Summary of March 1, 2011 Meeting

This meeting was rescheduled from January 31 due to the ice storm. Approximately 30 persons attended the meeting at the Wayne Township Government Center. Staff began the meeting with introductions and a brief explanation of the planning process. Attendees then broke out into two discussion groups.

Notes from the Transit Work Group:

- This was the fourth meeting for the Transit working group.
- Staff reiterated that they are collaborating with the IndyConnect transit plan, but that the purpose of this discussion is not to make a determination for the IndyConnect transit plan, but to help give a general idea where the need for transit stops are in the West Washington Street Corridor Plan. This is to help with recommendations in the corridor plan for land uses and changes to land uses along the corridor. The IndyConnect transit plan will have to follow federal guidelines and conduct a more thorough transit station determination study when their process has moved to that point.
- Staff provided and discussed the following list of criteria for transit station locations:
  - Stations should be located approximately ½ mile apart.
  - Stations should be located near major cross routes: (Bus routes, bike paths, other mass transit systems)
  - Stations should be located near major destinations: (Kroger, School, Churches, Major employers)
  - Prefer locations where transit oriented development can expand.
  - Located in areas where ground floor commercial can be provided.
  - Medium to high density residential near transit areas
  - New development that is located near potential transit stops should take advantage of maximum building heights to accommodate higher densities.
  - Convert isolated residential into more productive uses.
  - Shared parking lots with multiple users

Comments received:

- It was noted that the transit station recommendation of ½ mile would be too far for some existing users that require a shorter distance between stops.
- All recommendations for transit should be inclusive of local users and not oriented to commuters specifically.
- There is a need for infrastructure improvements to be included with any transit upgrading. Sidewalks are critical for users to be able to access transit stations and routes.
- It was recommended that existing IndyGo Route 8 ridership data could be useful in determining where the need for stations exists.

Notes from the Housing, Recreation and Neighborhoods Work Group:

- Staff introduced the speakers for the Housing, Recreation and Neighborhoods committee. John Oakley the Assistant Administrator of the Engineering Division of the Department of
Public Works (DPW) was the first speaker. Mr. Oakley explained that the process that the City uses to manage drainage issues begins when problems are reported to the Mayor’s Action Center. Complaints are logged in and then inspected. If the problem affects a public drainage structure and can be addressed through normal maintenance practices, it is assigned to a contractor to fix. In some areas with frequent and widespread drainage problems an engineering solution is required. These areas are evaluated for their severity and may become part of the Marion County Storm Water Master Plan.

- Drainage issues can also be reported to your Mayor’s Neighborhood Liaison who can directly with DPW’s Township Coordinator to address the problem.

- A participant reported that the Neeld Ditch water stream floods into the alley behind Fred’s Auto Repair on Woodrow Avenue. He was concerned that the problem would worsen with improvements to Washington Street and no consideration of how it would affect surrounding streets.

- The second speaker Mr. Glenn Lang explained that for problems with private drainage facilities, the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District provides property owners with technical assistance. Solutions to problems with private drainage facilities may require cooperation among neighbors. Participants were encouraged to contact MCSW for an inspection of the situation and expertise on solutions.

- If the drainage problems are caused by a negligent property owner(s) the situation should be reported to the Department of Code Enforcement.

- Mr. Lange also noted that Marion County is flat and soil types play a part in poor drainage. Fifty one percent of Marion County’s soil is poor for drainage with the water table close to the surface of the ground.

- The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.