

YORK ROAD SNAP UPDATE

January, 2012

Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization

Assets vs. Needs

Assets:

- Diverse housing stock: historic, affordable, row homes, detached and semi-detached, large and small
- Strong community organizations
- Diverse and historically stable, healthy communities
- New public charter elementary school (Tunbridge School) and elementary schools working toward blue ribbon status (Guilford and Govans Elementary)
- Presence of anchor institutions: Loyola University and Notre Dame of Maryland University and other private institutions
- Convenient shopping to residential neighborhoods, including Belvedere Square
- Heavily used bus lines, including the #8 Bus that travels Greenmount Avenue/York Road

Needs:

- Control of blighted, vacant, and foreclosed properties and blocks
- Rehabilitation and repair of properties
- Some areas need targeted demolition and creation of new housing stock
- Better information about available resources, especially for low income homeowners, including seniors
- Increased City Services, non-profit services
- Strategic code enforcement versus enforcement of minor violations
- Marketing of area to attract new and future homeowners to eastside neighborhoods

Recommendations

Outcome indicators: we will know we are on our way to our result by measuring:

- Decrease in percent residential properties that are vacant and abandoned at end of year

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- Decrease in percent residential properties with other types of housing violations at the end of year (excludes vacant)
- Decrease in the number of reported incidents of dirty streets and alleys
- Increase in percent of housing units owner-occupied (single family homes and condos)
- Increase in realtor interest in eastside neighborhoods and area as a whole

Vision I – All property is well maintained and attractive.

Goal 1. *Empower neighborhood associations to address housing and neighborhood revitalization.*

- **Partners to engage: HCD/Code Enforcement, DPW Sanitation Enforcement, YRP Housing Committee. Planning Department**

a) Educate and train neighbors on:

1. The housing code and systems to notify property owners of violations
 - Identify the top problem properties and how to abate them
 - Sanitation issues
 - The role of block captains and the importance of block captain programs, how to develop them in the community
 - Notifying 311
2. How to deal with nuisance homes
3. Addressing code violations on rental properties
 - Identify & locate absentee landlords
 - Develop a means for neighborhood associations to educate renters about codes and to notify landlords and tenants if violations occur
 - Develop contacts at apartment complexes and work with management companies to ensure renters are responsible neighbors
 - Investigate and disseminate information about zoning regulations that apply to group homes and multi-family dwellings

Goal 2: *Advocate for agency and private action to address housing and neighborhood revitalization including strategic and enhanced code enforcement*

- **Partners to engage:, Loyola, GEDCO, Rebuilding Together Baltimore NHS, Habitat for Humanity, GHCC, HCD**

- a) Compile a list of existing City, neighborhood and non-profit resources.
- b) Identify and maintain a list of vacant and/or blighted properties, including opportunities for demolition and construction

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- c) Pursue sources of financial assistance to bring resources neighborhoods and homeowners
- d) Explore partnerships with non-profits and institutions to provide volunteer manpower and tools to assist with property maintenance and repairs.
- e) Identify reputable and cost-effective contractors to assist homeowners.

Vision II—Attract and Support New Homeowners

- **Partners to engage: YRP Housing, Live Baltimore, Greater Homewood, GBBR**

Goal 1: Market York Road communities to make them more attractive to homebuyers and businesses

1. Identify neighborhood features, such as the historic district designation, that attracted longtime and new residents and highlight them in marketing of neighborhoods (ex., York Road community historic walking tours).
2. Create neighborhood profiles for YRP and Live Baltimore websites.
3. Promote neighborhoods through Live Near Your Work program and Live Baltimore, including trolley tours.
4. Promote neighborhoods through the Real Estate section in the Baltimore Sun
5. Establish a new Healthy Neighborhood Program east of York Road.
6. Educate realtors about the area and work with them (through Live Baltimore) to promote the area.

Goal 2: Identify new homeowners and reach out to them.

Accomplishments to Date

- Met with Baltimore Housing to advocate for improved housing code enforcement; advocated for inclusion of some YRP neighborhood in the TEVO project.
- Completed Alhambra Park Project.
- Supported the work of Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity on Cator Avenue in Pen Lucy.
- Supported the work of Rebuilding Together Baltimore in Pen Lucy.
- Investigated the neighborhood code enforcement project with Mid-Govans serving as a pilot program.
- Completed a vacant housing inventory for the YRP area.
- Worked with project 5000 to coordinate city acquisition of area properties.
- Coordinated with neighborhood leaders and submitted to the city a list of properties needing demolition in the YRP area.
- Provided training for neighborhood leaders through Greater Homewood.
- Began researching resources for homeowners.

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- Coordinated the Believe in our Schools volunteer day at Walter P. Carter School.
- Succeeded in making McCabe Avenue and its vacant properties a priority for the Housing Department

Commercial Revitalization (2)

Assets vs. Needs

Assets:

1. Major north-south corridor through Baltimore City and County that provides significant vehicular traffic and more exposure to the businesses
2. Major MTA Bus Route
3. Some strong businesses – destination and neighborhood retail, Belvedere Square
4. Combined purchasing power of surrounding residential areas is the basis for commercial development – it will enable businesses to start and succeed.

Needs:

1. Reduce commercial vacancies – explore opportunities for redevelopment.
2. Façade improvements, enforcement of existing design guidelines
3. Improve mix of businesses to better serve surrounding communities.
4. Improve parking and transit opportunities.
5. Perception of area as an attractive place to shop for both sides of the corridor (and not reflective of any one side).

Vision I – A Revitalized Commercial Corridor with Strong, Attractive Businesses

Goal 1: *Revitalize and redevelop the strongest portions of the commercial corridor.*

- **Partners to Engage: BDC, GBA, Planning Department, consultants**
 - a) Attract new businesses and support strong existing ones
 - b) Conduct market studies to identify the causes of property vacancies and viable commercial uses for the Corridor's business districts.
 - c) Use publicly owned facilities as a catalyst for redevelopment opportunities.
 - d) Develop a plan to attract businesses that complement the range of products and services already in the area.
 1. Survey residents to identify the products, services, and amenities that they desire to exist along the York Road Corridor.

Goal 2: *Negotiate agreements to develop mutually beneficial business practices*

- a) Develop an up-to-date handbook of resources and distribute to all property owners.
- b) Develop agreements with litter-producing businesses to help police their immediate areas.

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- c) Ensure the compliance and enforcement of existing building codes, urban renewal plans (York Woodbourne) and PUDs (Loyola facility and Belvedere Square).
- d) Target specific problem properties along the corridor and implement campaigns to encourage property/business owners to cleanup and improve appearance.

Goal 3: *Educate business on Main Street concepts and promote Main Street design standards*

- a) See **Appendix A** for Example Design Standards and further suggestions for improving appearance of commercial corridor

Goal 5: *Advocate for redevelopment of key commercial properties*

- **Partners to Engage: YRP Housing, consultants, GBA**

- a) Perform detailed analysis of urban residential housing solutions within commercial corridors.
- b) Develop and implement a plan to encourage the development of new residential housing within the commercial corridor.
- c) Provide incentives for encouraging the development and redevelopment of neighborhood and commercial shopping districts that permit both day and evening uses. (i.e., restaurants, art galleries and promotional events.)

Goal 6: *More effectively market the Corridor to neighborhoods and prospective business/development interests.*

- **Partners to Engage: GBA, BDC, YRP Commercial, Planning**

- a) Work with communities to identify how desired businesses can expand their customer base and what types of new businesses, products, services, and amenities should be attracted to York Road.
- b) Advocate for a plan that will turn the southeast corner of York and Woodbourne into a significant anchor for the Woodbourne Shopping District.

Vision II – Exteriors and signage on commercial properties, churches, institutions and residences are maintained and kept clean by property and/or business owners.

Goal 1. *Engage all resources to provide assistance to property owners for exterior improvements and maintenance.*

- **Partners to Engage: GBA, BDC, Planning**

- a) Meet with business owners, property owners & local officials to address specific issues (e.g. – Govans Post Office, CVS, etc.)
- b) Organize grassroots campaigns to target national chain franchises (e.g. Coordinated e-mail, etc.) that are located on the corridor.
- c) Advocate for increased city enforcement activity of sanitation code violations.

Goal 2: *Engage businesses in curb appeal and beautification projects*

- **Partners to Engage: GBA, Parks and People Foundation, local businesses**

Accomplishments to Date

- Organized targeted landscaping efforts at Park's Auto, Chicken Run, Swanson Graphics, and Govans Family Dental
- Organized flower planting at 1st Express, CVS, Enterprise, Traditions, and other southern corridor businesses
- Façade Improvements of 22 businesses, plus two done by GBA (Wise Penny and 3Ride shop)
 - Example: Jen's Liquors, Caribbean store, Rose Beauty, Homeland Shopping Center Signage, Korner Carry-out
- Property Management
- Strategic Code Enforcement from South to North
 - Brand tobacco and alcohol signage largely gone from the corridor
- Lucky 7 Sign Clutter "largely" gone
- Worked with Loyola University to bring first Farmers' Market to corridor
- Promotions and cross promotions: GBA Activities
 - Helped promote GBA "Curb Appeal Program" encouraging businesses to purchase planters to be placed by entrance to business
 - 2011: 1st Annual Govanstowne Fall Festival
 - 2010: Taste of Govans
 - 2007: Junior League event – "Better Dressed"
 - 2007: Buy Local Baltimore
 - Loan to bring Wise Penny
- Senator Theatre RFP – renovations and new operators
- Spear-headed the Social Compact Market Analysis on Woodbourne/York "drill down area"

Open Space and Recreation (3)

Vision I – All community spaces are clean, safe, and inviting

Goal 1: *Educate neighborhoods to identify, assess, improve, and expand public and green spaces*

- **Partners to Engage: BCPSS, Rec & Parks, Planning Department, Parks and People Foundation**
- a) Identify impervious surfaces that can be converted to green spaces
 1. Walter P. Carter school yard

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2. Guilford Elementary/Middle School blacktop
3. Eastern portions of Evesham Park where playground equipment was once located

Goal 2: *Identify and assess existing public spaces, particularly in terms of parks and other green space.*

- **Partners to Engage: Rec & Parks, YRP Housing, Planning**
- a) Use information sources available to verify public ownership/control.

Goal 3: *Incorporate landscaping and greening into City right-of-ways and parking lots.*

- **Partners to Engage: Rec & Parks, GBA, Planning, Loyola University, Playworks, Parks and People Foundation**
- a) Sponsor and encourage ongoing plantings in available green spaces and lots.
- b) Create a York Road Garden Club to head planting efforts on available green spaces and lots.
- c) Sustain coordinated greening efforts on both the mayor's fall and spring clean-up days.

Vision II – There are opportunities and activities for youth in YRP neighborhoods.

Goal 1: *Support efforts to provide recreational opportunities for youth and people of all ages*

- **Partners to Engage: BCPSS, Rec & Parks, YRP Housing, HCD (Land Management), Planning, Parks and People**
- a) Identify and assess existing facilities and playgrounds
 1. DeWees
 2. Schools and afterschool programs
 3. Govans Library
- b) Identify optimal locations for additional facilities and playgrounds
- c) Partner with organizations, businesses, and religious institutions to provide volunteer staffing for facilities
- d) Identify summer job opportunities for youth
 1. Provide and distribute widely the information about existing summer youth jobs and programs
- e) Advocate for creation of a York Road Recreation League

Accomplishments to Date

- Evesham Park – Department helped community with invasive removal and community planted trees 2008.
- DeWees Park -- Renovated the playground in 2007.
- Alhambra Park – Renovated the playground in 2007.
- Guilford Elementary #214– Renovated playground in 2007
- TreeBaltimore planted over 500 trees in 2010 in the neighborhoods /parks /schools to the east of York Road. Free trees were to residents who requested them and, in some cases, trees were planted by Tree Baltimore in front and back lawns.
- Successful York Road efforts on mayor’s fall and spring clean-up days. To be biannual events.

Transportation, Streetscapes, and Gateways (4)

Outcome indicators: we will know we are on our way to our outcomes and results by measuring:

- Data
 - Traffic & pedestrian accidents
 - MTA ridership info
- Perceptions
 - Collect comments from neighborhood transit riders

Vision I – There is attractive, green, walk-able and bike-able streetscape along the York Road Commercial Corridor

Goal 1: *Advocate for green, attractive, bike-able, walkable projects both public and private*

- **Partners to Engage: Transportation, Planning, BCPSS, GBA, YRP Streetscapes and Greening Committee**
- a) Support community efforts to increase pedestrian safety and calm traffic
 - 1. See **Appendix B** for recommendations on pedestrian safety

Goal 2: *Increase the number, appearance and health of street trees.*

- **Partners to Engage: Rec & Parks (Forestry), YRP Streetscapes and Greening Committee, GBA, Tree Baltimore**
- a) Conduct annual block-by-block survey to identify available tree locations as well and needs for tree maintenance.
- b) Engage nearby business proprietors in providing water needs for newly planted trees (e.g. adopt-a-tree program)

- c) Engage nearby homeowners in providing water needs for newly planted trees (e.g. Adopt-A-Tree program)

Vision II – More public spaces are created and maintained throughout all the York Road neighborhoods and commercial corridor.

Goal 1: *Educate communities on best practices for creating attractive public spaces*

- **Partners to Engage: Rec & Parks (Forestry), YRP Streetscapes and Greening Committee, GBA**
 - a) Funding
 - b) Installation
 - c) Maintenance
 - 1. Establish tree planting and maintenance program for use by area neighborhoods
 - 2. Encourage neighborhoods to become healthy neighborhoods by planting trees. Recommend that YRP, neighborhood associations, and individuals partner with the city's Tree Baltimore program

Goal 2: *Ensure community input on public projects*

Goal 3: *Directly engage residents in greening projects*

Vision III – Mass transit services and facilities are available, improved and accessible.

Goal 1: *Identify and assess existing transit needs.*

- **Partners to Engage: Transportation, YRP Streetscapes, MTA, GBA**
 - a) Monitor MTA service along #8 line
 - 1. Contact neighborhoods, including residents of the senior apartments and parents or school administrators from local schools about their experiences and perception.
 - b) Identify additional locations for bus shelters.
 - c) Identify potential route changes to better serve commercial areas and neighborhoods.
 - d) Discuss Hopkins-like shuttle program with Loyola University
 - e) Reroute Colletgetown network shuttle through York Road commercial centers.
 - f) Explore shuttle service to the Coldspring light rail station.

Goal 2: *Work with CPHA and other regional advocates to maximize metropolitan mass transit opportunities.*

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- a) Help educate residents and community leaders about how to effectively work with the Department of Transportation (DOT)

Accomplishments to Date

- A Master Streetscape Plan was completed by YRP & GBA.
 - The Lake Walker parklet is being maintained by Lake Walker Association volunteers with some help from Walker Mews (cleanups and planting 2x a year)
- GBA refurbished the Bellona Triangle with a city grant and pays a commercial company to maintain it
- The Curran Memorial at Woodbourne was replaced. It was a joint effort by GBA (primarily) with help from GEDCO and YRP. Renovations were privately funded with fundraising efforts primarily by the Curran Family. Maintenance of the Clock Tower and of the surrounding landscape is contracted for by GBA.
- Pedestrian access to Belvedere Square via the footbridge is markedly improved by the massive cleanup and renovation of the Evesham Park and Belvedere Tot lot. Both accomplished by the neighborhood associations with outside support. (Struever Bros +)
- A left turn signal was installed traveling from Westbound Belvedere to Southbound York Road.
- Some specific initiatives have been taken such as discouraging speeders on Bellona Ave. Punch outs were built, then removed, uncertain as to why and if there remains a speeding issue on Bellona.
- Overcrowded busses and bad on-time arrivals were issues that have been addressed by MTA with several initiatives: Larger, articulated busses are now assigned to York Road. The #48 express route has been set up. Some bus stops on the #8 route have been eliminated in order to improve overall transit times.

Public Safety (5)

Assets vs. Issues

Assets:

- Homeowners and long-term residents
- Strong neighborhood associations
- Block captain system in some neighborhoods
- Active commercial corridor
- On-going dialogue with the Northern District Police Station

Issues:

- Traffic, speeding – especially in school areas
- Crime and drugs
- Negative after-hours activity, especially youth

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- Need greater police visibility, communications and enforcement.

Recommendations

Outcome Indicators:

- Decreased number of reported Part 1 adult criminal offenses
- Decrease number of reported Part 1 adult criminal offenses classified as violent
- Decrease number of juveniles age 10-17 arrested

Vision I: A safe, healthy community for all who live, work, and play in the York Road area

Goal 1: Advocate for increased police presence in areas of concentrated criminal activity along the commercial corridor and in neighborhoods.

- **Partners to Engage: Police, YRP Public Safety, HABC, GHCC, GBA**
- 1. Advocate for increased police bike and foot patrols of the following areas:
 - a. Areas of concentrated commercial activity
 - b. Areas of concentrated and pervasive criminal activity
 - c. Parks and other public spaces.
- 2. Advocate for installation of security cameras in selected high-crime areas and where appropriate.
- 3. Advocate for enforced loitering and curfew laws, especially around bars, active commercial areas, and drug treatment facilities.

Goal 2: Provide educational materials and training for residents and business owners to engage them in crime control.

- **Partners to engage: Police, YRP Public Safety, HABC, GHCC, OCW, Planning, NDC, GEDCO, GBA.**
- a) Provide resources and training to reduce opportunities for crime in **residential areas** (use of automobile anti-theft devices such as “clubs”, removing valuables from sight, locking doors, windows, and garages of residences).
- b) Promote the use of strategies and devices to reduce opportunities for crime in **commercial areas** (uncluttered shop windows, adequate parking lot lighting, install and share information from security cameras).
- c) Advocate for development of block captain programs in all neighborhoods and organize block watches and community on patrol efforts in neighborhoods and commercial areas, beginning with those most endangered by criminal activity and/or those containing educational institutions.
- d) Promote the use of porch lights at the front and back of houses.
 1. Distribute literature about the importance of using porch lights.

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2. Provide reduced-cost energy efficient bulbs and sensors to neighborhoods
 3. Where needed, request electricians to volunteer their time to install new porch light fixtures.
- e) Increase lighting in areas where illegal activities are occurring
 - f) Provide resources and training to neighborhoods to take action on problem and nuisance properties.
 - g) Apply Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies in developing new parks, housing and commercial buildings.
 1. See **Appendix C** for more information about CPTED
 - h) Inform residents about and encourage them to avail themselves of programs to learn how to safely monitor and report drug activity.
 1. Distribute Crime Watch applications
 2. Educate residents on process of dealing with nuisance properties
 3. See **Appendix C** for Public Safety Best Practices

Goal 3: *Create a resource inventory of youth programs and volunteer opportunities in community.*

Goal 4: *Develop public safety partnerships with:*

1. area faith-based institutions, housing authority, MTA, schools.
2. private organizations and businesses that have internal security operations (Belvedere Square, Huber Memorial, Dunkin Donuts, Loyola University, Notre Dame College, etc.)

Goal 5: *Neighborhood open spaces are defensible spaces.*

Goal 6: *Negotiate MOUs with liquor and other establishments to adopt safety measures and decrease bad business practices that attract crime*

- **Partners to Engage: Police, YRP Ad Hoc Liquor Committee, GBA**
- a) See Appendix X for Sample MOU

Accomplishments to Date

- Removed planter box near the Jackson Hewitt which provided a hiding place for illegal activity.
- Continued patrols along the corridor.
- Loyola University added additional police patrols to corridor
- Memorandums of Understanding have been negotiated with four businesses
- Two liquor licenses have been eliminated from the corridor

- Towers Lounge
- Richwood Market

Public Services and Infrastructure (6)

Recommendations

Outcome Indicators:

- Decrease number of reported incidents of dirty streets and alleys
- Decrease in number of reported incidents of illegal dumping
- Decrease in number of reported incidents of dirty streets and alleys
- Decrease in number of reported incidents of clogged storm drains
- Decrease in number of reported incidents of rats

Vision I – Public services and infrastructure support community and commercial revitalization efforts.

Goal 1: *Ensure that the streets, sidewalks, alleys and parking lots are kept clean and in good repair.*

- **Partners to Engage: DPW Sanitation, GBA, YRP Streetscapes and Greening Committee**
 - a) Educate and encourage residents to call 311 to report excess trash and to monitor daily collection of trash.
 - b) Monitor the use of trash receptacles by area storefront businesses. Enforce proper compliance.
 - c) Increase the number of trash receptacles along the Corridor.
 - d) Advocate for quick removal of trash to avoid “broken windows” syndrome
 - e) Strategically place trash cans on the corridor, close to bus stops and bus shelters
 - a. Advocate for replacement of corner baskets around Woodbourne with current model used by the city
 - f) Design and implement a campaign to encourage use of trash receptacles.
 - g) Strategically focus the “hokies” and machines for street cleaning in the most needed areas
 - a. Request that DPW provide accurate information regarding current hokie schedule so that YRP can determine whether it needs to be enhanced
 - h) Encourage fast food and other carryout food establishments to maintain the area around their property.
 - i) Continue progressive sidewalk repair along York Road and target comprehensive repairs throughout the neighborhood.

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Goal 2: *Ensure that critical public utilities are well maintained and available.*

- **Partners to Engage: YRP Steering, DPW Water and Wastewater, Transportation, Comcast, BGE, Verizon**
- a) Request that the City perform a review of and report on the safety and adequacy of public utilities in the York Road Partnership area
 1. Address/resolve problems that are identified.
- b) Install pedestrian lighting in areas with extensive tree coverage.

Goal 3: *Educate residents on rat abatement and deterring dumping.*

- **Partners to Engage: DPW Sanitation, GBA**
- a) Use block watch systems to watch for and report dumping
- b) Provide accurate, up-to-date information on how/who to contact within the City government.
 1. Encourage use of 311 and tracking of service request numbers to follow up
- c) Establish community/DPW working groups to plan, monitor and evaluate progress.

Accomplishments to Date

- Implemented GBA “Curb Appeal Program” encouraging businesses to purchase planters to be placed by entrance to business
- YRP established biannual community cleanups with support of GBA

Community Building (7)

Recommendations

Vision I – There is a sense of community ownership in the Corridor’s appearance.

Goal 1: *Implement campaigns to showcase positive contribution and changes in the area, involve volunteers, and to motivate members of the YRP community.*

- **Partners to Engage: GBA, local city officials, local media**
- a) Encourage *the Messenger* and *North Baltimore Patch* to provide coverage of positive changes in the area.
- b) Provide information on positive changes to the neighborhood association presidents and organizational leaders and encourage them to communicate information within their organization.

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- c) Use the YRP listserv and website to showcase neighborhood activities and positive changes within the area.
- d) Sponsor annual “Good Neighbor” awards to recognize positive contributions to the area’s appearance.

Goal 2: *Encourage the display of seasonal decorations in the commercial nodes.*

- **Partners to Engage: YRP Streetscapes and Greening Committee, GBA**

- a) Obtain funding and implement displays in the commercial nodes.

Goal 3: *Build community within YRP by encouraging establishing of and participation in community events:*

- **Partners to Engage: YRP Leadership, GBA, YRP Garden Club**

- a) Plan community events with stakeholders
- b) Increase participation in National Night Out
- c) Recruit area community groups and Loyola student volunteers to participate in the fireplug painting campaign, biannual community cleanups, and other activities which enhance the appearance of the corridor.
- d) Encourage use of the Govans Library
- e) Encourage participation in school festivals.
- f) Plan yearly potlucks

Vision II – All community spaces are clean, safe, and inviting.

Goal 1: *Design and implement campaigns to encourage and facilitate clean-up events by individual neighborhoods and cooperative event between adjacent neighborhoods.*

Goal 2: *Engage community and governmental resources to maintain all common lots, streets, alleys, and parks.*

- **Partners to Engage: YRP Leadership, BCPSS**

- a) Develop closer relationships with area schools and organizations that are looking for community.

Vision III – Build the Capacity of Community and Neighborhood Organizations

- **Partners to Engage: YRP Leadership, VISTA**

Goal 1: *Revamp the York Road Partnership Website*

Goal 2: *Secure funding for a York Road Partnership staff-person*

Goal 3: *Improve the communication among organizations*

Accomplishments to Date

- Successful community-wide efforts for mayor’s fall and spring cleanup days, to be biannual events
- Secured an AmeriCorps *VISTA for the York Road Partnership in 2010, 2011, and 2012

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- Secured an AmeriCorps* VISTA for Loyola University's commercial efforts along York Road in 2010
- Developed stronger connections between neighborhood leadership and the York Road Partnership and vice versa
- Increased neighborhood capacity in some east-side communities

Education and Youth Development (8)

Assets vs. Needs

Assets:

- Small Classes (Guilford EMS)
- Many generations sent to school

Needs:

- Old facilities
- Bad reputation
- After school activities

Recommendations

Outcome indicators: ??

Vision I – Increased Community Ownership of York Road Public Schools

Goal 1: *Increase enrollment and attendance to York Road public schools*

Goal 2: *Improve the advertising and reputation of the school*

- a) Contact media with positive stories about York Road Schools

Goal 3: *Create a presence for Guilford Elementary/Middle and Govans Elementary on York Road*

- a) Advocate for a Guilford Sign to be included in the Streetscapes (Glenwood – 43rd)
- b) Advocate for a Govans Sign to be placed in the park south of AutoZone
- c) Explore possibilities of a mural on York Road near Guilford Elem/Middle.

Vision II – Increased options of after school options (academic and athletic)

Goal 1: *Utilize partnerships for activities after school*

- **Partners to Engage: Parks and People, Loyola University, Johns Hopkins University, FANS (Friends and Neighbors of the School)**
 - a. Technology
 - b. Art/Music
 - c. Athletics

Vision III – All York Road Public Schools are safe

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Goal 1: *Improve safety of crosswalk at Guilford EMS and Govans on York Road.*

- a. Explore the possibility of Guilford EMS acquiring the old Pizza house on York Road.
- b. Advocate for Pedestrian paddles at Old Coldspring Lane and York Road.

Vision IV – Improve the facilities of the school

Goal 1: *Guilford Middle School upgrades in short term and long term replacement*

- **Partners to Engage: FANS (Friends and Neighbors of the School)**

Accomplishments to Date

Chinquapin

- Classroom renovation on 3rd floor (2006)
- Upgrade closed caption TV (2008)
- Replace asphalt surface rear parking lot (2008 ASP)
- Replace concrete steps and sidewalk (2008ASP)
- Demo and Install feed water tank (2009 ASP)
- Energy Upgrades (lighting, ATC, water conservation, building envelope upgrades, etc.) (2007 Energy Bond)
- FSIII – Alternative School (Summer 2008)
- School Improvement Renovations (Summer 2010)

Walter P. Carter

- Exterior Doors (2007ASP)
- Replace gym floor with VCT (2007)
- Energy Upgrades (lighting, ATC, water conservation, building envelope upgrades, etc.) (2007 Energy Bond)
- FSIII (Summer 2008)
- Partial concrete replacement in progress at school (In Progress)
- Replace playground equipment and install new rubber surface (2009)
- Expanding Great Options Year 1 (Summer 2009)

Govans

- Refinish gym floor and stage (2006)
- Repair drywall (2008 ASP)
- Replace heating oil tank (2009 ASP)
- Energy Upgrades (lighting, ATC, water conservation, building envelope upgrades, etc.) (2007 Energy Bond)

Guilford

- Energy Upgrades (lighting, ATC, water conservation, building envelope upgrades, etc.) (2007 Energy Bond)

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- Partial roof gutter replacement on portable (2007)
- partial concrete and handicap ramp work completed (2009)
- Pre-K Expansion (Summer 2009)
- A partnership with the School of Community Health and Policy at Morgan State University, was formed with Guilford EMS science teacher, Mr. Smith and the National Academic League (NAL) in 2009. The Community Needs and Solution class conducted a needs assessment and is currently working with the Pen Lucy Neighborhood Association and Mr. Smith to develop an effective after school program that meets the specific need and goals of NAL members, but open to any Guilford EMS student that wish to participate.
- The Baltimore City Public School System's Deputy Chief of Facilities has sent in a facilities crew to clean the lavatories at Guilford EMS.

Appendix A

Commercial Revitalization

Appearance of the commercial corridor is improved

- a. *Encourage a “Main Street” design that is compatible with and complements the development pattern of the adjacent businesses.*
 - **Partners to Engage: GBA, BDC, YRP Commercial, Planning**
 - 1. Organize design workshops that encourage business and property owners to become engaged in the revitalization process and ultimately want to participate in programs such as façade improvements.
- b. *Retain an urban form along the corridor where appropriate.*
 - **Partners to Engage: YRP Streetscape, YRP steering, GBA**
 - 1. Develop a plan that will turn the southeast corner of York and Woodbourne into a significant anchor for the Woodbourne Shopping District.
 - 2. Avoid single use parking lots
 - a. Work with business owners to develop interconnecting parking lots and walkways between stand alone businesses.
 - 3. Launch a pilot project in the York Road Partnership area to replace current use-based zoning rules with design-based rules.
- c. *Establish design guidelines for façade improvements and signage through Urban Renewal Plans and Main Streets.*
 - **Partners to Engage: GBA, BDC, YRP Commercial, Planning**
 - a. Create a design handbook that uses illustrations and simple language to ensure compliance with new standards and regulations.
 1. Provide an easy to understand and concise zoning guide of what is permitted and specific illustrations of signage and materials.
 - b. Define and promote building designs that are pedestrian and handicapped friendly.
 - c. Promote the use of appropriate signage, material, and façade design.
 1. Develop 3 or 4 option signage prototypes for merchants
 - d. Enforce design guidelines where they currently exist.

*Example Design Standards

Below are some of the types of proposed design standards that would be appropriate for the York Road commercial corridor.

Identity Signage

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- Each building should be limited to one general advertising sign that cannot take up a percentage (to be determined) of a buildings frontage.
- Prohibit banners from being hung from fences, gates or across buildings.

Advertising signage

1. Advertising signage, such as that used by liquor stores, is one of the major contributors to the visual clutter on York Road. Limiting the signage that can be posted in a retailer's window will provide a sense of organization.

Screen dumpsters and mechanical equipment

1. Ideally dumpsters and mechanical equipment should be placed at the rear of the property where they would not be visible. If this is not possible, screening should be provided that requires attractive materials.

Quality of materials when making improvements or renovating

1. Whenever possible, architecturally compatible materials should be used; vinyl shutters and plastic awnings should be avoided.

Security grilles

1. Require that new security grilles and screens for storefronts must be located on the inside of store windows.
2. Security screens and grilles must be painted a dark color or be dark. Security screens and grilles must be opened or removed when a business is open.

Windows

1. Transparent windows be used when windows are replaced or as part of new development.
2. Make second story windows look occupied when boarding windows.

Appendix B

Transportation, Streetscapes, and Gateways

Pedestrians are Safe

a. Better control the flow of vehicular traffic within the Partnership area.

- **Partners to Engage: Transportation, Planning, BCPSS, GBA, YRP Streetscapes**

1. Contact neighborhood organizations and parents of school children for detailed information for specific locations.
2. Expedite the installation of speed limit signs where requested, especially along:
 - a. 43rd Street
 - b. York Road
 - c. St. George's Avenue
 - d. Eastway
 - e. Old York Road
 - f. The Alameda
 - g. In and around school zones
3. Install flashing lights in school zones.
4. Repaint the crosswalks at and near Chinquapin Middle School and Walter P. Carter Elementary School.
5. Improve the traffic light timing at Belvedere Avenue & York Road.
6. Examine the possibility of installing turn lanes at:
 - a. Southbound York Road & Belvedere Avenue
 - b. Northbound York Road & Northern Parkway
7. Examine the possibility of installing left turn signals at Bellona Avenue and Northern Parkway.
8. Examine the possibility of eliminating restricted left turns onto eastbound Belvedere from southbound York Road.
9. Identify appropriate solutions to traffic-flow problems at:
 - a. 39th Street & Greenmount Avenue
 - b. Coldspring Lane & York Road
 - c. Belvedere & York Roads
 - d. Bellona Avenue & Northern Parkway
 - e. Bellona Avenue between York Road and Northern Parkway

b. Improve pedestrian access to Belvedere Square.

- **Partners to Engage: Transportation, YRP Steering, Planning, GBA**

1. Install appropriate lighting on and around pedestrian bridge in between Evesham Park & Belvedere Square area.

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2. Improve pedestrian signal timing at Northern Parkway & York Road.
- c. *Encourage Pedestrian Circulation and Accessibility – make the area comfortable for pedestrians.*
 - **Partners to Engage: Transportation, YRP Steering, Planning, GBA**
 1. The pedestrian paddles at Belvedere Square seem to be very successful and we suggest they are replicated at other locations where needed.
 2. Create distinct pedestrian crosswalks; re-signal lights to allow sufficient time to cross intersections.
 3. Install pooh-outs where appropriate on York Road and Greenmount Avenue.
 4. Install additional crosswalks.
 5. Install signaled crosswalks along York Road.
 - a. Especially near schools and bus stops.
 - b. At current crosswalk at the Senator Theatre.
 6. Install pedestrian signs.
 7. Enforce J-Walking laws
 8. At larger intersections consider devices such as island refuges.
- d. *Establish a standard that accommodates seniors and people with disabilities.*
- e. *Calm traffic on York Road.*
- f. *Install bicycle racks in commercial districts.*

Appendix C : Public Safety

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

1. Redesign bus stops to discourage loitering.
 - a. Consider moving bus stops away from storefronts where possible
 - b. Encourage the use of materials and design to keep riders off of residential properties (e.g. landscaping, stone walls, etc.
2. Make the area brighter with pedestrian and landscaping lighting.
3. Ensure that the already installed pedestrian lighting is functioning.
4. Require that all buildings have night lighting that illuminates the address and does not create dark spots or shadows.
5. Continue efforts to turn vacant buildings into temporary art installations.
 - a. Buildings that are boarded can be painted or used as the backdrops for collages or other types of artwork. Display windows can show off the latest art projects of the local elementary school.