



# Los Angeles' Department of City Planning: Reshaping the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Metropolis



Los Angeles – the nation's second-largest city – is currently undergoing a dramatic transformation with its Department of City Planning (DCP) at the forefront of reshaping the city into a dynamic, sustainable 21st century urban center.

Los Angeles' planning issues and opportunities are unparalleled, as DCP works to serve a city of 4,000,000 residents, 469 square miles, 35 Community Plan Areas, and 15 City Council Districts, plus unique geography and diversity that offer a little of

everything – from hillside areas to coastal zones, and from vibrant urban centers to rustic, semi-rural settings with equestrian trails.

Much as the freeway system defined Los Angeles in the past century, the creation of an extensive regional transit network is redefining Los Angeles for the 21st century. With the passage of Measure R, a half-cent sales tax, the region is making an unprecedented investment in its rail transit system. DCP's talented and creative staff members are capitalizing on



this new investment to lay the groundwork for more livable, transit-oriented, vibrant communities throughout the city. Mixed use development that combines multi-family housing with ground floor commercial is becoming the new norm. Catalytic projects near transit

stations are providing economic revitalization, new housing opportunities and more sustainable development. And the City is shifting toward policies that emphasize livability, walkability, and "Complete Streets."

## Some of the Department's most far-reaching planning initiatives include:



### Transit-Oriented District (TOD) Planning

(<http://www.latnp.org>), supported by \$7.5 million in grant funds from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), creating focused "Transit Neighborhood Plans" along five emerging transit corridors that will include land-use incentives for vibrant, transit-oriented development, attractive streetscapes, and new community amenities



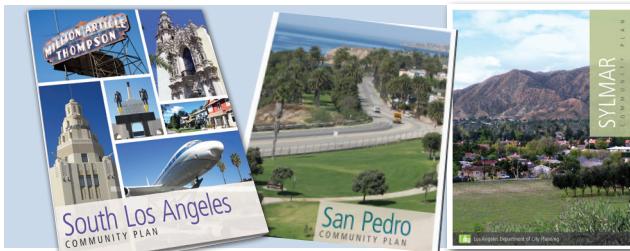
**re:code LA** (<http://recode.la/>), the first comprehensive overhaul of the City's outdated zoning regulations since 1946, applying state-of-the-art zoning tools to implement the City's planning vision that will make the development process more certain for all users. The project will deliver a new Downtown Code and a Citywide Zoning Code, as well as a first-of-its-kind, interactive web-based code system.



**Mobility Plan 2035** (<http://la2b.org/>), a transformative citywide policy plan that will replace a 1990s Transportation Element of the City's General Plan and shift Los Angeles' mobility policies toward "Complete Streets" principles, including new street standards and classifications and new linked networks to prioritize street enhancements that will better serve bicyclists, transit users and pedestrians



**The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles** (<http://healthyplan.la/>), the new Health and Wellness Element of the General Plan, introducing the lens of public health to land-use planning and decision-making, and making Los Angeles the first large city in the nation to include a health element in its General Plan



**New Community Plans**, comprehensive plans for communities that are the size of most mid-sized cities, creating new visions and accompanying regulations and incentives for several key areas of the city, including the entire South Los Angeles region and Boyle Heights



**SurveyLA** (<http://www.surveyla.org/>), the Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey, a partnership between DCP's Office of Historic Resources (OHR) and the J. Paul Getty Trust, the nation's largest, most ambitious initiative to document a city's architectural and cultural heritage, honored with the American Planning Association's National Planning Excellence Award for Public Outreach



**The Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) program** within the OHR, ([www.preservation.lacity.org](http://www.preservation.lacity.org)), the second largest historic district program in the nation, providing protections for 29 diverse and cherished historic neighborhoods, in all corners of the city



**The Urban Design Studio** (<http://urbandesignla.com/>), which serves as an invaluable resource to planners, project applicants, and other City departments, injecting principles of walkability, connectivity, and quality design into the Department's project review and policy development



**Citywide Design Guidelines**, adopted by the City Planning Commission in 2013, providing the City's first-ever compilation of baseline commercial, multi-family, and industrial urban design guidelines, "raising the bar" on the City's expectations for quality design across the city



**The River Implementation Ordinance (RIO)**, a centerpiece of the City's significant efforts to revitalize the Los Angeles River and create a true sense of place within riverfront communities, following decades of the River's encasement in a concrete channel



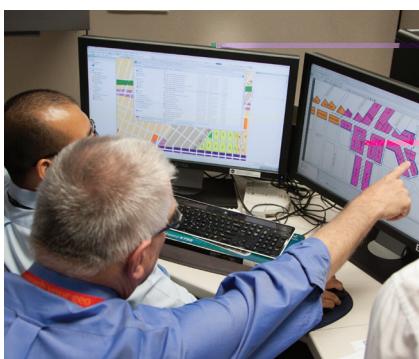
**Development Services Centers**, one-stop shops in Downtown Los Angeles and in Van Nuys where project applicants and business can access services related to the NBC Universal expansion, Millennium Hollywood, the Los Angeles Event Center/NFL Stadium, and the Wilshire Grand tower in Downtown Los Angeles



**Project Review**, which allows the Department to help shape development projects, large and small, across the city, including the implementation of numerous Specific Plans and design overlays reflecting neighborhood-based community visions



**Technology innovations**, including ZIMAS, the Zone Information and Map Access System (<http://zimas.lacity.org>), an invaluable Geographic Information System (GIS) resource for those seeking parcel-specific information for lots within the City of Los Angeles, and a Planning mobile app (LA DCP Toolkit) available on both iOS and Android devices, to track the status of any pending request for planning or zoning approval



After many years of staffing and budget cutbacks, DCP

seize these new opportunities and shape proposed new

