Portland State
UNIVERSITY

Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies
PO Box 751
Portland, OR 97207

December 16, 2009

G. Thomas Kingsley
Kathryn L.S. Pettit
National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership
c/o The Urban Institute
National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership
2100 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Tom and Kathy,

Attached is our revised proposal to become a member of the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership. We appreciate the comments you offered on our draft and have attempted to address them in this revision.

Your primary comments to our first draft were two-fold. First, you asked us to offer greater detail on how and when we will obtain neighborhood-level data, what projects we will use it for, and how we will make it available. Second, you asked us to describe our plans for working through and with grass roots organizations such as Living Cities and the Coalition for a Livable Future.

We have expanded on both of these issues in the revised submission. Please contact us if you have any further questions. Please note that the university will be closed from December 19th through the 28th.

We look forward to joining the NNIP officially and working with you on advancing the mission of the organization.

Have a safe and restful holiday.

Sincerely,

Sheila A Martin
Director and Associate Professor

National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership Application

Applicant Organization:
Portland State University, Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies (IMS) and Population Research Center (PRC)

Organization Website:
www.pdx.udu/ims/
Project website:
mkn.research.pdx.edu/

Main Contact for NNIP:
Sheila Martin, Director and Associate Professor
503-725-5179
Sheilam@pdx.edu

Organizational Structure:
The Institute is a Research Center of the College of Urban and Public Affairs at Portland State University

Current Geographic Area of Focus:
The geographic focus of the IMS is the Portland MSA. However, the PRC serves the entire state, and some of IMS research projects focus on the entire state.

Current Staffing:
Total Organizational Size: 10 FT FTE + 7 PT students
Key Staff members for Indicator work:
Sheila Martin: Director
Webb Sprague: Database Manager
Meg Merrick: Community Geography/GIS coordinator
Emily Picha: Research Assistant
Charles Rynerson: State Data Center Coordinator and School enrollment forecasting program director
Risa Prohl: Population estimates program manager

Note: Risa and Charles have indirect roles in the indicator work as demographers and managers of related projects. Their knowledge and contacts with the Census Bureau are very valuable to this work.

Current Major Funding:
The IMS/PRC combined hard money annual budget (funds that flow from the state Legislature through the University System) is about $750,000. In addition, these two organizations raised approximately $500,000 in fiscal year 09 in grants, contracts, gifts, sponsorships, and other revenue. The grant and contract revenue is derived from a variety of sources, primarily public sector, including Metro, other local governments, state agencies, school districts, and some nonprofit organizations.

Board/Advisory board composition:

Ginger Metcalf (co-chair)	Identity Clark County
Jack Orchard	Ball Janik LLP
Michael Jordan (co-chair)	Metro
H. Roger Qualman	Norris Beggs & Simpson
Anne S. Berblinger	Gales Meadow Farm
Richard Sadler	Dundee Fruit Company
Kandis Brewer Nunn	Strategic Resources LLC
Martha Schrader	Oregon State Legislature
Jeff Cogen	Multnomah County Commission
William C. Scott	Zipcar Portland
Rob Drake	Washington County
Nancy Steven	Kaiser Permanente
Jack Hoffman, Mayor	City of Lake Oswego
Steve Stuart	Clark County Commission
Elizabeth Johnson	Oregon State Legislature
Michael Sykes	City of Forest Grove
Pamela Lesh	Multnomah County
Ray Teasley	Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments
Robert Liberty	Metro Councilor
Bob Vieira	Oregon Health & Science University
Linda Malone	City of Sandy
Lawrence Wallack (ex officio)	College of Urban & Public Affairs, PSU

- We currently have two vacant board positions.

Organizational Mission:
The Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies (IMS) advances the economic, environmental, and social goals of the Portland metropolitan region by gathering and disseminating credible information, convening regional partners, and stimulating dialogue and action about critical regional issues. In addition, the IMS provides statewide information about demographic trends through the Population Research Center, an affiliate program of IMS.

Brief History:
The IMS was formed in 1992 under the leadership of Nohad A. Toulan, founding dean of the College of Urban and Public Affairs. The Institute's first director, Ethan Seltzer, was hired that year. Over the next several years, Dr. Seltzer developed the Institute's Board, and in 1997 the Board created the Institute's charter and mission. In 2001, the Institute was recognized by Oregon State Statute (ORS 352.074). The current Director, Sheila Martin, was hired in August of 2004. In August of 2009, the Institute was expanded to include the Population Research Center.

How does your mission align with the required NNIP partner activities as listed in the cover memo?

The IMS and the PRC are both historically viewed as neutral sources of information on important public policy issues. We believe that universities are uniquely qualified to fill the neutral convener role. We do not advocate specific positions on issues; however, we do draw conclusions that are justified by information, data, and analysis.

In the past, the IMS has provided data on an ad-hoc basis. However, over the past several years, the current Director has emphasized the development of databases that will enable and strengthen our work on regional public policy issues. We now document and archive any data that are developed in conjunction with a specific project so that that data can be updated and made available for future use.

The Metropolitan Knowledge Network (http://mkn.research.pdx.edu) was launched in 2009 as the portal for the data we collect and analyze and to replace the Metropolitan Briefing Book, which we used to produce every two years. While we began the project with regional-level data, we also include some smaller geography data on the site, and many stakeholders have asked for data at the neighborhood level. Thus, our interest in the NNIP is driven in part by the needs that have been expressed by users of our data.

In addition, the IMS has been working with Metro, the City of Portland, and Multnomah County over the past couple of years to build support and capacity for a regional indicator system. This system will be housed and managed by IMS. We are in the process of identifying and selecting indicators with input from community stakeholders. There is significant interest in identifying indicators that can be reported at several geographic levels, from the regional down to the neighborhood level.

The IMS has long been a strong proponent of using GIS and other mapping and visualization tools to empower neighborhood and community groups. The Institute's Community Geography Project has demonstrated the power of teaching these groups how to conduct asset mapping, how to interpret the maps, and how to use the data to create change in their communities.

With designation as the Oregon State Data Center and with responsibility for the State Population Estimates program, the Population Research Center is the state's source for census data and for reliable demographic research. Many cities, counties, school districts and nonprofits rely on the expertise of the PRC staff to provide the data they need to plan and target their capital and service projects.

How do you expect NNIP membership would benefit your organization?

We know that we will benefit from the NNIP in at least four ways:
1. We will learn from the NNIP Community of Practice. While we are just beginning to build our on-line database and data tools, we want to learn from others who have already learned the difficult lessons of doing this work. The accomplishments, energy, enthusiasm, and dedication of the NNIP partners inspire us to take this on.

2. We can use the work of the NNIP partners to demonstrate the value of community indicator work to potential partners, including those who we will ask to help fund the effort.
3. We value the availability of datasets that have already been examined and used by others, and the consistency of the database availability across the partner sites.
4. We also value the opportunity to be involved in multi-site projects that allow us to analyze the impact of interventions in neighborhoods across cities with vastly different conditions and characteristics than our own.

How do you see your organization contributing to the NNIP partnership?

Portland, Oregon's demographic characteristics are different than those of many of the other NNIP partners. A thriving central city, relatively low poverty, and neighborhoods that are less economically segregated than those of many other cities its size separate Portland from many of its peers. However, the city still faces challenges that must be addressed. Forecasters predict that the region will grow by another 1 million inhabitants within the next 20 years. This forecast could be proven much too modest if the expected water crisis in the Southwest forces growth into the Pacific Northwest, where water is relatively plentiful.

Accommodating this growth while preserving land for farming, forestry, and open space requires adding density within urban areas. Thus, the livability of urban neighborhoods will become a critical issue for ensuring that the public accepts and embraces growth in a sustainable manner. Portland can contribute to the growing research on what makes dense urban neighborhoods livable, affordable, and healthy for families and the elderly as well as the young single professionals known to favor dense urban neighborhoods. We are looking especially closely at the social determinants of health and how they can be affected by the design and condition of urban neighborhoods.

Portland is also known for its planning system and for regional governance. As a cross-site partner in research projects for the NNIP, Portland can offer the perspective of a region that has made conscious attempts to plan at the regional level. With the only directly elected regional government in the country, Portland can help the NNIP to investigate how regional governance and planning affect outcomes at the neighborhood scale.

Portland State University is an international leader in engaged participatory research. A number of national scholars and higher educational associations have recognized PSU for its innovative and fundamental role—locally and nationally—in helping build an ethos of strong demographic participation by students, faculty, and staff in communities. We bring that experience to the NNIP Community of Practice.

Finally, we are anxious to contribute to the NNIP shared indicators project and the community indicators consortium. We are eager to assist in the programming, testing and development of visualization tools.

Selected past and current projects on indicators/neighborhoods

The Regional Equity Atlas. We worked with the Coalition for a Livable Future to develop the Regional Equity atlas, which included maps and data for all the neighborhoods in the region with a special emphasis on access to amenities such as public transportation, affordable housing, high quality schools, grocery stores, parks, and natural habitat.

The Regional Equity Atlas, published in 2007, is a collection of data at the neighborhood level and maps that describe changes in those variables from 1990 to 2000. The neighborhood boundaries used by the *Atlas*, shown in Figure 1 for the City of Portland, are those defined by neighborhood associations.

IMS participated in the development of the *Equity Atlas* data and had major responsibility for creating the maps. Thus, we have possession of the neighborhood-level data that was used to create the maps. The variables included in the *Atlas* were gathered, averaged, and mapped at the neighborhood level from point data, school catchment area, or census block group data. Table 1 summarizes that data, and Figure 2 provides an example of one of the maps created with this data.

IMS is working with CLF on the expansion and update of the Regional Equity Atlas. As explained below, this new version will offer a rich vehicle for the collection and dissemination of and expanded set of neighborhood data and will include a robust outreach program for neighborhood groups who wish to use the data to advocate for improvements in their neighborhoods.

Table 1: Regional Equity Atlas Neighborhood-level data

| Population and Household Variables	Access Variables
Population	Median home sales price
Households	Median value of owner occupied housing units
Percent of people in Poverty	Average years of elementary school teacher experience in neighborhood schools
Change in percent of people in Poverty, 1990 to 2000	Percent of elementary school teachers with a Master's degree
Percent of people of color: 2000 and change from 1990 to 2000	Percent of population within a half mile of a full service grocery store
Percent of children in poverty: 2000 and change from 1990 to 1000	Percent of population within a quarter mile of a transit stop
Percent of households with no vehicle	Percent of population within a quarter mile of a public park
Percent of households with children less than 17 years old	Percent of population within a quarter mile of wildlife habitat.
Percent of households with members greater than 65	
Percent of upper income households (greater than $125K)	

Figure 1. Portland Neighborhood Geography
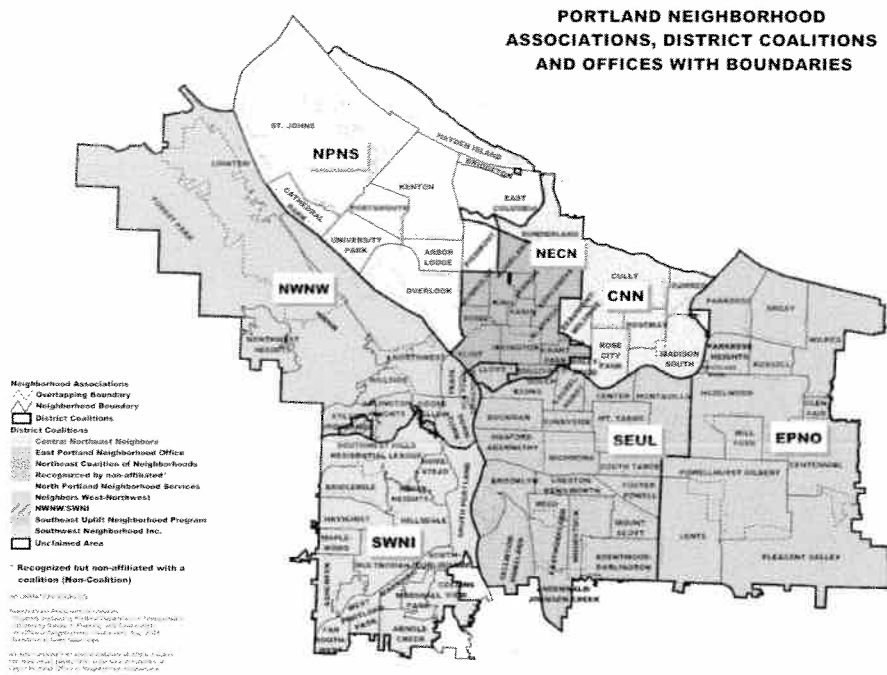
Figure 2. Equity Atlas Map showing walking distance to nearest public Park or Green space
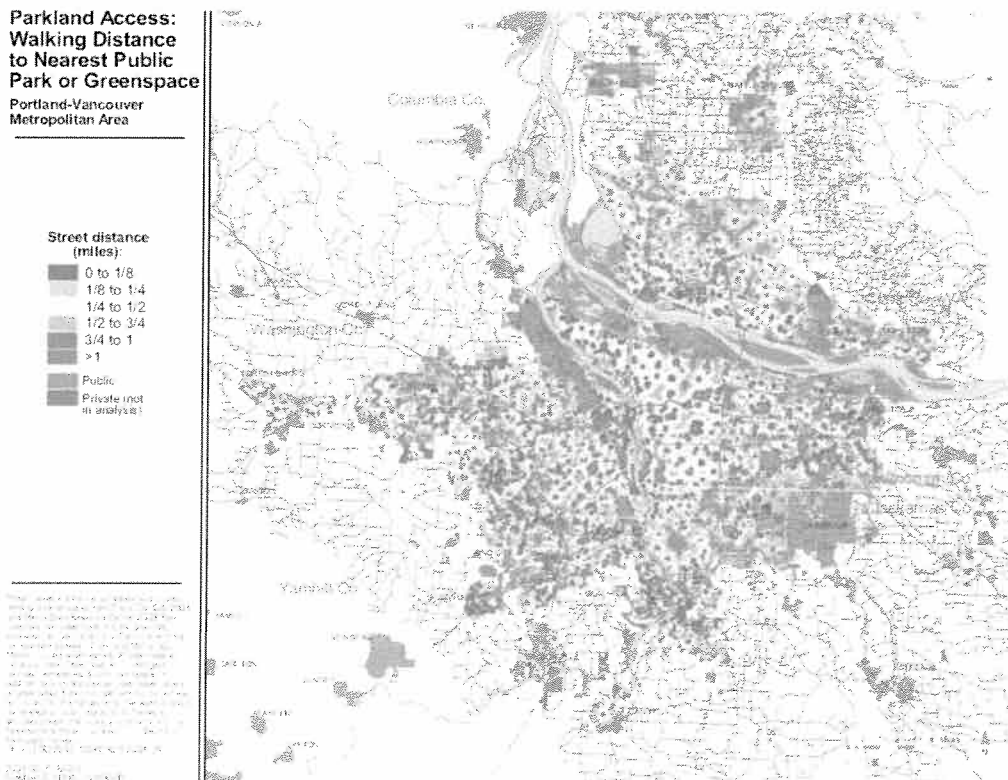
Regional Affordable Housing Study. We worked with Metro to conduct a forecast of the supply and demand for housing of different tenure, types and price ranges for each area within the Metropolitan region. The map below shows the geographic detail provided by this analysis. Note that we used Regional Land Information System (RLIS), as a source of data in these maps. A description of RLIS and our plans for using it in conjunction with other neighborhood data is described below.

Figure 3-20. Households Paying More than 30 percent of Income for Housing Costs by Metro Subarea, 2005
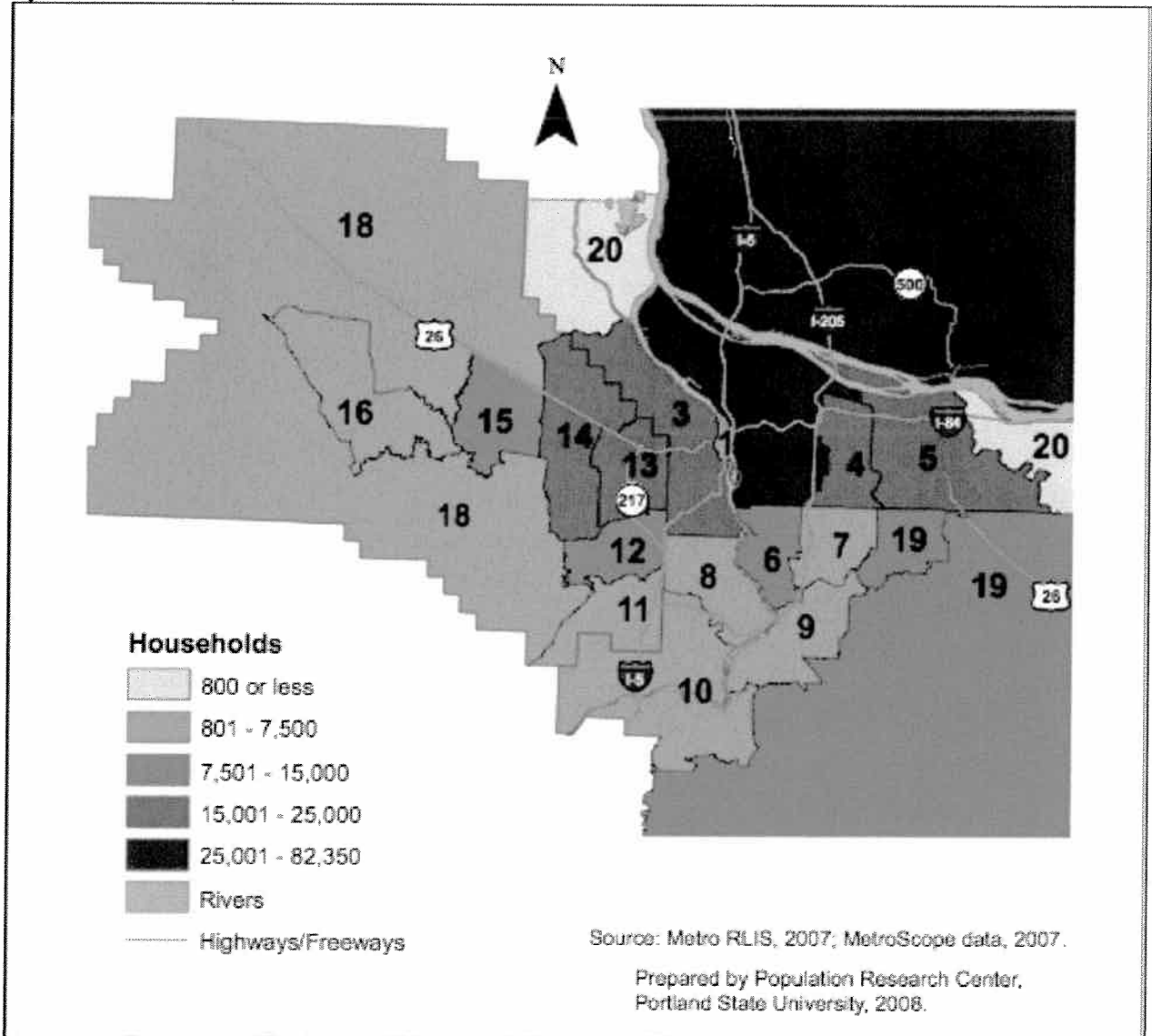
Community Geography Project. This series of projects engages neighborhood groups in GIS asset mapping and other data collection and visualization tools. The projects are drawn from the neighborhood partners' aspirations for improving their future.

One recent project created within the Community Geography Project was Clarendon at Portsmouth/James John Community PhotoVoice Project. This project applied the methodology of PhotoVoice in conjunction with GIS to analyze barriers to healthy eating/active living (HEAL) goals. We worked with the Multnomah County Health Department and Kaiser Permanente to engage a group of parents from Clarendon/Portsmouth neighborhood in North Portland. These parents were asked to document the neighborhood barriers to healthy lifestyle choices such as walking and biking to school. The parents, almost exclusively Spanish-speaking, used cameras to take photos documenting the barriers and worked together to caption the photos. A group of students translated the captions and performed GIS mapping of the photos and other neighborhood features. The parents presented their findings to a variety of community leaders, and now are witnessing changes in their neighborhood such as improved security at vacant schools.

Measure 37 Database and Mapping Project. Measure 37 was a citizens' initiative passed in 2004 that required local government to compensate landowners for lost property value due to land use regulations. With support from the Oregon Community Foundation, we collected information about Measure 37 claims throughout the state of Oregon, analyzed them to produce summary statistics, and, using the RLIS database, mapped the claims with other prominent neighborhood features to demonstrate the potential impact of these claims on the state's landscape.

Metropolitan Knowledge Network. We are currently working on making a variety of data available through the Metropolitan Knowledge Network. The database platform is essentially built. We are working on data protocols and on obtaining and curating a variety of data at the regional, county, city, and neighborhood, and parcel scale.

Various Demographic analysis projects. The Population Research Center has worked with nonprofits to estimate and analyze the demographics of specific neighborhoods in order to support their decisions about programs and services.

Plans for the Future

This section explains our plans for collection and analysis of neighborhood-level data and our plans for using that data in analyses and outreach to the community.

Collection and distribution of neighborhood-level data

We plan on developing and distributing neighborhood level data by building on our partnership with Metro and their RLIS dataset, data from the Population Research Center yearly estimates and projects, and data from NNIP. We will use these to develop a coherent data CD to be released yearly, and producing a report describing neighborhoods based on 5 year pooled ACS data, again yearly two months after the ACS PUMS is released. Whenever

possible, these datasets will also be released using the MKN technology described in other parts of this application. Details follow.

Data sources and important datasets:

- **Metro's Regional Land use Information System (RLIS).** Metro produces RLIS quarterly, which includes a region wide taxlot database with curated attributes, as well as many other boundary and analysis files. We have used the taxlot database in many reports already, and we will work with Metro to see that this data gets released publically somehow.
- **Internal project data.** The PRC has very useful person-level databases, including student enrollment, multifamily housing, DMV registration data with zip codes, and vital statistics data. We plan on releasing aggregated versions of these datasets, as well as developing complete coverage for the Metro region.
- **State and Federal data.** Although many of these datasets are available online, we have many in-house versions that have been reformatted, documented, and collected into more useable directory structures. One example includes a post-processed PUMS dataset from the 2000 Census describing migration into and out of neighborhoods in Oregon).

Data releases and distribution:

- **"Annual Neighborhood Report."** In early 2011, we will begin producing a report describing neighborhood dynamics based on ACS 5-year pooled data, geographic information from RLIS, and in-house data.
- **Annual local data CD.** By the end of 2010, we will produce a collection of datasets to complement Metro's quarterly RLIS releases, and releasing this dataset yearly. The contents of this CD will partly be based on neighborhood outreach and feedback.
- **Outreach.** Beginning in Spring 2010, we will start presenting our data products and services at neighborhood associations and community organizations. We hope to both generate interest and get useful feedback for future reports and data releases.
- **MKN whitepapers.** Throughout, we will post all whitepapers and reports on the MKN website with interactive links to the data.

Regional Indicators Project. We are working with Metro and a group of cities and counties to build support and capability for a regional indicators project. IMS will house the data and will have responsibility keeping it up to date and producing regional indicators updates for local and state leaders.

Expansion of the Metropolitan Knowledge Network to neighborhood data. We are in the process of developing a schedule for release of a variety of data on the MKN web site, including small geography data.

Environmental Justice Mapping We are working with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and their Environmental Justice Task Force to identify areas of concern with respect to environmental justice. This project involves mapping areas with low income/minority

populations and environmental and health risks that may affect these populations disproportionately.

Update of the Regional Equity Atlas. The release of Census 2010 offers an opportunity to expand the small geography data available through the Regional Equity Atlas, improve its accessibility and usability, and engage neighborhood groups in a conversation about how neighborhoods have changed over the past decade.

Project Goal/Approach:

Using a community based, participatory research approach, Coalition for a Livable Future and Portland State University Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies will lead other community partners in the development of the next generation of the *Regional Equity Atlas* for the purpose of tracking equity trends and outcomes on an ongoing basis. Our approach will build from the experience, lessons and data resources that were created through development of the first *Regional Equity Atlas*.

IMS will lead data collection and management, GIS mapping, and research methodology and will serve as a link to student and faculty resources at PSU. CLF will manage the project, be the lead conduit to the community, and be a primary user of the data in support of CLF's advocacy. Both partners will have important convening roles: CLF is the link to community groups and will ensure that the project addresses their needs and supports their goals. IMS will ensure stakeholders from key sectors and leadership circles are engaged in learning about the results.

Objectives/Outcomes/Products:

- Create and maintain a web-based mapping tool that will display a variety of quantitative and qualitative data for understanding equity conditions in our region. These maps will show the geographic distribution of demographic changes, changes in access to resources—public education, jobs, transportation choices, affordable, quality housing—and how differential access to these resources affects the health of people living in different communities and neighborhoods. In general the maps will show the trend of change between 1990-2010; show differences among places (neighborhoods/census tracts/cities/legislative districts) within the region; and the variation region-wide.
- Develop neighborhood-based indicators for health, disease and illness prevalence that can be linked with the demographic and built environment indicators developed in the first iteration of the *Regional Equity Atlas*. Since publication of *REA* in 2007, we have partnered with Kaiser Permanente Northwest to pilot the integration of chronic disease rates of KP patients in the metropolitan region with *REA* data.
- Engage and support community members in the development and interpretation of data, and use of the new data analysis tools.
- Use surveys, interviews, focus groups, and other methods to involve a broad cross-section of community members in all phases of the qualitative and quantitative research.
- Community Data Network: CLF will work with its partner organizations to recruit a network of community-based researchers across the region to gather data on several

10

key indicators of equity in their neighborhoods. For example, to learn more about access to healthy, affordable food, the community-based researchers will visit the grocery stores, mini-marts, and farmers' markets in their neighborhoods to compare the quality, price, and availability of key food items. They will submit their findings through an on-line survey instrument. CLF's research team will synthesize the information from each neighborhood and then map the data.

List other groups and organizations in your region that collect and disseminate data, including current or past activities you have collaborated on with them:

Metro. We have built a strong partnership with the Metro regional government. We have collaborated on a variety of projects, including an affordable housing study, development of new planning and finance tools for neighborhood vitality, addressing Measure 37 issues, and collaborating on economic, transportation and land use forecasting models. We are also working with them on the Metropolitan Regional Indicators Project.

City of Portland. We have connections with the city in a variety of offices, including the Mayor's office, the Office of Planning and Sustainability, and the Bureau of Housing. The Mayor's office has been involved in the Metro regional indicators work. In fact, the Mayor has been a strong supporter of developing regional indicators for a number of years. We have worked with the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability on the Indicators project, and on a visioning project for the city. They have also participated in some of our work on Measure 37 and food systems analysis work. The city has also just initiated an open access data project to make city administrative records more available to citizens. We are discussing a partnership that would use IMS as a data intermediary in this process.

Portland Development Commission (PDC). This semi-independent economic development agency is responsible for urban renewal and economic development for Portland, and to some extent, the entire region. They have been very engaged in the regional indicators work and we are working with them to map economic data such as business licenses. In addition, PDC has a strong interest in working with us to use parcel data to understand the implications of changes in policy and boundaries of urban renewal areas.

Multnomah County. The PRC conducts small geography estimates of population by age and race for the County. We are working with the county to curate and display their vital statistics data. We are also beginning to work with other counties in the metropolitan region as we develop the regional indicators project and will

Coalition for a Livable Future. The CLF's *Regional Equity Atlas* was a collaborative project that included IMS and PRC. We are working with CLF for the update of the Equity Atlas when the Census 2010 data are available. CLF provides an important link to a number of community, environmental, planning, and social service organizations.

References and contact information

Please also see attached letters for references.

1. Sam Adams
   Mayor, City of Portland
   1221 SW Fourth Avenue, Suite 340
   Portland, OR 97204-1995
   503-823-4120

2. Michael Jordan,
   Chief Operating Officer
   Metro
   600 NE Grand Ave.
   Portland, Or 97232-2736
   Jordanm@metro.dst.or.us

3. Jill Fuglister,
   Executive Director,
   Coalition for a Livable Future
   107 SE Washington Street Suite 239
   Portland, OR 97215
   503-294-2889
   jill@clfuture.org

4. Mark Levy
   President/CEO
   United Way of the Columbia-Willamette
   619 SW 11th Avenue, #300
   Portland, OR 97205
   503-228-9131

5. Ted Wheeler
   Multnomah County Chair
   501 SE Hawthorne Blvd Suite 600
   Portland, OR 97214
   503-988-3308

Category	Dataset	In posession	Geography	Notes
Births and Deaths				
	Births total	Y	Record	
	Births by prenatal	P		Working with state vital statistics
	Births by birth weight	P		Working with state vital statistics
	Deaths by cause	Y	Record	
Education				
				We have record level access for districts for whom
	Student Enrollment	Y	Record	we forecast, school otherwise
	Student Proficiency	R	Record	
	Student Absences	R	Record	
	Free/ Reduced price lunch	R	Record	
	Special Education	R	Record	
	Kindergarten readiness assessment	R	Record	
	Head start enrollment	R	Record	
	Other pre-school enrollment by type	R	Record	
	Child care	N		
Health				
				Working with Multnomah county health
	Immunization	P	Block group	department, will expand to all metro counties.
	Child blood lead level	N		
	Hospital admissions by cause	P	Block group	
	Asthma	P	Block group	
	Emergency department visits	P	Block group	
	Ambulatory care	N		
	Injury surveillance data	P	Block group	
	Communicable diseases	P	Block group	
	Sexually transmitted diseases	P	Block group	
Public Assistance				
	TANF	R	Aggregated by cou	Oregon Department of Human Services
	Food stamps	R	Aggregated by county	
	Medicaid	R	Aggregated by county	
	S-Chip	R	Aggregated by county	
	WIC	R	Aggregated by county	
	Subsidized child care	R	Aggregated by county	
Housing Assistance				
	Public housing units	P	R	Working with Portland Housing Bureau
	Housing choice vouchers	P	Block group	
	Other subsidized housing	P	Block group	
Crime				
	Reported crime (part I)	R/P	Block group	"Portland CrimeMapper" does ad hoc queries,
				we plan on distributing summaries and trends
	Reported crime (part II)	R/P	Block group	after getting neighborhood feedback
	Arrests	R/P	Block group	
	Arrests (juvenile)	R/P	Block group	
	Emergency 911 calls	R/P	Block group	
Prisoner re-entry				
	Ex-offenders returning from prison	N		
	Ex-offenders returning from jail	N		
	Persons on probation / parole	N		
Business/ Economy				
	Business inventory (ES-202)	N		
	UI wage record	R		Oregon Employment Department

UI claimant file	R			Oregon Employment Department
Business inventory (other)	N			
Business licenses	N			
Liquor licenses/ stores	N			
Property Transactions / Characteristics				
Property transactions	N			
Property sales (volumes/ prices)	N			
Property tax assessments	Y		Record (parcel)	RLIS taxlot
Tax delinquencies	N			
Evictions	N			
Vacant parcels	N			
Foreclosures	Y		Zipcode	Currently using RealtyTrac, working on an electronic feed of current foreclosures from six metro counties
Building permits	Y		Record (parcel)	Use in support of estimates, will extend effort to collect for data CD
Demolitions	Y		Record (parcel)	Building permits
Housing code violations	N			
Lead paint abatements	N			
Water usage	Y		District	Use in support of estimates, will extend effort to collect for data CD
Water shutoffs	Y		District	Use in support of estimates, will extend effort to collect for data CD
Electric shutoffs	Y		District	Use in support of estimates, will extend effort to collect for data CD
Child Welfare				
Foster care	N			
Child abuse / neglect	N			
Other				
Voting records	Y			
Community referral calls	N			
Library cards	P		Record	Currently working on a research project with Multnomah Cty Library, will make data available on CD
DMV Registration	Y		Record	

Notes:
   Code for data inventory: Y, P, N, I -- **Y**es, in **P**rocess, **N**o, **R**eferral to other agency

July 10, 2009

Tom Kingsley
National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership
c/o The Urban Institute
2100 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

I am writing to express my support for the designation of the Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies (IMS) at Portland State University as the lead organization in the Portland region for the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP). We believe that with the support of the NNIP, IMS will be successful in engaging our community in the generation, use, and discussion of community-based information as a catalyst for change.

IMS is the right organization to lead the Portland region's NNIP membership. IMS has a reputation for neutrality, reliability, and quality, and has the full support of the University's leadership in this effort. IMS and PSU offer the technical, intellectual, and social capital necessary to be successful in this process.

We are currently working with IMS to develop indicators for our various planning efforts. We will also be working with other regional jurisdictions to extend these indicators to our entire metropolitan area. We believe that information about what is happening in our region needs to be examined at both the macro level, so that we understand connections among our communities, and at the micro level, so that we understand what is happening on the ground in our neighborhoods. IMS will play a key organizing role in this process and will serve as the region's curator of community indicators. We believe that joining the NNIP will enhance this work and improve our community's connections with other cities and regions facing similar issues.

We encourage you to invite IMS to join the NNIP network.

Sincerely,

Sam Adams
Mayor
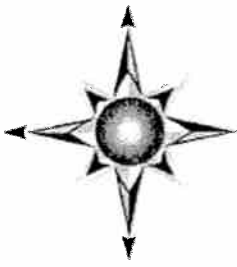
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Tom Kingsley
National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership
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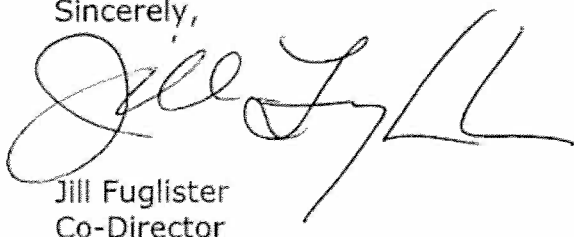2100 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

I am writing to express my support for the designation of the Institute of Portland
Metropolitan Studies (IMS) at Portland State University as the lead organization in the
Portland region for the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP). The Coalition
for a Livable Future is a non-profit that unites over 90 diverse organizations and hundreds
of individuals to promote healthy and sustainable communities. We believe that with the
support of the NNIP, IMS will be successful in engaging our community in the generation,
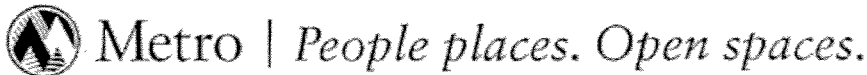use, and discussion of community-based information as a catalyst for change.

IMS is the right organization to lead Portland's NNIP membership. The Coalition for a
Livable Future has worked with IMS on the creation of the Regional Equity Atlas. This
project has been very important to the equity dialogue in our community, and we are
pleased to be partnering with IMS in planning for an update and expansion of the Atlas
using 2010 Census data. IMS and PSU offer the technical, intellectual, and social capital
necessary to create a credible document and a robust community dialogue.

IMS and PSU are key contributors to our work in understanding equity issues in our
community. We believe that joining the NNIP will enhance this work and improve our
community's connections with other cities facing similar issues. We encourage you to
invite IMS to join the NNIP network.

Sincerely,

Jill Fuglister
Co-Director

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
503-797-1700
503-797-1804 TDD
503-797-1797 fax

www.oregonmetro.gov

Metro | *People places. Open spaces.*

July 16, 2009

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National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership
c/o The Urban Institute
2100 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Re: Support for Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies as NNIP lead

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

I am writing to express my support for the designation of the Institute of Portland
Metropolitan Studies (IMS) at Portland State University as the lead organization in
the Portland region for the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP).
We believe that with the support of the NNIP, IMS will be successful in engaging our
community in the generation, use and discussion of community-based information
as a catalyst for change.

IMS is the right organization to lead the Portland region's NNIP membership. IMS
has a reputation for neutrality, reliability and quality, and has the full support of the
University's leadership in this effort. IMS and PSU offer the technical, intellectual
and social capital necessary to be successful in this process.

We are currently working with IMS to develop a regional indicators system. This
project, while in the planning stage, will eventually include a variety of jurisdictions
and organizations to identify, gather, analyze and discuss the region's progress,
assets, and issues related to economic, social and environmental sustainability. IMS
will play a key organizing role in this process and will serve as the region's curator
of community indicators. We believe that joining the NNIP will enhance this work
and improve our community's connections with other cities facing similar issues.

We encourage you to invite IMS to join the NNIP network.

Sincerely,

Michael Jordan
Chief Operating Officer
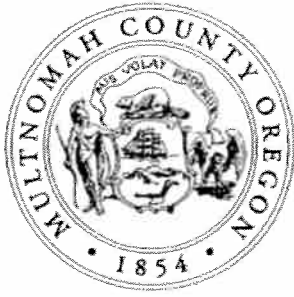
Ted Wheeler, Multnomah County Chair

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 600
Portland, Oregon 97214
Phone: (503) 988-3308
Email: mult.chair@co.multnomah.or.us

July 13, 2009

Tom Kingsley
National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership
c/o The Urban Institute
2100 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

I am writing to express my support for the designation of the Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies (IMS) at Portland State University as the lead organization in the Portland region for the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP). We believe that with the support of the NNIP, IMS will be successful in engaging our community in the generation, use, and discussion of community-based information as a catalyst for change.

IMS is the right organization to lead the Portland region's NNIP membership. IMS has a reputation for neutrality, reliability, and quality, and has the full support of the University's leadership in this effort. IMS and PSU offer the technical, intellectual, and social capital necessary to be successful in this process.

We are currently working with IMS to develop a set of prosperity indicators for Multnomah County. We will also be working with other regional leaders to extend these indicators to our entire metropolitan area. We believe that information about what is happening in our region needs to be examined at both the macro level, so that we understand connections among our communities, and at the micro level, so that we understand what is happening on the ground in our neighborhoods. IMS will play a key organizing role in this process and will serve as the region's curator of community indicators. We believe that joining the NNIP will enhance this work and improve our community's connections with other cities and regions facing similar issues.

We encourage you to invite IMS to join the NNIP network.

Sincerely,

Ted Wheeler
Multnomah County Chair

July 15, 2009

Tom Kingsley
National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership
c/o The Urban Institute
2100 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

I am writing to express my support for the designation of the Institute of Portland
Metropolitan Studies (IMS) at Portland State University as the lead organization in
the Portland region for the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP).
We believe that with the support of the NNIP, IMS will be successful in engaging our
community in the generation, use, and discussion of community-based information
as a catalyst for change.

We believe that IMS is the right organization to lead this effort. IMS has a reputation
for neutrality, reliability, and quality, and has the full support of the University's
leadership in this effort. IMS and PSU offer the technical, intellectual, and social
capital necessary to be successful in this process.

This effort is essential to our work. We focus on improving education, income and
health in our region, and strive to offer a voice to underrepresented communities.
By generating the information we need to understand our community and how it is
changing, IMS and the NNIP can help the United Way and our entire community
invest our resources more wisely and improve lives in the process.

We look forward to participating as a co-convener of community leaders as we
begin the process of identifying, gathering, interpreting, and mobilizing around
community indicators. We encourage you to invite IMS to join the NNIP network.

Sincerely,

Marc Levy
President/CEO

619 Southwest 11th Avenue, #300, Portland, Oregon 97205 | 503.228.9131 · *phone*
in Clark County please call | 360.696.0341 · *phone*

www.unitedway-pdx.org

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