

| LEVEL | DEPARTMENT | PLANNING OBJECTIVE | PLANNING TOOL | KEY POWER | CURRENT POLITICAL OBJECTIVE |
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| <p>national level United States of America</p> | <p>No unified planning department or agency- instead many national programs, policies, and regulations include planning requirements, i.a.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) • Departments of Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) | <p>fund and evaluate plans</p> | <p>federal guidelines to which local governments must conform</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • weak on land use, urban design and development control, strong on health care, housing, economic development and environmental issues • grants or withholds funds for planning projects • monitors State legislation for consistency | <p>-</p> |
| <p>regional level inter-state NY-NJ-CT</p> | <p>Regional Plan Association New York-New Jersey-Connecticut (independent non-for-profit organization)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve the quality of life and the economic competitiveness of the region | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proposes plans e.g. on transport • campaigns and conferences | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research, planning, advocacy | <p>Third Regional Plan, focuses on community design, open space, transportation, workforce, economy and housing</p> |
| <p>inter-state NY-NJ</p> | <p>Port Authority NY-NJ financially self-sufficient authority</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategic transport planning for the region, promotes econ. development | <p>strategic transport plan</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proposes plans to State governments | <p>upgrade and expand the current transport system to reduce congestion and maintain economic competitiveness</p> |
| <p>State of New York</p> | <p>(No Agencies Dedicated Specifically to City Planning)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participation in significant projects • mediation • otherwise little intervention | <p>political influence of state agencies</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participation in decisions on large projects (e.g. arterial roadways, rapid transit systems, stadiums) • mediation in regional disputes | <p>-</p> |
| | <p>Empire State Development Corporation and subsidiaries established by NY State as semi-independent authorities</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitates and accelerates important projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tax-exempt bonds to promote business development • financial funds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial power • free from public scrutiny | <p>formerly subsidized housing, now more business oriented, assisted financing of projects like Battery Park City, Javits' Centre</p> |

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| <p>city level- New York City</p> | <p>New York City Department of City Planning</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prepares strategic plans and policies to promote the City's orderly growth and improvement conducts land use and environmental reviews to facilitate public and private development provides technical assistance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> land use regulation- environmental review& Land Use Review: zoning amendments, site selection for infrastructure,acquisition/disposition of city property, urban renewal plans, community & neighborhood plans, Strategic Planning data reporting: community district needs statements, consolidated plans, annual report on social indicators, statement of needs, public school enrollment trends strategic planning- policy analysis, neighborhood plans, studies on: land use, design, econ. development, demographics, facility and transport needs, waterfronts and open spaces city-wide data support: census, geosupport system, city maps, employment and housing data | <p>-</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World city of opportunity City of neighborhoods Vibrant waterfronts and public open space Comprehensive planning for significant sites Urban design excellence |
| <p>borough level</p> | <p>Offices of the Borough Presidents: Manhattan Brooklyn Queens Bronx Staten Island</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> advice on land use participation in community planning database | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Use Review- evaluates land use applications for the City Planning Commission and the Board of Standards & Appeals; makes recommendations to Department of City Planning¹ Community Planning - works with local community boards to address planning concerns topographical services - maintains the Borough Map and furnishes data to City agencies and the public | <p>-</p> | <p>serves as liaison between Community Boards and the Department of City Planning</p> |
| | <p>Community Boards: Manhattan (12) Brooklyn (18) Queens (14) Bronx (12) Staten Island (3)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> political participation consultation on land use and zoning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Use Function: acquisition and disposition of city property is subjected to ULURP (Uniformed Land Use Review Procedure) and must come before the community board at a public hearing, which votes and makes recommendations to the Department of City Planning. Zoning Function: to construct outside zoning regulations one must apply for variance to the Board of Standards and Appeals. These applications also come before the board for public hearing. The board's recommendation is then submitted to the Board of Standards and Appeals. | <p>(no planning permission needed as long as development conforms to zoning laws)</p> | <p>serves as liaison between community residents and the Office of the Borough President</p> |

¹ Under ULURP, the City Planning Commission can only act on land use applications after receiving the recommendation of the Borough President's Office