**Tracking Investment Flows in Neighborhoods**  
Friday morning, 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

All NNIP partners use local administrative data to describe the variations in conditions in neighborhoods across your cities. Partners have a generally good handle on which neighborhoods have high crime or foreclosures, where schools are underperforming or where public assistance receipt is the highest. However, many often struggle to answer basic questions about where resources are being invested and whether they are spent on residents in the low-income communities partners care most about.

* Where are capital investments being made? How does that vary by type of investment?
* How do operating expenditures vary by type and location?
* What is the process for allocating public resources to neighborhoods? Is it being done in an efficient and equitable manner?
* What processes drive differences in private investment in different neighborhoods and how do the work?
* Are some investments reinforcing or exacerbating existing disparities?
* Is there coordination and leverage between public and private investments?
* What investment levels are required to achieve impacts?

These questions are important for stakeholders inside and outside government. City council members might want to know how spending and investments vary by council districts and community-based organizations need the information to effectively advocate for investments in their neighborhoods.

***The purpose of this session is to explore the topic of neighborhood investment flows and how work on it might be expanded across NNIP, possibly as a cross-site project.***

Preliminary conversations in the Executive Committee have concluded that: (1) NNIP partners have not done much work on this subject mostly because the data assembly challenges are substantial (government expenditure data are seldom keyed to locations, data on private investment flows may not exist or, where they do, may be limited); but (2) the topic should offer great potential to strengthen the value added and sustainability of NNIP partners if those challenges can be overcome.

After an initial framing, this session will offer two presentations by partners who have done work in this area, or are planning to do so to illustrate the potential and the difficulties. A plenary discussion and table talk session after that will focus on identifying types of projects on the topic that seem most promising and to decide specifically on next steps we should take (individually and as a network) to further this work. This will specifically include consideration of how a cross-site project in the area might be designed.

Tom Kingsley from the Urban Institute will introduce the panelists and provide a framing of the issue of neighborhood investment.

Andrew Bowen from Neighborhood and Business Services at City of Charlotte will present on efforts to track investment in:

* 1. a quick turnaround project for a specific neighborhood (Hidden Valley);
  2. more elaborate investment monitoring at the neighborhood level (Renaissance West, HOPE VI-like setting); and
  3. more comprehensive monitoring for the City’s Comprehensive Neighborhood Improvement Program.

Jeff Matson from the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota, will discuss plans and ideas for a project to assess City capital budget allocations in several neighborhoods that will look at the process as well as the results with respect to equity.

**Questions for Table Talk:**(25 minutes for table talk and 15 minutes to report out)

* How many partners at your table have done work in this area? What kinds of projects?
* How many partners at your table would like to work on the topic in the future? What kinds of projects seem feasible and attractive?
* What are the key challenges you see and how could they be overcome?
* Should NNIP follow up to expand work in this area? If so, what specific aims and next steps? How could NNIP support your efforts?
* Specifically, what design would you propose for a valuable and viable cross-site project?