

## David M. Kooris

David Kooris is the Director of the Office of Planning and Economic Development for Connecticut's most populous city, Bridgeport. In this position he manages eight divisions including Planning, Economic Development, Housing and Community Development, Anti-Blight, Neighborhood Revitalization, Land Use and Construction Review, Buildings, and Zoning. This role enables him to chart a long-range strategy for the city's revitalization grounded in its diverse neighborhoods, spur economic development in its downtown and commercial centers, and reposition thousands of acres of brownfields for sustainable redevelopment. The city's future prosperity is grounded in transportation alternatives, distributed clean energy generation, green infrastructure and coastal resiliency, and employment generation calibrated to the city's skilled workforce.

Prior to joining the City of Bridgeport, Mr. Kooris held various positions at Regional Plan Association, culminating in his role as Vice President. In this capacity he managed the organization's Connecticut and Hudson Valley programs from the Connecticut office located in Stamford's city center. Before running that office, he worked on transit-oriented development projects throughout the metropolitan region's regional rail and subway network and on growth management plans on the region's exurban edge. His work focused on helping individuals, communities, and agencies better understand the link between social, economic, and environmental factors and better position the region and its neighborhoods for a sustainable future through coordinated land use and transportation planning.

Mr. Kooris has worked on high-speed rail-oriented development, sustainability planning, and urban revitalization projects throughout the Northeast corridor as well as in Kansas City, Vancouver, Turkey, Morocco, Spain, Peru, Taiwan, and South Korea. Since the fall semester of 2012, Mr. Kooris has been a lecturer at Yale University's Graduate School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in city and regional planning practice. He is an elected official representing Stamford's 6<sup>th</sup> District – Downtown – on that city's Board of Representatives. He received an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Geography from McGill University in Montreal, Canada and a Master in City and Regional Planning and a Master Certificate in Urban Design from PennDesign at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.