Kick-Off Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: Wednesday October 24, 2012
Meeting time: 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Meeting Place: The Hawthorne Center, Multi-purpose Room
Attendance: 34 plus staff
Agenda: An overview of the planning process, discussion of issues and concerns, overview of maps and prioritization of issues

Prioritization of Issues
Meeting participants were asked to assign a high, medium or low priority to a list of 78 issues. The list of issues had been developed through a series of interviews and focus groups meetings held prior to the Kick-off meeting. The issues given the highest priorities were:

1. High back taxes can exceed the property value, which discourages re-use.
2. Upgrades in local IndyGo bus services, such as more frequent buses and better stops.
3. (tie) Substandard housing is widespread.
3. (tie) Want walkable neighborhoods.
5. (tie) The Near West needs better ways to get people to their jobs or potential jobs.
5. (tie) Need to fast-track getting abandoned houses back onto the market.
7. (tie) Speculative real estate owners who allow their properties to deteriorate.
7. (tie) Street lighting on neighborhood streets.
7. (tie) High rate of abandoned homes in the area.

Work Groups
Four work groups have been established to explore planning issues in the Near West. The work groups will set goals and then develop projects, programs, polices and action steps related to the goals. Each group is likely to meet three to ten times. Each group will document its findings in a report. The reports of the groups will be combined with other materials to form the final plan document.

The four work groups and their topics are:

Transportation:
- Streets and Sidewalks
- Transit
- Bicycling
• Walking

Neighborhoods and Housing
• Vacant, abandoned and distressed housing
• Rental housing
• Housing market
• Code enforcement
• Safety
• Infrastructure
• Historic preservation

Redevelopment
• Industrial and commercial redevelopment
• Commercial streets
• Land use and zoning
• Urban design

Environment, parks and recreation
• Parks and recreation
• Brownfields
• White River
• Eagle Creek and Little Eagle Creek

Persons interested in being a part of these work groups should contact the Division of Planning at 327-5155 or e-mail keith.holdsworth@indy.gov.