

# Town of East Hartford

## Plan of Conservation & Development



Planning & Zoning Commission Kickoff Meeting  
September 13, 2023



BFJ Planning

# Agenda

- 1 Introductions**
- 2 Project Overview**
- 3 Discussion of Issues, Opportunities, and Priorities**

# Introductions

## P&Z Commission

**John Ryan – Chair**

**Henry Pawlowski – Vice Chair**

**Peter Marra**

**Carol Noel**

**Valentine Povinelli**

**Stephen Roczynski**

**Sidney Soderholm**

**Wesaneit Tsegai**

## Consultant and Town Team

**Susan Favate, AICP, PP – Principal in Charge**

**Thomas Madden, AICP – Associate Principal, Founders Plaza**

**Christine Jimenez, LEED AP ND – Project Manager**

**Georges Jacquemart, PE AICP PP – Principal, Transportation**

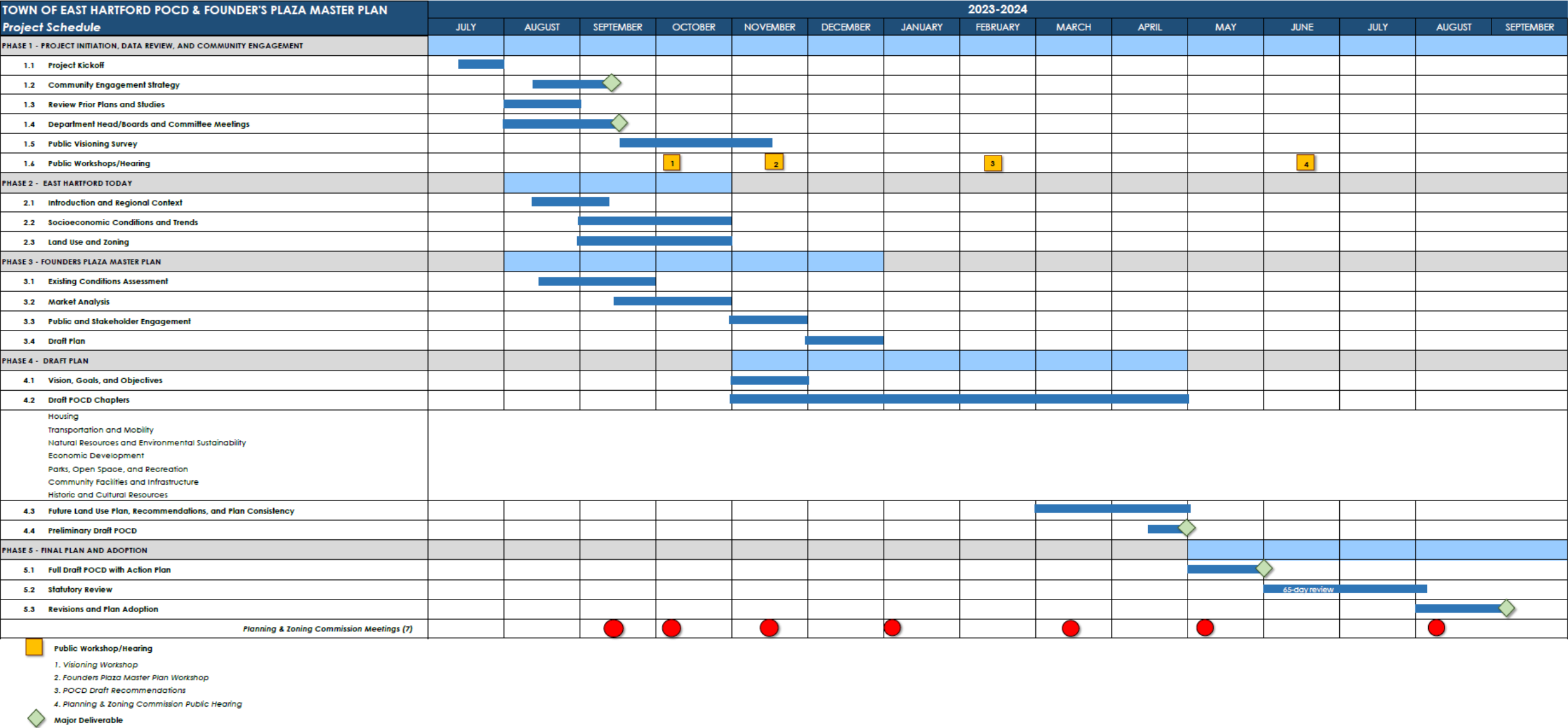
**Mark Freker – Associate, Transportation**

**Eileen Buckheit – Director of Development**

**Steve Hnatuk – Deputy Development Director**

**Carlene Shaw – Town Planner**

# Project Overview: POCD Timeline



# Project Overview: What Have We Done So Far?

## Town Staff Meetings

**Kickoff with Development Department – July 13, 2023**

**Kickoff with Mayor's Office – July 13, 2023**

**Public Library – August 23, 2023**

**East Hartford Works – August 28, 2023**

**Youth Services – August 28, 2023**

**Economic Development, Finance, & Grants – August 31, 2023**

**Parks, Recreation, & Sustainability – August 31, 2023**

**Senior Services – September 13, 2023**

## Boards and Commissions Meetings

**Commission on Aging – September 6, 2023**

**Commission on Culture & Fine Arts – September 13, 2023**

**Veterans Commission – September 13, 2023**

**Economic Development Commission – September 13, 2023**

# Project Overview: Stakeholder Meetings Still to Come

## Town Staff Meetings

**Public Works, Engineering & Public Safety – TBD**

## Boards and Commissions Meetings

**Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities – September 14, 2023**

**Redevelopment Agency – September 20, 2023**

**Historic District Commission – TBD**

**Housing Authority – TBD**

**Zoning Board of Appeals – TBD**

# Project Overview: Community Engagement

- Three (3) in-person public workshops (one focused on Founders Plaza)
- Online visioning survey via Social Pinpoint
- Additional targeted stakeholder meetings (e.g. on Founders Plaza)
- Web presence (Town website)
- Public hearing

# Project Overview: Online Visioning

Please add your suggestions on how Downtown Millburn can be improved.  
(Click on a category below to enter a comment)



Parks and Open Space



Sidewalks and Streetscape



Traffic and Parking



Arts, Culture, and Events



Shopping and Restaurants



Other Comments

Permanently eliminate the parking meters on Millburn Avenue (OK to enforce time limits). The current situation discourages potential customers from shopping in Millburn for fear of getting a parking ticket from an expired meter.

View the discussion

4 days ago

Like Dislike

Economic development is key. Like Montclair (I work there), rents are too expensive, so you don't get the longterm look like you do in New Hope, Chatham, Madison, Morristown. What are the secrets of those towns? We should highlight our beautiful South Mountain Reservation and Taylor Park, but if we can't handle that "all we care about is money" look, then we will not be successful, and a lot of our stores will stand empty very often. Honor the merchants, and you'll honor the town.

View the discussion

5 days ago

Like Dislike

Provide disabled access to NJ Transit. (Elevator to the platform + platform to train access without the steep stairs.)

View the discussion

6 days ago

Like Dislike

The town should upgrade the interior of the Bauer Community Center so that it could be repurposed as an Arts & Community Center. The cost would be minimal and the facility would have far many more usages such as art shows, lectures, indoor concerts, displays, school demonstrations, etc. This will drive more community engagement and also bring more people to the downtown. A win for the community and for local businesses.

View the discussion

4 days ago

Like Dislike

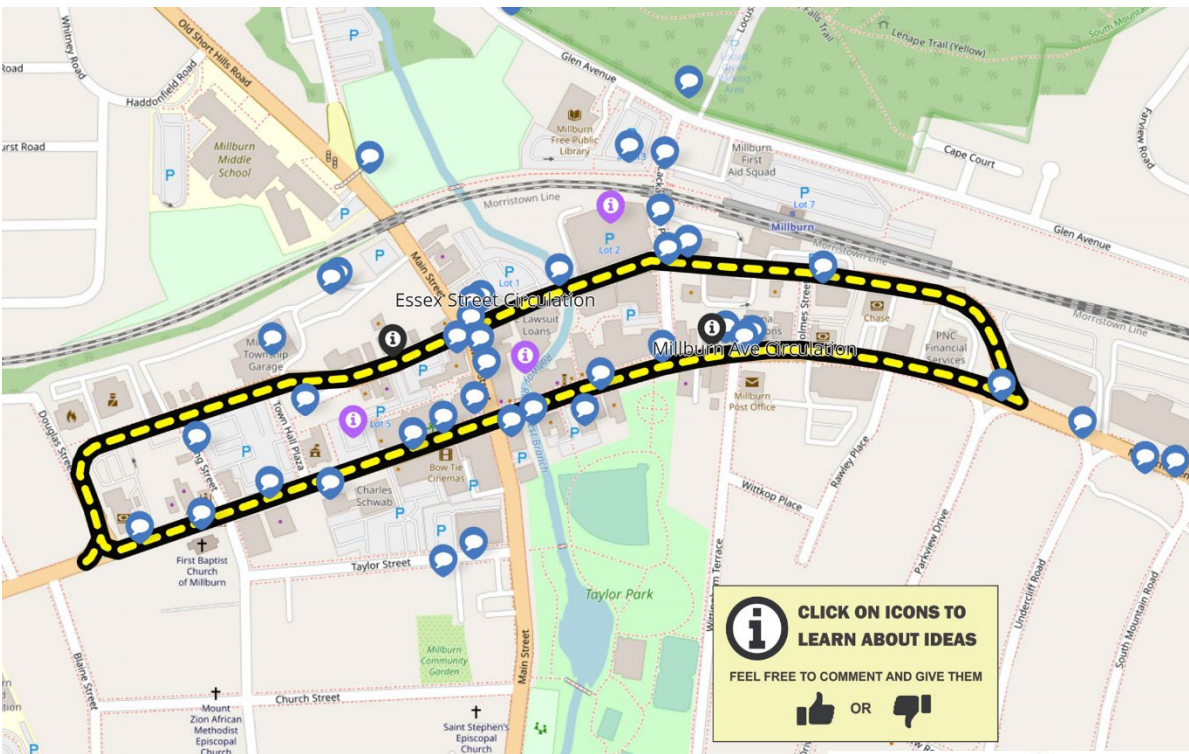
Please give the complete streets renovations on Millburn Ave a chance. Take away the parking and use the full extent of the large sidewalk for outdoor dining and shopping. There should be no parking on Millburn Ave there and it would be so much more friendly and a nice place to spend time in. We need more bike lanes!!! I often ride my bike into town and to the park but am afraid to ride on Millburn ave.

View the discussion

5 days ago

Like Dislike

Would love to have quick dining (sandwiches, small food) that is healthy, preferably in a nice new installation with friendly people. We need more hipster places like Liv breads where meals can be balanced, individualized (rather than another giant



**Ideas Wall: 161 comments**  
**Public survey: 735 participants**  
**Interactive Map: 205 comments**



# Discussion Questions

- What has changed in East Hartford in the past 10 years? What hasn't (and what should)?
- What do you see as the three most significant issues that the POCD should address?
- What are some of the top priorities of the P&Z Commission? Any initiatives that we should know about?
- Where in the Town are you seeing disconnects between zoning and desired development?
- Are there uses that you see applicants seeking that are not accommodated by the zoning code?

# Discussion Questions

- Are there specific policy or regulatory changes that you think are needed to support the broad range of housing needed in East Hartford?
- What is your perspective on existing development on the upper Main Street corridor? What changes are needed? What should be retained?
- Any issues with existing historic districts? Are there additional areas you think should be designated?
- Any other specific areas in Town that need particular focus?

# Thank You!

