

**New Haven Comprehensive Plan 2025 Update
Definition Phase Steering Committee Kickoff Meeting
August 10, 2022, Orange Street Hearing Room**

Attendance:

Andy Cirioli, Laura Francis (SCRCOG), Laura Brown, Anne Hartjen, Ester Rose-Wilen, Jasmine Peele, Jacob Robison (City Plan), Becky Bombero (CAO), Gretchen Knauff (Office of Services for Persons with Disabilities), Mehul Dalal (Community Services Administration), Luis Chavez-Brumell (New Haven Free Public Library), Kimberly Acosta (Food System Policy), Michael Piscitelli (Economic Development Administration)

Agenda:

- I. Welcome-Introductions
- II. What is planning?
- III. Planning New Haven 2025-2035
- IV. Timeline review
- V. Expectations of steering committee
- VI. Plan values and principles workshop
- VII. Next steps

Notes:

Laura (CP) brought up major guiding principles/focuses of Equity and Resilience
Discussion on role of Dept v consultant with Laura from SCRCOG
Finding a consultant with particular expertise in public engagement could be a good approach
Cultural Equity Team model with one consultant for writing/production and one for facilitation/public engagement

Mike P brought up major topics/bigger issues of importance that the Steering Committee should discuss (not necessarily for the Comp plan—is additional study needed? Is another agency working on it? Do we want to highlight this issue in community engagement?)

Examples: CSOs, Waste management, Mega landlords impact on rental market

Laura from SCRCOG: Is plan prescriptive or aspirational?

Jacob responded that planning has moved toward **action-oriented plans** with concrete goals and steps to meet those goals

Laura mentioned Bridgeport's model of interactive dashboard that measures progress/success
Zoning code overhaul is planned to begin as the Comp plan process wraps up and be guided by comp plan

Values and Principles Workshop

Notes below are aggregated results of discussion and written comments following reflection.

Q1: What does planning New Haven's Future mean to you?

Andy from SCROG

Planning for new haven's future is also planning for the region's future as a whole

Work in new haven will have an influence on suburban and rural communities and state overall

A vision for all of us

Becky Bombero

Identifying the current landscape to create a map and chart a path to get to established goals

Gretchen Knauff

Actions that create vibrant equitable opportunities for all citizens and visitors

Creativity is celebrated

Mehul Dalal

Inclusive of all communities including those historically marginalized

Incorporates consideration of health and well-being including mental health

Laura SCRCOG

Make new haven a livable city

Center community for culture and recreation

Diversity and inclusion

Model for state

Lead region on resilience and sustainability

Resource for solving big issues

Model for public and private partnerships

Leverage business and higher education

Not just service-oriented also entrepreneurial

Acknowledge exterior influences on new haven and what happened because of past decisions and what problems were caused

Big ideas are generated communicated implemented

Laura Brown

Model for other communities in state and New England

Anne Hartjen

Have to acknowledge the things we have done wrong in terms of planning decision making and inequity—what this did to fabric of our city. Bring these wrongs forward to begin to address.

Develop resilient equitable future

Jasmine Peele

For example redlining

Coastal city

Preservation of natural resources for future generations

Equitable resources that meet everyone's needs in an ever-changing landscape

Jacob Robison

Planning for problems that new haven faces that will intensify

Identify those problems now so we can start working on them now to remediate the ever-evolving inequities in the city instead of responding to problems

You also need a set of values for the problems you don't predict so that when you do work on them you have values to work off of –Gretchen

Luis

Dynamic between city entities and private entities

Kimberly

Doing things in an authentic way, not performative and tokenistic

How current decision making has a negative impact

Decision making that allows people from all walks of life to be involved in decision making and their expertise acknowledged.

Bring new people to the table, often when we think we have, we have failed

Answers from the Notes Sheet

Create a more inclusive city

Support City Plan

Ensuring that New Haven's infrastructure + future development is

1. Inclusive of all communities including the historically marginalized
2. Promotes health + well-being (including mental health) in broad + specific terms
3. Aligns with basic human needs- especially the most vulnerable
4. Promotes integrated development + placemaking

Identifying the current landscape to create a map charting a path to get to established goals

Looking at the past and assessing where the previous plan didn't work. To incorporate improvement and then move to vision/actions that create **vibrant, equitable, inclusive environment** for all citizens/visitors in New Haven.

Changing the landscape of accessible resources for an ever-changing /evolving demographic. It should be a future that is **sustainable, equitable and full of opportunity for all.** Preservation of our beaches and eliminating as much personal and industrial pollution as possible.

Providing a resilient framework that acknowledges the past and analyzing what we already have to work with.

Addressing current needs of the population

Anticipating future generations

Planning the state's and the south-central region's future. NH has economic + social influences, especially rail, tweed, healthcare, universities, etc..) to be an even more attractive and inclusive and safe community.

An opportunity to address some systematic problems

Helping NH's residents plan do a future that is reflective of our needs.

Helping to make New Haven livable, the center community of culture and recreation, create diversity and inclusion to be modeled across the state. Create a city that can lead the region towards resiliency and sustainability, be a resource for solving big issues. Be the model for public/private partnerships, how to leverage higher education + business

Q2: What values should govern the process of creating this plan?

Values as outcomes and Values as lenses

Equity and Inclusion

Create wealth

Health and wellness

Sustainability

Resilience

Belonging

Oppose policies/projects that create segregation

Representative of community

Innovative

Transparent

People centered

Visionary

Actionable

Easily defined

Willingness to course-correct

Measurable

Accessible

Way for residents to see that items were implemented/how much

Reimagining

Wholistic

Thoughtful and considerate

Empathy

Authenticity

Having a process where your beliefs and values are congruent with your goals and outcomes
Truly inclusive of people's thoughts and opinions throughout the entire process
Opportunities for people to represent themselves
Actually figuring out how to make space inclusive after saying you want to
Doing the internal work as individuals and being honest about what we bring and our blind-spots
Not people speaking on behalf of other people
Doing the work to reach people
Correct course and take feedback when we mess up
Admitting blind spots
Reaching people with lived experience with all the nuance within a "community"
Taking time and patience
Actually listen to what people are saying to you
Inclusivity
People's voices are heard
Communication
Language
Ability to come to meeting
Reciprocity
Removing barriers to involvement due to basic needs not being met
Legibility-not jargon
Make technical concepts assessable to engage with
Relevant to those you want input from
Authentically listening
Humility on City's part
Honoring people as experts with or without technical "expertise"
Honoring people to create long-lasting relationships, pipeline for future engagement
Respect
Not seeing people as just data
Holistic accessibility- language, not jargon, physical spaces, childcare compensation, dates and times
Shifting power
Innovative
Thoughtful- consider impact, future thinking
Accountability for the plan
Tangible steps
Fair
Accessible
Creative
Innovative
Transparent

Accountability
Honoring
Celebration of what we have and can be
Honoring assets in the city
Joy
Discovery
Economic equities

Q3: What does public engagement mean to you?

Go where the people are and “speak their language” literally and figuratively
Know your audience
Interactive and make it fun
Consistency—ask the same questions to everyone to the extent that is possible and then personalize
Multi-media
Secure-no undue influence or overrepresentation
Make sure you have focus groups and don’t have underrepresentation from groups
Both intentional and organic
Well publicized
Ask the same questions in plain language
Identify under-represented groups and ideas of how to best reach out to those groups
Giving people time and space to think about questions
Childcare
Transportation
Compensation
How to free up people’s time and minds
Have immediate take-aways (compensation)
Transportation
Make it worth their time and energy, fun and not boring
Food
Empowerment
Communicate in a way that people know their input is important and will be used and how it will be used
On-the-ground
Canvassing
Fun
Rooted in people and place
Adaptive
Rooted in a culture of shared learning
Challenging and uncomfortable

Use of Ambassadors

Multi-lingual

Accessible to historically marginalized groups

Be prepared for “tangents”

Be prepared for Apathy

Be prepared for mistrust—build trust

Don't over-promise—not everything is going to be able to be incorporated directly in the plan

Manage expectations

Street interception

Openness

Listening

Meeting people where they are

Security- make sure no undue influence/no over representation