

STAMFORD DOWNTOWN FY26 Request



Stamford Downtown An Introduction

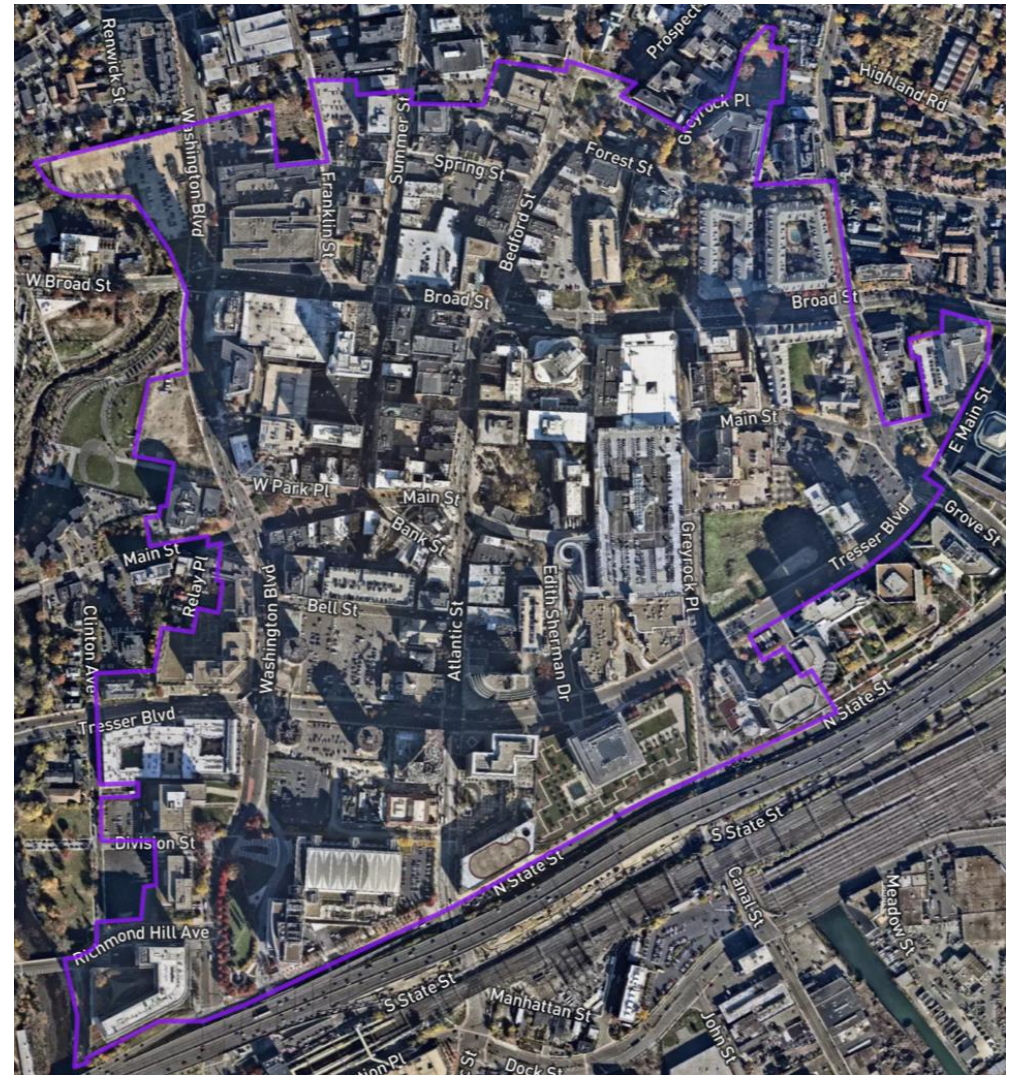
Stamford Downtown is a Special Services District established in 1992 to supplement the city's efforts in the urban core for environmental maintenance, landscaping, placemaking, activation, and marketing with the following goals:

To ensure the appropriate economic development as it impacts Stamford Downtown through comprehensive strategic urban planning and advocacy

To continue the trend of residential population growth within the District
To recruit and retain appropriate retailers

To improve the quality of the Downtown experience

To attract people to the Downtown





Stamford Downtown is funded from four important revenue sources:

68% (approx.) from Special Assessments
(taxes paid to the District
IN ADDITION to taxes paid to City)

23% (approx.) from contributions + event revenue

3% from the City of Stamford

(Revenue Breakdown for FY25)



The city's requested contribution of \$190,000 is dedicated to two important public benefits



PUBLIC REALM MAINTENANCE AND BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM

Stamford Downtown team supplements (and sometimes supplants) city services through a wide range of activities including:

Daily streetscape and curbside cleaning

Shoveling snow from sidewalks, curb cuts, fire hydrants, and bus shelters

Sanitizing crosswalk push buttons, bus shelters, and regular touch-points

Social service outreach to unhoused population

Design, planting, and maintenance of 235 hanging baskets, 70 ground planters and gardens in five public parks

Painting of fire hydrants, tree grates and light poles

In 2024, Stamford Downtown expanded its urban forestry pilot program to expand tree beds and plant trees at the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Main Street.

The City's contribution would cover less than 15% of the cost of these public benefits.

In addition to the above, Stamford Downtown at its sole expense:

Installs holiday lighting on street trees and Columbus and Library Oaks

Displays public art in temporary exhibits and permanent installations

Designs, fabricates, and displays banners on light poles

Invests in park improvements (2022 Kiwanis Park redesign, 2023 design for Bedford and Forest)



Public Community Events

Stamford Downtown activates our streets and public spaces with a series of events that are open to the public free of charge and enjoyed by a broad cross section of our community including:

The Downtown Farmers Market every Saturday from June to October accepting WIC and SNAP

The Balloon Parade Spectacular drawing 75-90k visitors to our city

Heights + Lights has been featured on a live national broadcast highlighting our city

Arts + Crafts on Bedford supports our city's role in arts and culture

Latham Yoga, Zumba, Afrobeat, Bollywood, and other exercise classes

The city's contribution would cover less than 5% of the cost of these public programs and activities



Looking forward to FY26

We do not anticipate any significant staffing changes, operational challenges, or program reductions as we enter FY26. That said, there is one important item to raise attention to this fiscal year that provided challenges in FY25.

Given the recent property revaluation process and the resultant shift in value from commercial to single family residential, the DSSD's ability to raise revenue through the special assessment will be constrained by our BOR established cap relative to the city's mil rate.

Since 1992, Stamford Downtown has invested in the core of our city at a ratio of over \$21 to every \$1 of direct city support.

Further, we pay approximately \$75,000 for permits and city services each year, reinvesting the equivalent of over 50% of the city's contribution back to the city.

We look forward to continuing to partner with the city to leverage our investment in the Downtown to bring tens of millions of property tax revenue from our District to the general fund.

