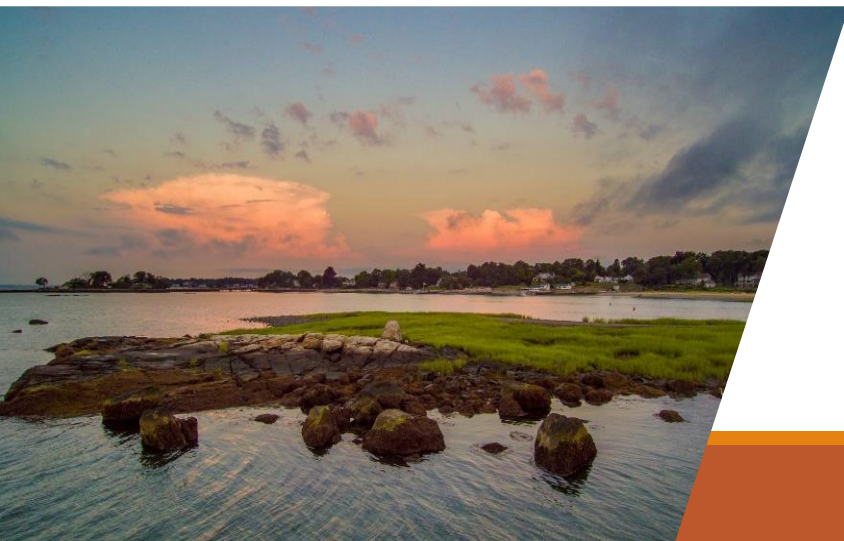




STATE OF THE CITY

JULY 8, 2024

MAYOR CAROLINE SIMMONS



Vision and Priorities

FY2024-2025 Budget Recap

Economic Prosperity

Infrastructure

Responsive Government

Public Safety

State/Federal Funding

2024 Priorities & Conclusion

Agenda

Vision and Priorities

Vision for the City of Stamford:

To build a more inclusive, vibrant, affordable, and innovative City where everyone can thrive.

Top Priorities:

- Advancing Economic Prosperity
- Investing in our Infrastructure
- Making Government More Responsive to Residents to Enhance Quality of Life

Advancing Economic Prosperity

Economic Snapshot

- Total Population: 135,470
- AAA Bond Rating Reaffirmed by Fitch
- FY22: \$14M surplus, FY23: \$29M surplus
- Grand list growth to \$27 billion
- Mill rate decreased from 25 to 23.6
- Commercial Vacancy Rate down from 33% to 28% in 2023
- Apartment Occupancy Rate of 94%
- 15th Most Diverse City for our size in the country
- Top 10% nationally for the number of corporate headquarters, and 2,000 new small businesses started in 2023
- Robust businesses, nonprofits, arts and cultural institutions, a nationally ranked hospital, a growing UConn Stamford campus, and excellent K-12 schools
- Ranked one of the safest cities in New England
- Ranked by Niche one of the best cities in CT to live in; 108th best city in the nation; 47th best city for young professionals

FY2024-2025 Budget Priorities

Investing in high-quality services for Stamford residents:

- **Schools:** Authorized 14 school projects and continued investments in school reserve (Fund 57)
- **Public Safety:** Investments in Police, Fire, EMS and 911 Call Center to meet City's growing needs
- **Parks and Sustainability:** Doubled investment for parks, added new funding for parks enforcement and sustainability initiatives
- **Roads, Sidewalks, and Pedestrian Safety:** Investments in road paving, new sidewalks, and pedestrian safety initiatives
- **Seniors and Veterans:** Continued expansion of senior citizen and veterans' property tax credit levels
- **Financial Reporting:** Investments in new systems to address financial reporting
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Lower mill rate, worked to minimize impact of property revaluation on residents in 2nd year of phase in, responsibly funded long term pension obligations; safe debt limit

Economic Prosperity

Economic Prosperity Priorities

Small Business Support

- Distributed Small Business Grant to 176 businesses.
- Established permanent Walk In Permitting Center at the Government Center, 7th floor.
- Launched Shop Local Guides.

Business Recruitment

- Updating the "Choose Stamford" website to further support business recruitment efforts.
- Successfully attracted over 20 new businesses to Stamford in 2023.
- Launched new Pro Stamford Marketing Video

Workforce Development

- Created the Stamford Service Corps Initiative with DOMUS Works.
- Expanded Mayor's Youth Employment Program.

Economic Prosperity Initiatives



DOMUS YOUTH SERVICE CORPS WORKING ON HIGH RIDGE ROAD IN STAMFORD

Domus Youth Service Corps



Small Business Grant Awardees

New Business Growth in 2023 & 2024

- Art of Control Pilates
- Caro Home - Retail Store
- Charles IT
- CoCreate GE Small Appliance
- DIG Restaurant
- Frank Pepe
- Greenwich Arts Academy
- Handlebar Salon
- Llama Lips Peruvian Restaurant
- K9 Resorts Luxury Pet Hotel
- Matrix Rental Solutions
- Members Credit Union
- Pedal Cruise Stamford
- Penny Cha
- Pickleball America
- Puerto Vallarta
- Snapology Stamford
- Stamford Family Vision
- The Cycle Co.

Welcome to Our New Businesses!



Snapology



Pickleball America



GE CoCreate



Iron Health



Llama Lips



K9 Resorts



Frank Pepe

Choose Stamford

- Business Attraction and Retention
- Promoting the City and Tourism
- Small Business & Start Up Support
- ChooseStamford.com

CITY OF STAMFORD
CHOOSE STAMFORD

Located only 45 minutes from New York City, the City of Stamford is the fastest growing city in Connecticut and the economic engine of the State. Stamford offers miles of waterfront and nature trails just minutes from downtown, making it the perfect place to live, work, and play. Thinking of starting a business or expanding into the U.S. or New York market? Learn why businesses from Fortune 500 companies, FinTech, climate tech startups, and small businesses alike are choosing Stamford. Our business-friendly city features unrivaled access to the New York Metropolitan area, a highly educated workforce, access to capital, and a vibrant lifestyle. With a high-touch experience with the Office of Economic Development, Stamford businesses have direct access to the Mayor's Office.

UNPARALLELED ACCESS

- Less than one hour from New York City
- Amtrak service to Washington, D.C. and Boston
- Within 50 miles from three major airports (Westchester County Airport, La Guardia and JFK International Airports)

#1 DIGITAL ECONOMY
 Connecticut has the highest digital economy ranking in the U.S. from the Information, Technology and Innovation Foundation based on the share of transactions conducted through digital means.

#4 KNOWLEDGE JOBS
 Connecticut is number four in the nation for managerial, professional, and technical positions that require more than 2 years of higher education according to the Information, Technology and Innovation Foundation.

#4 MOST INNOVATIVE ECONOMY
 Bloomberg rated Connecticut the with most innovative state based on patent activity, productivity, and research and development intensity.

#3 MOST EDUCATED WORKFORCE
 Connecticut's workforce is the third most educated according to Wallet Hub, taking into consideration educational level attained, quality of education, and achievement gaps between races and genders.

www.ChooseStamford.com

TOP 100 BEST PLACES TO LIVE ACCORDING TO LIVABILITY
 Stamford is consistently named one of the best places to live for young professionals in America. With over 14 miles of waterfront, a vibrant city life offering more than 200+ restaurants, and picturesque hiking trails within minutes of downtown Stamford.

#7 SMALL U.S. CITIES OF THE FUTURE
 Connecticut is ranked No. 7 "Small U.S. Cities of the Future" and consistently ranked the best city in the state to start a business.

1.8 M CONNECTICUT LABOR FORCE
 Connecticut is located within 500 miles of states comprising over 25% of the U.S. population, 30% of U.S. businesses, 25% of U.S. jobs, and 52% of U.S. GDP.

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PHILIPS, **McKinsey & Company**, **itv**, **EY**, **United Rentals**, **NBC UNIVERSAL**, **synchroty**, **pitney bowes**, **GE**, **Gartner**, **LOVESAC**, **M&T Bank**, **Charter**, **Indeed**, **F&W**, **Point 72**, **NatWest**

Stamford Shop Local Initiative

SPRING SHOPPING GUIDE



This Spring, Mayor Simmons and the City of Stamford Office of Economic Development invite you to shop at our many locally-owned small businesses. Stamford offers something for everyone this spring season, from Mother's and Father's Day Gifts to health and wellness spaces and businesses to help make your spring celebrations memorable.

Our Shop Local Spring Guide includes just a few of Stamford's businesses. Remember, when we shop locally, we support our community, neighbors, and friends!

For a complete Shop Local Spring Guide, visit
www.choosestamford.com

GIFTS for MOTHER'S & FATHER'S DAY • HEALTH & WELLNESS • SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS



GIFTS for MOTHER'S & FATHER'S DAY

Boozy Candles ✨ +
www.boozycandles.com

Briarwood Candles ✨ +
www.briarwoodcandles.com

County TV and Appliance
2770 Summer Street
www.countytx.com

Designs by Lee ✨
129 Interlaken Road
www.designsbylee.com

Digital Habitat
Stamford Town Center, Level 5
www.digitalhabitatstore.com

Downtown Golf
125 Bedford Street
www.hittidowntown.com

Exquisite Environments
1351 Stillwater Rd
www.exquisiteenvironments.com

Garcia's Flower Shop ✨
985 E Main St
www.garciasflowershop.com

Hand by Hand ✨
Stamford Town Center, Level 5
www.shopstamfordtowncenter.com/stores/hand-by-hand

Instant Replay Sports
4 Largo Drive
www.instantreplaystamford.com

Knitted House ✨
388 Summer Street, Lower Level
IG @knittedhousect

Letter Story Bracelets ✨ +
https://letterstorybracelets.com

Nagi Jewelers
828 High Ridge Road
www.nagijewelers.com

Noelle Spa and Boutique
100 High Ridge Road
www.noelle.com

Planet TV & Appliances
900 High Ridge Road
www.planetstv.com

Racanello Florist
18 Belltown Road
www.racanelloflorist.com

Russ Hollander Master Goldsmith
154 Bedford Street
www.facebook.com/rhollandermastergoldsmith

Soccer Land
18 West Avenue
www.facebook.com/SoccerLandStamford

Stamford Florist
625 Bedford Street
www.stamfordflorist.com

Temptation ✨
Stamford Town Center, Level 4
www.shopstamfordtowncenter.com/stores/temptation

The Donis Hot Sauce ✨
www.thedonishotsauce.com

Weekend Glow Candles ✨ +
www.weekendglowcandles.com

Whimsical Wicks
189 Bedford Street
www.whimsicalwickscandle.com

Zstrict at Chelsea Piers
1 Blachley Road Suite #102
www.zstrict.com

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

A Step Ahead ✨
1034 High Ridge Road
www.astepaheadfashion.com

Balloon's and Beyond ✨
Stamford Town Center, Level 5
www.balloonsandbeyondct.com

Balloons at the Curb ✨
www.balloonsatthecurb.com

Candy Connection ✨ +
www.candyconnectionct.com

Cove Tent Company
64 Research Drive
www.covetentcompany.com

Curated Creations ✨ +
www.curatedcreations.bottle.com

IBounceCT ✨
www.ibouncect.com

Let's Bounce Party Rentals and Fixln's ✨
www.letsbouncepartyrentals.com

Ms. Basketcase ✨ +
IG @ms.basketcase

Peter's Party Fixlins ✨
www.partyfixlins.com

QBalloons
911 Summer Street

Stamford Tent and Event Services
84 Lenox Avenue
www.stamfordtent.com

Sweet Tooth Candles ✨
www.sweettoothcandles.com

Zemo's Mens Store
242 Bedford Street
www.zemosmensstore.com

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Beyond Fitness ✨
1051 Long Ridge Road
www.beyondfitness.studio

Break Thru Fitness ✨
48 Union Street
www.breakthrustamford.com

Carozza Fitness
316 Courtland Avenue
www.carozzafitness.com

Crossfit Stamford
75 Selleck Street
www.crossfitstamford.com

CT Power Yoga ✨
1372 Summer Street
www.ctpoweryoga.com

Dew Yoga ✨
1051 Long Ridge Road
www.dewyoga.net

Haute Healing Oasis ✨
792 Pacific Street
www.hautehealingoasis.com

Indigo Wellness Group ✨
66 Glenbrook Road #900
www.indigowellnessgroup.com

Natural Herbal Labs ✨
103 Atlantic Street
www.naturalherballabs.com

Pickleball America
140 Atlantic Street
www.pickleballamerica.us

Relax Now Massage ✨
Stamford Town Center, Level 4
www.relaxnowstamford.com

The Art of Control ✨
Stamford Town Center, Level 4
www.artofcontrol.com

The Body Reflex Fit and Wellness ✨
22 Knapp St Suite 303
www.thebodyreflex.com

Wellness Experts
Stamford Town Center, Level 3
https://wellness-experts.buildmassage.com

Xenhouse ✨
6 Dyke Lane
www.thexenhouse.com

✨ Women and Minority Owned Businesses
+ Online Only

For a complete Shop Local Spring Guide, visit
www.choosestamford.com

Affordable Housing Executive Order Updates

In 2023, I signed the City's first Affordable Housing Executive Order, with the goal of **creating or renovating 1,000 affordable housing units by 2025**. Over **637 units** have been completed or are in the pipeline for completion for newly built or renovated units. Below is a snapshot of affordable housing projects that are expected to be completed or under construction over the next year:

- 36 Ann Street (Pacific House) - new construction of 11 rooms for supportive housing; \$375,000 allocated from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- Oak Park Phase 1 (Charter Oak Communities) - redevelopment of 61 affordable rental units (25% - 60% AMI); \$3,452,012 awarded in fee-in-lieu through the Below Market Rate (BMR) Program, \$1,250,000 allocated from the FY2024-2025 Capital Budget and \$750,000 from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- 41-45 Stillwater Avenue (Pacific House) - new construction of 43 supportive housing units; \$750,000 allocated from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- Stamford Manor Phase 1 (Charter Oak Communities) - preservation of 215 deeply affordable senior housing units; allocated \$1,000,000 from the Capital Budget.
- There are 105 on-site BMR units under construction right now, contributing to the more than 1,200 affordable units in the program.
- Proposed dedicating \$2M from FY23 surplus to transfer into the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure Priorities

- **Schools**
 - \$1.5 Billion School Construction Plan - largest in city's history
- **Roads, Sidewalks, and Pedestrian Safety**
 - Pave Stamford Initiative - doubled road paving in 2023, paved 35 roads thus far in 2024; goal is to pave 200 roads by 2025.
 - Launched new Stamford Sidewalks initiative
 - Pedestrian Safety improvements
- **Train Station**
 - New Parking Garage and progress on Stamford Transportation Center Master Plan
- **Parks, Beaches, and Marinas**
 - Continuing to prioritize investments in Stamford's parks, beaches and marinas
 - Launched the city's first Parks Strategic Plan, which aims to manage and invest in the future sustainability of the city's park system.
 - Created new Stamford Parks Community Partnership

Infrastructure Projects - Roads, Sidewalks, and Pedestrian Safety



Infrastructure Projects: Schools

Stamford High School



Westhill High School



Strawberry Hill School



Julia Stark Elementary School



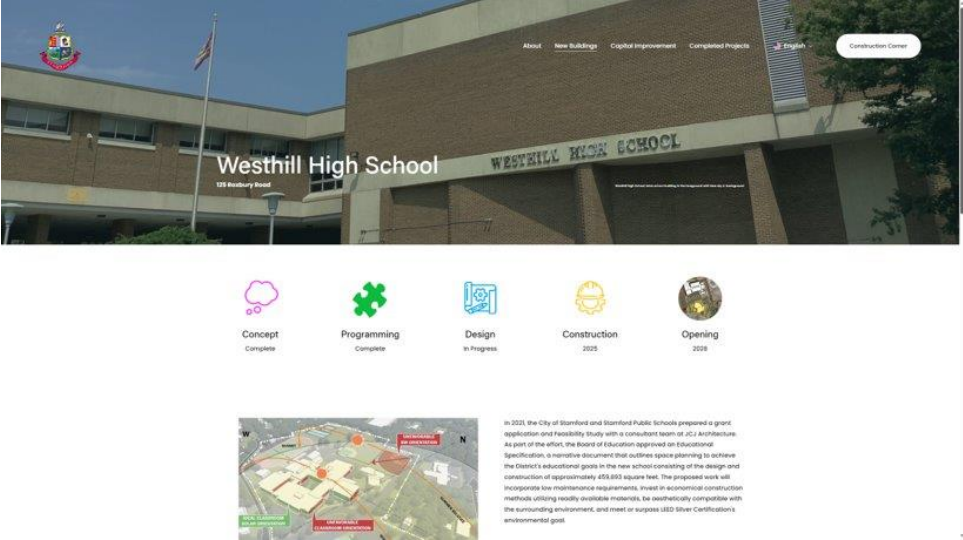
Westover



Newfield Elementary School



New Stamford Public Schools (SPS) Builds Website



Visit: spsbuilds.com or scan the QR code

Infrastructure Projects: Parks and Sustainability

Carwin Park



Cummings Park



West Beach Boat Ramp



Barrett Park Playground



Susan Nabel Park at Chestnut Hill



Jackie Robinson Park



Stamford Parks Community Partnership



- The Stamford Parks Community Partnership, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, was created to foster strong collaboration between the city, local businesses, and residents in developing and maintaining Stamford's parks system and recreational areas.
- The Partnership will leverage private funding to ensure Stamford's parks remain accessible and sustainable for future generations. It already has several corporate commitments, including from Wellbuilt Co., Henkel, Philip Morris International, and the Ashforth Company, as well as a dollar for dollar match up to \$100,000 commitment from Dalio Education.

To learn more, visit: <https://www.ourstamfordparks.org/>.

Stamford Transportation Center



Climate Change Executive Order Updates

In April 2023, I signed the City of Stamford's first Executive Order Addressing Climate Change and Sustainability, with the goal of promoting energy efficiency measures at municipal buildings, prioritizing green infrastructure projects, and creating a city Climate Action Plan. Below is a snapshot of the progress we have made toward these goals:

- Solar panel installation has been approved for four schools - Westover, Stamford High, Strawberry Hill, and Rogers.
- Approximately 3,000 of our 10,000 streetlights have been converted to longer life, high-efficiency, LED fixtures.
- Expansion of the Food Scrap Recycling and Composting Program, including the purchase and installation of four new dehydrators and drop-off bins to be installed in locations throughout the city.
- Secured state funding to develop climate resiliency plans, including the COOLER Stamford Heat Resilience Action Plan focusing on the West Side, Waterside, and Downtown neighborhoods; the Toilsome Brook Flood Resiliency Plan to evaluate flooding and draining issues near the Ridgeway-Bullshead area; the Cummings Pond Area Flood and Ecological Resiliency Plan, which will conduct a hydrologic and hydraulic analysis to determine ways to mitigate flooding at Cummings Pond.
- Conducting a GIS tree inventory to help identify street tree planting opportunities, with the goal of planting 400 additional trees focusing on the West Side, East Side, South End, Downtown, and Waterside neighborhoods.

Responsive Government

Walk-In Permitting Center



- Established a permanent walk-in permitting center on the 7th floor of the Government Center.
- Provides residents with an opportunity to get in-person assistance from city officials regarding the permitting process related to residential and minor commercial projects.
- Next walk-in hours: Wednesday, July 10th from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm. Hours occur every other Wednesday.
- Average permitting wait time has been reduced from two years to 90 days.

Responsive Government Initiatives

My administration is committed to making government work better and be more responsive to residents' needs. Below is a snapshot of the progress we have made toward these goals:

- Held dozens of Citizen Service Hubs, Coffee Hours, and Town Hall forums in locations across our city to meet directly with residents and hear more about the issues that matter most to them.
- Distributed \$75,000 as part of the Community Microgrant Program toward specific projects aimed at improving the quality of life across Stamford's neighborhoods; in 2024, there were 38 recipients who received grant awards ranging between \$400 and \$3,500.
- Enhanced the Fix It Stamford dashboard.
- Made the Stamfordct.gov website accessible in over 100 languages.



Mayor's Literacy Initiative



- Launched in 2023, the Mayor's Literacy Initiative aims to boost awareness about the importance of literacy. In collaboration with Stamford Public Schools' Birth to Five committee, the Ferguson Library, and Stamford Cradle to Career's Early Grade Reading Community Action Network, the initiative's goal is to assist children to read at grade-level by third grade.
- The initiative has hosted two successful community events including bilingual read-a-louds, free book giveaways, literacy-focused arts & crafts activities, and expanding access to local community resources.

Veterans Resource Center



- Established in February 2023, the Stamford Veterans Resource Center is a place for veterans and their families to be empowered, directed, and connected to available resources and services. It is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.
- 200 veterans have been helped since the opening of the center.
- Peer Support and Family Support Groups occur every first and third Wednesday of the month at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm.
- Additional workshops include suicide awareness training, CPR/First aid training, vocational training, and legal service seminars.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives

The Office of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility Strategies (IDEAS) for the City of Stamford has undertaken several initiatives to ensure we are being responsive to residents and our employees in equitable and accessible ways. Below is a snapshot of the progress we have made toward these goals:

- Nearly half of all city employees, Boards, and Commissions, and a dozen community organizations have gone through an I.D.E.A.S. training.
- Held the first Diversity Breakfast in partnership with the American Jewish Committee.
- Organize community and cultural celebrations and flag raisings.
- Established Juneteenth as a City Holiday and held two citywide Juneteenth celebrations
- Appointed 75 individuals to city boards and commissions.



Public Safety

Stamford Regional Police Academy



- In May, the Regional Police Academy opened at the Stamford Police Department headquarters. The academy offers Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) classes for groups of 30 recruit officers from across Region 1 of the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, which includes 14 municipalities in southwest Connecticut.
- Nine Stamford Police Department recruits were part of the first class to train at this academy.

Gun Safety Ordinance



- In recognition of June as Gun Violence Awareness Month, I was joined by gun safety advocates and public safety officials to sign Stamford's first ordinance banning firearms and explosives from municipal buildings and polling locations.

Public Safety Investments

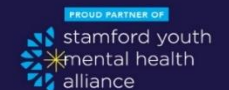
- **911 Call Center Enhancements and Second Fire Department Incident Commander** - Civilianized the 911 call center and added a second career Incident Commander, known as Unit 5, to serve the newly designated "Northern District," and to expand city-wide fire department coverage. This area extends from Bulls Head and Glenbrook, northward to New Canaan and the New York State line.
- **Cybersecurity Enhancements** - implemented comprehensive cybersecurity upgrades and launched a Secure Cyber City initiative in partnership with the Center for Internet Security
- **School Safety Communications** - improved emergency communications for school safety, including a monthly emergency test text message; implemented one-way radios in the dispatch centers into all the school building administrative offices.
- **Formalized Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** - created a formalized board for the CERT team, including representation from the Police Department, Fire Department, and Health Department.
- **Stamford Youth Mental Health Alliance** - launched the first marketing campaign, "Don't carry it alone. We've got you," aimed at spreading awareness to Stamford students of the mental health resources available in our community. Published a mental health resource guide in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole.



our kids' **mental health**
matters!

don't carry it alone.

WE'VE GOT YOU



StamfordYouthMentalHealthAlliance.org

State & Federal Funding

State Bonding & Grants

In partnership with Governor Ned Lamont and Stamford's legislative delegation, the City secured state funding for the following projects aimed at improving quality of life. **In total, over \$200 million in state reimbursement** has been secured for school construction costs, and over **\$13 million in grants** for other infrastructure and resiliency projects.

➤ **School Construction:**

- Westhill High School - original award in FY22 for \$257,938,824; increased in FY23 to \$301,313,888 due to cost escalation.
- Roxbury School - \$51,600,000 approved in FY23.
- South School (Upper and Lower) - \$158,335,408 approved in FY24

➤ **HVAC Indoor Air Quality Improvements:**

- Stamford Public Schools was awarded \$2.7 million in state reimbursement for HVAC projects in seven schools including Julia Stark, Davenport, Cloonan Middle, Stamford High, Westover, Rippowam, and Northeast.

➤ **Resiliency Projects:**

- \$598,125 to evaluate flooding issues in the Toilsome Brook watershed
- \$481,125 to address stormwater flooding in the Cummings Park watershed
- \$210,750 to develop neighborhood heat plan for Downtown, the West Side, and Waterside

➤ **Infrastructure Projects:**

- \$3M for Government Center improvements, ADA upgrades to sidewalks, green infrastructure, and food truck parking
- \$2.5M to develop a shared, micro-mobility pilot program to provide on-demand transit service to residents within a five-mile radius serving the West Side, East Side, South End, and Downtown
- \$2M for roadway safety improvements at the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Richmond Hill Avenue and \$2M for pedestrian safety improvements around the Springdale Train Station, and \$1M for sidewalks on Long Ridge Road
- \$223,608 for the planning and design of the Weed Avenue Multi-Use Trail

Federal Funding

Working in partnership with our federal delegation, the City of Stamford will benefit from over **\$54 million in federal funding investments** for the following projects:

- **Federal Transit Administration:** \$26M for 20 electric buses for the CT Transit Stamford division
- **Department of Transportation:**
 - \$17M for Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant for West Side Neighborhood Connector Project
 - \$2.1M Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to revitalize the West Main Street Corridor
 - \$2M Safe Streets and Roads for All grant for school sidewalk improvements
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):** \$2.7M BRIC grant for pump station improvements
- **National Park Service:** \$1.81M Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership grant for improvements to Boccuzzi Park
- **Department of Agriculture:** \$1M Urban and Community Forestry grant for street trees
- **Department of Labor:** \$513K workforce development grant for pre-apprenticeship programs and job training for students
- **Department of Justice:** \$133K body-worn camera policy and implementation program.
- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):**
 - \$2.1M SWIFR grant to expand city's Food Scrap Recycling and Composting Program
 - \$68K enhanced air quality monitoring grant
- **National Endowment for the Arts:** \$25K grant for mural at the Stamford Train Station garage

2024 Priorities

- Continue to make progress on infrastructure priorities, with a focus on the Stamford Train Station, schools, roads, sidewalks, pedestrian safety, parks, and sustainability projects.
- Advancing economic prosperity for residents, including attracting and retaining businesses and jobs, supporting small businesses and startups, expanding workforce development initiatives, and increasing new and renovated affordable housing units.
- Making government more responsive to residents to enhance quality of life by continuing to improve permitting process, Fix It Stamford, Veterans Resource Center programming, public safety enhancements, and hosting community forums for residents.

Conclusion

- The state of our city is strong and vibrant.
- We are on a path of economic growth and our city finances are strong.
- Stamford continues to innovate and adapt to our rapidly changing world and addressing the critical needs of our residents.
- There is more work to do and together, let's continue to move our city forward!



Thank You!

