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Nov. 1, 2009: Executive Director Update, Nov. 3 Executive Committee Meeting *(Due to the NNIP meeting October was effectively a short month)*

Meetings & Contacts

- The **NNIP Chicago meeting** included **presentations** dealing with the media, the Ford Foundation New Communities Initiative, turning data into policy action, business models, technological innovations, website design, and a shared indicators framework. I offered NNIP staff some technical assistance on how to improve automated text processing and I moderated a session. What did I gain?
 - From a board member of an AmeriCorps administrating agency I received **suggestions on how to improve an AmeriCorps application** including: Suggest a project that requires 3 volunteers because the agency likes to place teams and include a strong outreach component. A possible AmeriCorps project- a property survey/**ongoing property inventory** system utilizing both community groups and volunteers.
 - From a San Antonio recipient of two **Knight Foundation grants** I received two suggestions to improve our application: include a "dumb phone" mobile interface (e.g. two-way messaging of headlines, comments, photos) to address the "digital divide" and integrate the site with Drupal content management to allow for easy extensibility and translation.
 - There is a very exciting free open source interactive mapping and data visualization project being developed by several NNIP partners, called the **Open Indicators Consortium** that will be ready for use in Late 2010, early 2011
 - The DC NNIP partner can share valuable experience working with **school data**.
 - The Milwaukee NNIP partner shared some potentially useful **report automation** procedures that they use. Several others mentioned other technical innovations and useful documents that they can share. I will be following up.
- Monica Leibovitz, Cooper's Director for Community Development, a friend of CamConnect and contact with Cooper Administration has left the position and moved to Washington, DC. Her duties are now split between Scott McCray Director of Special Projects and new hire Andy Bush, Director of Real Estate and Special Projects. I know Scott, but need to reach out to both of them to establish a new working relationship.
- In connection with CamConnect's work on **evaluating light rail stop locations** for Heart of Camden I have presented drafts of the work at several meetings with Helene Pierson to receive feedback and increase support for the project in advance of presentation to DRPA. The groups included CCDA; a Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Advisory Committee meeting (HOC is a subgrantee of this group's EPA grant) which included NJDEP & CCMUA; Father Doyle and the Sacred Heart/CCOP Local Organizing Committee, and (via email) NJFuture, the Fair Share Housing Center, and the Housing and Community Development Network of NJ. The work has been very well received.
- I met with Bill Thompson Camden County College Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Dean, Camden City Campus to work discuss the proposal for **managing the Eds & Meds annual report data**.
- Joe forwarded a request by the William Penn Foundation for us to share some GIS data that we already have. It's easy to provide, but I would like to parlay that into the start of a relationship with someone at William Penn if possible.

Projects

- We have completed the data collection and GIS analysis for Heart of Camden's study on the proposed PATCO regional light rail line. From the preliminary findings, we created a power point presentation to support the argument for a four station system in Camden. HOC has paid half of their contracted fee in advance of completion. Further presentation maps and refinements are underway.
- The CCOP survey on Camden's recovery progress has been fully analyzed, and we have delivered a draft report. We are awaiting revisions from CCOP. The completed report will serve as a valuable marketing tool for CamConnect's data reporting and information capabilities.
- We have received the photos from Sarah Nezworski's **Whitman Park PhotoVoice Youth Photography Exhibit** and have begun a "CamEra" photo gallery component of the website. The first phase will be a simple slide show with captions. The second phase will be an interactive flash map that displays the photos with their location. This is our first experiment with interactive geographic data display on the website.
- Thanks to Sean, CamConnect took on an undergraduate intern from Rutgers, Ruth Rivera-Perez, who is assisting us with an updated **Voter Participation Report**. Ruth has performed data entry and cleaned much of the recently acquired paper election data and will be working to update the information included in the previous report. We plan to consolidate the previous report's display of participation-rate variables into a map suggesting the difference between expected and actual turnout based on district demographics.
- Aaron has been working on a **new neighborhood map** that will allow selection of data at several geographic scales other than census tract.
- The City held a **Census organizing meeting** but failed to notify me. Neither the City nor CamConnect have received requested higher-level Census contact information or a report on the Bureau's contacts in the City to date from the Census partnership staff.
- Father Jeff- GIS collaboration/meeting/presentation

New Data, Sources & Documents

- The Census Bureau recently released the **2008 American Community Survey data**. We are searching the new data for anything that falls beyond the large margin of error or appears to be a change but is statistically insignificant. Any such findings will be incorporated into one-page reports to be distributed to members.
- **OPRA lien & delinquency data** arrived but formatting makes analysis a major undertaking.

Funding & Budget

- The initial deadline for the **Knight News Challenge** has been extended to December 15th. The grants vary in size (upwards of \$200,000) and would provide the start-up funding for a **CamDenizen community news project**.
- I have temporarily suspended work for LEAP while I wait for them to send the signed **contract**.
- Accountant Susan Beetle from Accountemps finished setting up CamConnect's records in **QuickBook** in less than a week (31 hrs / \$806).
- NNIP staff is trying to interest the Urban Institute Health Policy researchers in involving CamConnect in a **funded multi-NNIP-partner cross-site health data research initiative**.

Administrative & Logistical

- **Computer problems** have heavily interfered with work on the CCOP survey project, and to a lesser extent with other work. My **new computer** order has been confirmed by Dell and is due to arrive on Thursday November 5th, though it will not arrive until at least the following week. Cooper purchasing failed to obtain the institutional discount price. I spoke with Cooper's Dell account representative and used the extra \$260+ to upgrade the hard drive, add an additional optical drive and expedite shipping. I expect set up of the machine and backup and organization of the transferred electronic files to require the better part of a week.