Staff**: Committee on Parks and Recreation**

Kris Sartori, Senior Counsel

Patrick Mulvihill, Senior Policy Analyst

Michael Sherman, Senior Finance Analyst

Rose Martinez, Assistant Deputy Director

Nicholas Montalbano, Senior Data Scientist

## 

##### **THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL**

**BRIEFING PAPER OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE DIVISION**

Andrea Vazquez, *Legislative Director*

Bradley J. Reid, *Deputy Director*

**COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION**

Hon. Shekar Krishnan*, Chairperson*

December 21, 2022

**Int. No. 174-A:** By Council Members Krishnan, Cabán, Stevens, Hanif, Brewer, Won, Restler, Marte, Nurse, Williams, Holden, Yeger, Bottcher, Riley, Powers, Brooks-Powers, Gennaro, Menin, Narcisse, Hudson, Brannan, Schulman, Velázquez, Louis, Avilés, Farías, Ayala, Dinowitz, Ung, Ossé and Carr (by request of the Manhattan Borough President)

**Title:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to reporting on park capital expenditures

**Admin Code:** Adds section 18-145

**Int. No. 680-A:** By Council MembersKrishnan, Louis, Yeger, Riley, Restler, Hanif, Hudson, Ung, Won, Gutiérrez, Holden, Gennaro, Menin, Narcisse, Brannan, Joseph, Cabán, Bottcher, Abreu, Brooks-Powers, Farías, Velázquez, De La Rosa, Avilés, Nurse, Ayala, Joseph, Brewer, Schulman, Powers, Rivera, Marte, Dinowitz, Ossé and Carr

**Title:** A Local Law in relation to a survey to determine the feasibility of creating small parks and green spaces on public streets with dead ends and vacant city-owned land near streets with dead ends

**Int. No. 842-A:** By Council Members Krishnan, Brooks-Powers, Narcisse, Hudson, Brannan, Riley, Hanif, Menin, Velázquez, Louis, Yeger, Joseph, Stevens, Richardson Jordan, Farías, Restler, Lee, Avilés, Williams, De La Rosa, Ayala, Ung, Cabán, Dinowitz, Ossé, Carr and Kagan

**Title:** A Local Law in relation to requiring the department of parks and recreation to develop a strategy to reduce the duration of its capital projects

**Introduction**

On December 21, 2022, the Committee on Parks and Recreation, chaired by Council Member Shekar Krishnan, held a hearing to vote on Int. No. 174-A, A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to reporting on park capital expenditures, Int. No. 680-A, A Local Law in relation to a survey to determine the feasibility of creating small parks and green spaces on public streets with dead ends and vacant city-owned land near streets with dead ends and Int. No. 842-A, A Local Law in relation to requiring the department of parks and recreation to develop a strategy to reduce the duration of its capital projects. At this hearing, the Committee voted 10 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions on the bill. These bills were originally heard at a hearing held on December 6, 2022, during which the Committee received testimony from the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), parks advocates and other interested parties. More information about these bills, along with the materials for that hearing, can be accessed [here](https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=1053395&GUID=8C3BF9A1-92F7-4B72-AAD1-00F1A7D8D944&Options=&Search=).

**Legislation**

Below is a brief summary of the legislation being considered today by the Committee. These summaries are intended for informational purposes only and does not substitute for legal counsel. For more detailed information, you should review the full text of the bills, which are attached below.

**Int. No. 174-A, A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to reporting on park capital expenditures**

Int. No. 174-A would require DPR to expand its web based capital projects tracker to include more detailed information regarding its capital projects, including the total number of projects in its portfolio, the reasons for any delays, the dates projects were fully funded, projected and actual cost overruns, individual sources of funding and the length of time it took to complete each project.

This local law would take effect on the same date that section 4 of local law number 37 for the year 2020 takes effect.

**Int. No. 680-A, A Local Law in relation to a survey to determine the feasibility of creating small parks and green spaces on public streets with dead ends and vacant city-owned land near streets with dead ends**

Int. No. 680-A would require an agency or office designated by the mayor, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection, DPR, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Citywide Administrative Services and any other appropriate agency, to review sites, owned by the city of New York in residential zones in each borough, on streets with dead ends and vacant land in close proximity to such streets, and land that abuts highway entrances, underpasses and exits, that are suitable for the planting of trees or other vegetation, or for establishing bioswales, small parks or other green spaces.. The survey would prioritize sites located in environmental justice communities. The survey would have to be submitted to the Mayor and the Speaker of the Council by April, 1 2024, and would include an analysis of the condition of each surveyed site, as well as the feasibility of planting trees or other vegetation or the installation of bioswales, small parks or other green spaces, a description of the necessary steps associated with installing these features, as well as an estimate of the length of time and the overall cost to do so for each site.

This local law would take effect immediately.

**Int. No. 842-A, A Local Law in relation to requiring the department of parks and recreation to develop a strategy to reduce the duration of its capital projects**

Int. No. 842-A would require DPR to prepare a strategy, in coordination with other city agencies as appropriate, to reduce the duration of capital projects by at least 25 percent. The strategy would review, at a minimum, early completion incentives; standardization of processes, timelines, and forms; coordination with utility companies; and possible changes to regulatory barriers. The strategy would have to be submitted to the Mayor and the Speaker of the Council by no later than December 1, 2023.

This local law would take effect immediately.

Int. No. 174-A

By Council Members Krishnan, Cabán, Stevens, Hanif, Brewer, Won, Restler, Marte, Nurse, Williams, Holden, Yeger, Bottcher, Riley, Powers, Brooks-Powers, Gennaro, Menin, Narcisse, Hudson, Brannan, Schulman, Velázquez, Louis, Avilés, Farías, Ayala , Dinowitz, Ung, Ossé and Carr (by request of the Manhattan Borough President)

..Title

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to reporting on park capital expenditures

..Body

 Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 1 of title 18 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 18-145 to read as follows:

§ 18-145 Reporting on capital project expenditures in parks. a. For each capital project, under the jurisdiction of the department for which certain data is posted on the public online capital projects database pursuant to section 5-108, the department shall post on the website of the department, the status of each such capital project. Such information shall be updated on a triannual basis and include:

1. The actual or estimated starting date and actual or estimated completion date of the current phase of such project;

2. The total amount of funds allocated to such project or, when applicable, a range of the funds available;

3. The identification of each separate source of funding allocated to such project;

4. A description of such project;

5. The location of such project, specified by borough and community district;

6. The date such project was first assigned to an employee of the department;

7. A description of any phase of such capital project that is delayed and the reason for such delay; and

8. A description of any projected or actual cost overrun for each phase of such project.

b. The department shall also post on its website the total number of capital projects that were completed during the most recent fiscal year, the average amount of time taken to complete such projects, measured from the date when the design phase of each project was initiated to the date construction was completed, the total number of capital projects currently under the jurisdiction of the department, a description of potential reasons for any addition or subtraction made to the funding allocations for capital projects, and a description of potential reasons for delay for capital projects.

§ 2. This local law takes effect on the same date that section 4 of local law number 37 for the year 2020 takes effect, as set forth in section 5 of such local law.

Session 12

KS

LS #6727

12/13/22 9:30 PM

Session 11

KS

LS 1161

Int #161-2018

Int. No. 680-A

By Council Members Krishnan, Louis, Yeger, Riley, Restler, Hanif, Hudson, Ung, Won, Gutiérrez, Holden, Gennaro, Menin, Narcisse, Brannan, Joseph, Cabán, Bottcher, Abreu, Brooks-Powers, Farías, Velázquez, De La Rosa, Avilés, Nurse, Ayala, Joseph, Brewer, Schulman Powers, Rivera, Marte, Dinowitz, Ossé and Carr

..Title

A Local Law in relation to a survey to determine the feasibility of creating small parks and green spaces on public streets with dead ends and vacant city-owned land near streets with dead ends..Body

 Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. An agency or office designated by the mayor, in consultation with the department of environmental protection, the department of parks and recreation, the department of transportation, the department of citywide administrative services and any other appropriate agency, shall review sites, owned by the city of New York in residential zones in each borough, on streets with dead ends and vacant land in close proximity to such streets, and land that abuts highway entrances, underpasses and exits, that are suitable for the planting of trees or other vegetation, or for establishing bioswales, small parks or other green spaces. Such designated agency or office shall develop a methodology to identify which such sites to review, provided that in identifying such sites, such agency considers requests from council members, community boards and members of the public to review a site, and prioritizes the review of identified sites that are in environmental justice areas, as defined in section 3-1001 of the administrative code of the city of New York.

§ 2. No later than April 1, 2024, the designated agency shall submit to the mayor and speaker of the council a report of all sites reviewed pursuant to section one of this local law. Such report shall also include: an analysis of the condition of each such site; the feasibility of planting trees or other vegetation or the installation of bioswales, small parks or other green spaces; a description of the necessary steps associated with installing any such feature; an estimated length of time that would be needed to install such features; and an estimate of the overall cost to do so.

§ 3. This local law takes effect immediately.

KS

LS # 4005

12/13/22 10:16PM

Int. No. 842-A

By Council Members Krishnan, Brooks-Powers, Narcisse, Hudson, Brannan, Riley, Hanif, Menin, Velázquez, Louis, Yeger, Joseph, Stevens, Richardson Jordan, Farías, Restler, Lee, Avilés, Williams, De La Rosa, Ayala Ung, Cabán, Dinowitz, Ossé, Carr and Kagan

..Title

A Local Law in relation to requiring the department of parks and recreation to develop a strategy to reduce the duration of its capital projects

..Body

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. No later than December 1, 2023, the department of parks and recreation shall, in coordination with other agencies as appropriate, prepare and submit to the mayor and the speaker of the council, and post on its website, a strategy aiming to reduce the average duration of its capital projects by at least 25 percent. Such strategy shall consider, at a minimum, the use of early completion incentives, opportunities to standardize capital project processes, timelines, and forms, potential improvements in coordination with utility companies, and other reductions to regulatory barriers that may be considered.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately.

Session 12

ARP/KS

LS #10755

12/13/22 6:30PM