**FILLING THE GAPS: PROPERTY SURVEYS**Friday morning, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Property surveys are powerful tools that municipalities can utilize to understand the state of local housing conditions. Nationally-available data sources like the American Community Survey, the American Housing Survey, or the USPS Vacancy data provide cities with a general picture about vacancy and housing characteristics, but fail to provide enough detail about property conditions to operationalize local efforts to address vacancy and problem properties.

To fill this gap, a number of NNIP partners have conducted local surveys that drill down to the parcel-level and identifying vacant parcels, abandoned housing, and the quality of both vacant and occupied housing units.

**The purpose of this session is to present two examples of how NNIP partners conducted property surveys in Detroit and Camden. Partners who are interested in conducting surveys in their cities will learn about how they are carried out logistically, as well as challenges to anticipate. The surveys in Detroit and Camden shared similar goals, but were significantly different in scale, methodology, and funding.**

Rob Pitingolo from the Urban Institute will moderate the session.

Erica Raleigh from Data Driven Detroit will present on the Detroit Residential Parcel Survey. This landmark survey was conducted in 2009 by D3 in collaboration with three additional local partners. The presentation will detail how the project came together and shared goals for the work. Erica will also explain the logistics of the survey process and the quality control process. She will wrap-up with specifics about analysis and next steps for the project.

Josh Wheeling from CamConnect will describe the parcel survey conducted in Camden, NJ. Specifically, he will explain how they developed the questions and variables utilized in the survey and the technology (software, mobile devices, mapping platforms) used to collect those variables. He will explain how the organization addressed questions of observer safety, especially when surveying in particularly challenging neighborhoods. Lastly he will talk about how this newly collected data is being analyzed and disseminated in the community.

Erica and Josh will each talk for about 15 minutes. Rob will facilitate questions for Erica and Josh and then moderate a plenary discussion, during which we hope other partners will share their experiences with property surveys.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. Small and large cities face different sets of challenges on property surveys. Based on what we’ve learned, what can they do similarly? What do they need to do differently?
2. How can NNIP partners with limited funding for this type of work get the most “bang for the buck”?
3. How can partners share technology and resources to best leverage the good work that others are doing?