



## **POCD FACT SHEET**

**for the public engagement meeting September 30, 2024**

The POCD is a statutorily required document prepared by the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) every 10 years. The previous POCD was dated 2012. Due to the pandemic, Connecticut's Office of Policy Management (OPM) has allowed us a grace period to complete the document in 2024.

The POCD is a prospective planning document for the next decade and beyond. Adoption in calendar year 2024 is essential for Salisbury to continue to receive discretionary State funding. Discretionary State funding contributes to municipal projects including infrastructure improvements, brownfield remediation, and acquiring open space.

### **Timeline and Benchmarks**

Following the September 30<sup>th</sup> public engagement meeting, comments and suggestions will be evaluated and incorporated into the POCD for review and approval by the PZC at their October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Any edits by the PZC must be completed by October 10<sup>th</sup> as we will begin our statutorily required 65-day review period by the Salisbury Board of Selectmen (BOS) and the Northwest Hills Council of Governments (COG). *Please note that the deadline for written comments ends on September 30<sup>th</sup>.*

During this 65-day review period, the BOS may choose to hold one or more public hearings on the POCD and will subsequently endorse or reject the POCD (or any part thereof) and/or may submit comments and recommended changes to the PZC. The PZC has the legal authority to adopt the POCD with or without the recommended changes of the BOS. However, any portion of the POCD that is not endorsed by the BOS, may only be adopted by a vote of no fewer than two-thirds of the members of the PZC (four members).

Following the reviews by the BOS and COG, a final draft POCD will be presented for adoption at a public hearing held by the PZC in December. Therefore, we need your comments *NOW* if we are to complete this project in 2024 and maintain Salisbury's eligibility for discretionary State funding.

### **What is the POCD and How is it Used?**

By Statute the POCD is a document of the PZC. Once adopted, it serves as a guide for decision making. Under Connecticut General Statute 8-24\*, a referral to the PZC is required for action on

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municipal improvements and land acquisitions to ensure that such expenditures and actions are consistent with the long-term community needs articulated in the POCD.

As the POCD is a catalog of ideas and concepts we have endeavored to be expansive, reflecting the entire range of possibilities that could occur within the next decade. Therefore, we are requesting the following:

- Have we missed something important such as a community need that should be included?
- Are there ambiguities or confusion in the manner the topics and strategies are presented?

**\*Sec. 8-24. Municipal improvements.** No municipal agency or legislative body shall (1) locate, accept, abandon, widen, narrow or extend any street, bridge, parkway or other public way, (2) locate, relocate, substantially improve, acquire land for, abandon, sell or lease any airport, park, playground, school or other municipally owned property or public building, (3) locate or extend any public housing, development, redevelopment or urban renewal project, or (4) locate or extend public utilities and terminals for water, sewerage, light, power, transit and other purposes, until the proposal to take such action has been referred to the commission for a report.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a municipality may take final action approving an appropriation for any proposal prior to the approval of the proposal by the commission pursuant to this section. The failure of the commission to report within thirty-five days after the date of official submission of the proposal to it for a report shall be taken as approval of the proposal. In the case of the disapproval of the proposal by the commission the reasons therefor shall be recorded and transmitted to the legislative body of the municipality. A proposal disapproved by the commission shall be adopted by the municipality or, in the case of disapproval of a proposal by the commission subsequent to final action by a municipality approving an appropriation for the proposal and the method of financing of such appropriation, such final action shall be effective, only after the subsequent approval of the proposal by (A) a two-thirds vote of the town council where one exists, or a majority vote of those present and voting in an annual or special town meeting, or (B) a two-thirds vote of the representative town meeting or city council or the warden and burgesses, as the case may be. The provisions of this section shall not apply to maintenance or repair of existing property, buildings or public ways, including, but not limited to, resurfacing of roads.