



FY 2009 PERFORMANCE PLAN

Office of Planning

MISSION

The mission of the Office of Planning (OP) is to guide development of the District of Columbia, including the preservation and revitalization of our distinctive neighborhoods, by informing decisions, advancing strategic goals, encouraging the highest quality outcomes, and engaging all communities.

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

OP performs planning for historic preservation, public facilities, parks and open spaces, and individual sites. In addition, OP engages in urban design, land use, and historic preservation review. OP also conducts historic resources research and community visioning, and manages, analyzes, maps, and disseminates spatial and US Census data.

OBJECTIVE 1: Catalyze improvements in neighborhoods and commercial areas.

INITIATIVE 1.1: Partner with District agencies to inform capital planning decisions and bring coordinated capital investments throughout the city.

OP has created a Capital Planning unit in its Citywide Planning Division to link comprehensive planning, capital budgeting and investment, and master facilities planning. OP has identified a pilot group of agencies for these activities: Department of Parks and Recreation, DC Public Libraries, Fire and EMS, and the University of the District of Columbia. By the end of July 2009, OP will work with these agencies to: 1) provide mapping and growth areas/development trends information, 2) analyze zoning, 3) assess and leverage real estate assets (particularly for co-location and public-private opportunities), 4) link investments to the achievement of performance goals, and 5) develop and refine facilities master plans, space utilization studies and capital improvement plans.

INITIATIVE 1.2: Make recommendation implementation information available to agencies and the public.

In FY09, OP will use its web-based plan implementation tool to track action items in the Comprehensive Plan and small area plans. OP will input agency updates on a bi-annual basis, so that reports can be generated to monitor progress and determine areas of modifications/adjustments as needed. This information will be used to provide updates to the Mayor and Council. The web-based tool will also be available via Intranet to District agencies to assist them in project management. A modified version of the tool will also be available on the Internet, so that the public can view and track status of projects.

INITIATIVE 1.3: Help strengthen the District's retail base by implementing recommendations and providing technical assistance.

By the end of July 2009, OP will implement the recommendations of the Retail Action Strategy by working closely with the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, Department of Small and Local Business Development, and the Washington, DC Economic Partnership. By the end of July 2009, historic preservation staff will provide technical assistance to the Department of Small and Local Business Development by preparing historic contexts for inclusion in Requests for Proposals and reviewing projects for Main Street properties for 100% of projects within historic districts.

INITIATIVE 1.4: Improve accessibility for District residents.

In FY09, OP will:



- Launch the implementation of two Great Streets plans (Upper Georgia Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue SE) in Fall 2008. OP will convene quarterly meetings with implementation agencies, including DDOT, DMPED, and DSLBD, to coordinate recommendations for streetscape improvements, pedestrian safety, parking solutions, and assistance for small business development, as applicable.
- Launch a “new mobility” initiative by the end of July 2009 to identify transportation hubs and create mechanisms to help citizens get around the city faster and more economically. This effort will include several partners and stakeholders, including regional organizations, private corporations, area universities, business improvement districts, and District agencies (including DDOT and OCTO). OP will develop a work plan in Fall 2008 to detail stakeholder roles and responsibilities.
- Partner with DDOT to expand walk and bike facilities in the District by the end of July 2009, particularly the SmartBike program by encouraging the installation of kiosks in public space and PUDs, and identifying kiosk locations in small area plans.

OBJECTIVE 2: Better inform decisions about public and private investments.

INITIATIVE 2.1: Develop and use neighborhood indicators.

OP, in partnership with other District agencies, will continue to develop neighborhood indicators and provide an annual citywide neighborhood report by Fall 2008. The goal of the project is to inform key policy and investment decisions, especially those involving housing production and preservation and human development. OP collected data and worked in collaboration with a not-for-profit research institution to develop the methodology and complete the initial analysis in FY08. In FY09, OP will initiate a small area plan/study in collaboration with one or more District agencies based on the analysis of a set of indicators for a neighborhood.

INITIATIVE 2.2: Increase transparency in the planning process so that stakeholders have better access to tools and information.

OP’s portfolio of tasks is highly varied, but many of our tasks are production-oriented (e.g., permit reviews, development review case reports, historic preservation inspections, GIS mapping, etc.) and of high interest to various stakeholders. In FY09, OP will:

- Complete the DC Historic Preservation System, a specialty database of architectural details and other District historic data for off-line use by OP and architecture/history researchers by the end of July 2009.
- Regularly maintain OP’s web site so OP posts reports to the Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals weekly and agendas and actions for the Historic Preservation Review Board monthly.

INITIATIVE 2.3: Make the most of the District’s planned growth and competitive strengths.

OP will take action to build on the District’s future growth and competitive strengths by carrying out the following policies and implementation items contained in the District’s updated Comprehensive Plan. OP will:

- Draft a “CreativeDC” action agenda by Summer 2009 to better leverage international arts and cultural assets into economic development projects and programs that could offer employment to under- or unemployed residents, prepare students to fully participate in the job market, and enhance neighborhoods through arts and cultural uses.
- By the end of July 2009, complete a Housing/Transportation Affordability Index study to quantify the positive impact of the District’s public transit and diversity of transportation options on household budgets. The study will aggregate the District’s household housing and



- transportation cost to compare the net savings against those costs in the rest of the region and market those benefits to potential new residents, employers and institutions. In addition, the study will identify neighborhoods within the District where better transportation options are needed to realize the same cost savings enjoyed by the rest of DC.
- Study models of “active/healthy living” indices to develop a better "walkability" index by the end of July 2009 that includes access to routine and leisure-time physical activity and healthy foods, and study the correlation between the active living score and health outcomes. OP’s Active Living Index will likely be interactive and web-based and will be closely tied to the physical environment and connectedness of neighborhoods, versus many of the neighborhood typologies which will likely be grounded in census and/or other demographic data.
 - Carry out an institutional partnership with the National Building Museum by the end of July 2009 to provide District youth with real-world career exposure to the urban planning and design professions; bring District youth into the green collar workforce pipeline; and implement one or more action items from the District’s Comprehensive Plan and/or neighborhood and revitalization plans. OP’s school year-long commitment provides an opportunity for middle school students to focus on a distinct project in each of two semesters. OP anticipates that the projects undertaken by the students will fulfill one or more of the goals above.

INITIATIVE 2.4: Continue to develop and implement a “Green Collar Jobs” program to foster a green economy and ethic in the District of Columbia.

OP will continue to assist the Department of Employment Services’ “Green Collar Jobs” program in partnership with other District agencies, private companies, and non-profits. In FY09, OP will support the Department of Employment Services’ efforts to create pilot green collar job training programs, such as the Green Building curriculum for the Cardozo Construction Academy, to be introduced in Fall 2008. Possible programs may include an energy auditor training oriented towards women and a pilot horticultural training for green roofs. By July 2009, OP will further develop the concept of a DC Green 2020 Center to promote preservation, sustainability, and green building in the District by working with DDOE and other organizations. Along with other District agencies, OP will partner with the nonprofit community by the end of July 2009 to explore a location for the Sustainable Energy Utility, which was established with the passage of the new Energy Act.

OBJECTIVE 3: Deliver resources, clarified regulations, and technical assistance to enhance the quality of the built environment.

INITIATIVE 3.1: Bring clarity and cohesiveness to the District’s zoning regulations via a multi-year effort.

The Comprehensive Plan calls for a comprehensive review of the existing zoning regulations. In FY08, OP created a zoning review taskforce to conduct the three-year comprehensive review of the zoning regulations. In FY09, OP will prepare a study by July of the best environmental sustainability practices used by other U.S. and international cities for inclusion in the zoning regulations. In addition, OP will review and study the zoning in the downtown by the end of July 2009, and begin revisions to the Planned Unit Development process.

INITIATIVE 3.2: Work with relevant agencies, boards, and commissions to streamline the development review and zoning process.

In 2008, OP commissioned a review and analysis of the District’s planning and development processes, including the option of establishing a planning commission. The review and analysis identified several opportunities to reduce review times and increase efficiency in processing, by creating consent agendas, increasing interagency coordination, and creating new zoning tools for



reviewing applications. To reduce the amount of time for case approval and reduce the workload, in FY09 OP will work with the Office of the Attorney General, the Zoning Commission, and the Board of Zoning Adjustment to move forward the necessary legislation to create “consent agendas” by the end of July 2009 for cases that have no opposition.

INITIATIVE 3.3: Preserve and protect the District’s historic resources.

The Council has amended existing law and enacted new legislation to help preserve the District’s historic resources. In FY08, OP drafted proposed historic preservation regulations. OP has worked with several agencies to refine the process, and by the end of July 2009 OP will finalize draft historic preservation review regulations for DC government projects in conjunction with capital facilities planning for the coordinated review of relevant government agencies. Separately, the Council passed the Targeted Historic Preservation Assistance Act of 2006 to assist low- and moderate-income homeowners with the cost of preserving and rehabilitating their historic homes. The program was designed as a grant program and was funded in 2007, with an Anacostia pilot. OP will expand the grant program to all 12 eligible historic districts, distributing at least \$800,000 to qualified homeowners by the end of July 2009.



PROPOSED KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Measure	FY07 Actual	FY08 Target	FY08 YE Actual	FY09 Projection	FY10 Projection	FY11 Projection
Objective 1						
Develop facilities plans, identify public-private partnerships or co-location opportunities, and conduct real estate evaluations for two agencies.	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	3	4
% of OP planning studies approved by the Council	N/A	90%	100%	90%	90%	90%
% of implementation items achieved	N/A	35%	36%	35%	35%	35%
Positive change in retail sales in the studied submarkets, relative to the baseline	N/A	TBD	N/A	TBD	TBD	TBD
% change in transit ridership	N/A	1%	3.96%	2%	3%	4%
% of approved PUD, private school, and campus plans that include TDM measures	N/A	60%	88.2%	60%	60%	60%
Objective 2						
Positive change in neighborhood indicators (such as housing affordability, walkability, and transit accessibility) relative to the baseline (which will be established in FY 2008) ¹	N/A	TBD	N/A	TBD	TBD	TBD
% of Dev. Review reports that meet the expectations of boards/commissions	93.8%	90%	91.8%	90%	90%	90%
% of customers who have the data and analysis needed to fulfill their role in planning the city & influencing quality neighborhood outcomes	95.1%	95%	90.1%	95%	95%	95%
% change to citizens' access to fresh and healthy food relative to the baseline	N/A	TBD	N/A	TBD	TBD	TBD
# of new workforce partnerships created that provide Green Collar job skills	N/A	10	13	5	5	5
Objective 3						
# of focus issues studied by zoning regulations review task force that are available for online review by the public	N/A	6	9	6	6	N/A
\$ of historic homeowner grants issued	N/A	\$750,000	\$969,070	\$900,000	\$900,000	\$900,000
% of completed zoning and preservation conceptual design reviews for DC government projects	N/A	75%	90.2%	100%	100%	100%
% of identified capital projects where preservation consultation has been initiated or design reviews completed.	N/A	N/A	N/A	75%	75%	80%

¹ Performance measures and targets will be established as indicators are developed.