

# City, State, and Federal Agencies

Depending on the geographic scope of a project, a number of City, State, and Federal agencies may have decision-making authority or influence over its outcome. It is important to understand the different public agencies that may come into play in order to best engage as a community member.

## NEW YORK CITY AGENCIES

- The **Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA)** has the authority to interpret the Zoning Code and grant variances to property owners and developers on a case-by-case basis.
- The **Department of Buildings (DOB)** is responsible for regulating construction and real estate in New York City by granting building, alteration, and demolition permits and enforcing construction, building, and zoning codes.
- The **Department of City Planning (DCP)** is New York City's primary land use agency and is responsible for implementing and amending the Zoning Code.
- The **Department of Design and Construction (DDC)** manages and delivers public infrastructure projects, such as pedestrian plazas, libraries, roads, sewers, courthouses, and police precincts.
- The **Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)** protects the public health of New Yorkers by managing drinking water, stormwater, wastewater, and pollution.
- The **Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD)** maintains the quality, affordability, and safety of New York City's housing stock by enforcing building codes, connecting New Yorkers with affordability resources, and creating neighborhood plans that prioritize housing affordability.
- The **Department of Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks)** is responsible for maintaining and preserving New York City's 30,000 acres of parkland, community gardens, and beaches. They also manage pools, recreational facilities, golf courses, monuments, and the city's street trees.
- The **Department of Small Business Services (SBS)** provides economic security and support for individuals and businesses in New York City. They also oversee the city's Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and help to revitalize commercial areas throughout the city.
- The **Department of Transportation (DOT)** is responsible for maintaining and improving New York City's mobility infrastructure, including pedestrian plazas, sidewalks, bike lanes, bus lanes, freight routes, roadways, and traffic control devices.
- The **Economic Development Corporation (EDC)** manages and finances projects that strengthen and grow New York City's economy and attract businesses to all five boroughs.
- The **Housing Development Corporation (HDC)** finances the creation and preservation of affordable housing projects as well as the rehabilitation of NYCHA developments.
- The **Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (MOCEJ)** works to ensure that New York City's infrastructure and public realm is climate-resilient, equitable, and accessible.

- The **Mayor's Office of Environmental Coordination (MOEC)** assists City agencies in carrying out mandatory environmental review processes and is the official repository for all City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) documents.
- The **Mayor's Office of Management and Budget (OMB)** is responsible for managing the City Budget and advising the Mayor on financial matters. They also analyze and plan for current and future financial risks posed by climate change.
- The **Mayor's Office of Resiliency (MOR)** interprets and analyzes climate science, develops policies, and leads City efforts to withstand the impacts of climate change.
- The **New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)** provides and manages affordable public housing in developments across the city.
- The **Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC)** is responsible for protecting New York City's architecturally, historically, and culturally significant buildings and sites by granting them special status that regulates future land use, design, and development activity.
- The **Public Design Commission (PDC)** is the agency responsible for reviewing the design of permanent structures, landscapes, and art on City-owned property.

## NEW YORK STATE AGENCIES

- The New York State **Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)** coordinates the State's environmental resources, manages waterways, and controls pollution.
- The New York State **Department of Transportation (DOT)** coordinates and develops transportation policy and infrastructure across the State.
- **Empire State Development (ESD)** supports the State's economy by issuing bonds, providing loans, acquiring property, and exempting some projects from certain laws and regulations.
- The **Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)** operates and manages transportation infrastructure in the New York City region, including the New York City subway and bus systems, the Long Island Rail Road, the Metro-North Railroad, and certain bridges and tunnels.
- The **Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ)** is responsible for operating and maintaining interstate transportation infrastructure, including bridges, tunnels, airports, seaports, and the PATH train.
- The New York **State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)** helps communities identify, evaluate, preserve, and revitalize historic, archeological, and cultural resources through the administration of State and Federal funding programs.

## U.S. FEDERAL AGENCIES

- The U.S. **Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** regulates and supports housing affordability, fairness, and availability across the country.
- The U.S. **Department of Transportation (DOT)** governs and regulates the movement of people and goods across roadways, airports, railroads, waterways, and pipelines.
- The U.S. **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** protects human and environmental health by writing regulations to implement Congressional environmental policy.
- The **Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)** is an agency within the U.S. DOT that oversees railroad systems, technology, infrastructure, funding, and regulations, including both freight railroads and Amtrak.
- The **Federal Transit Administration (FTA)** is an agency within the U.S. DOT that provides financial and technical assistance to local public transit authorities across the country.
- The **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)** builds and maintains large interstate infrastructure and military facilities, and protects, restores, and cleans environmental sites and waterways.