration through FIX It Stamford
2. Develop 5-year comprehensive sidewalk restoration plan for Stamford public schools
 1. Year 1 Schools
 - Newfield
 - Davenport
 - Northeast
 - Springdale
 - Julia A. Stark
3. Launch a comprehensive city-wide roadway assessment to establish priority paving list for FY23-FY27
4. Research the opportunity to integrate unaccepted roads into the City's future road paving plan



DEPARTMENT & CITY PROJECT UPDATES

Office of Operations – Highways (Road Maintenance)

- Since launching Pave Stamford, we have received over 100 road paving requests.
- In 2021, approximately 30 roads were paved and within the first two months of this year's paving season, we have completed 17 roads.
- Additionally, 40 roads have been identified for paving this season, with a goal of further identifying and paving approximately 25-30 additional roads.
- Paving will continue through October 2022.

DEPARTMENT & CITY PROJECT UPDATES

Office of Operations

Working with Director of Operations Matt Quiñones, we are moving forward with the following:

- A re-organization plan of the Parks & Facilities Department; this would split the current Parks & Facilities Department and merge Parks with the Recreation division.
- Launching a city-wide strategic plan for our park system.
- Adding sustainability projects to the purview of the Facilities Department.
- Installing a Director of Facilities & Sustainability as part of the re-organization plan, replacing the existing role of Operations Manager.

DEPARTMENT & CITY PROJECT UPDATES

Office of Economic Development

- **Small Business Resiliency Fund** – \$1.5 million in ARPA funding to be distributed to small businesses hardest hit by the pandemic; held a roundtable with over 40 restaurants to hear from them on the pandemic recovery and their needs
- **Renewed Stamford Enterprise Zone Eligibility** – worked with the state delegation to pass legislation that renewed Enterprise Zone status, which provides tax incentives for companies moving to specific census tracts in Stamford
- **Launched Global Stamford** – preparing for the launch of this initiative which will engage the Mayor's office and Economic Development with foreign delegation representatives to encourage companies to build a U.S. base in Stamford



DEPARTMENT & CITY PROJECT UPDATES

Office of Technology Management Services

The City of Stamford is undergoing a digital transformation which will impact employees, city-wide services, and city-wide technology.

- The City of Stamford began a five-phase cyber security hardening project in March 2022. Three of the project phases are currently underway and the two remaining phases will begin in August. It is anticipated that this project, scheduled to be completed by the end of this calendar year, will yield a strong National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) cyber-security framework score.
- Along with cyber hardening of the City's on-premises systems, The City of Stamford has embarked on a program of Cloud Transformation -- that is, migrating our systems from on-premises data centers to cloud-based solutions.
 - Desktop modernization – full migration of City employees to Microsoft Office 365 cloud is schedule to be before Q4 2022.
 - Data Center Migration- migrating our on-premises data center to Microsoft Azure cloud.
 - Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) – transformational project is underway and will increase the City's cybersecurity profile by leveraging Oracle's cloud for operations and Microsoft's Cloud for identity management.

DEPARTMENT & CITY PROJECT UPDATES

Office of Public Safety, Health and Welfare

- My team and I are in the process of interviewing for a new Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare. We extend our gratitude to Director Ted Jankowski for his service to the City of Stamford and wish him the best in his future endeavors.
- Important initiative the Department is working on includes:
 - **Youth Mental Health Alliance (YMHA)** – a collaboration between the City of Stamford, Vita Partnership, and a network of nonprofits and human service providers, to engage in a data-driven process to address the mental health issues facing Stamford youth.
 - We launched a Mental Health Resource Page on the City website that is continually being updated with community resources.

DEPARTMENT & CITY PROJECT UPDATES

Citizen Services & Community Engagement

STAMFORD FIX IT TRAINING SESSION

- **Community Micro Grant Program** – provided \$75,000 in funding to 19 neighborhood and nonprofit groups for community improvement projects. Funding has been allocated and final reports will be due in July 2022.
- **Citizen Service Hubs** – ongoing initiative that provides the Mayor and city officials to engage with and hear from Stamford residents; held hubs on the West Side, South End, North Stamford, and upcoming hub is this month on the East Side
- **Fix It Stamford Trainings** – trainings for residents to learn how to use Fix It Stamford to share their concerns and issues; this is held in partnership with the Ferguson Library



STAMFORD, CT

