

OTA 2012 SW ZONING CONFERENCE
How To Achieve Effective
Community Participation
& Why it's Important





Today's Presenters



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Landscape Architecture
Planning + Design

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Owner / Principal



Today's Discussion



"Planning – Why
Public Participation is
so important and how
to successfully
incorporate it"

How Public Input Impacts
Successful Planning

(Why it's important)

Traditional Public Input
Strategies

(The normal ways we get good feedback)

Incorporating Technology

(New and exciting ways to get the community involved)

How Public Input Impacts Successful Planning



The Comprehensive Plan

What is it - and - Why have it?

What is a comprehensive plan?

- Land use, economics, transportation, environment, community facilities.
- Addresses the long range future of a community (10-20 years)
- Provides valuable guidance for decisions that affect the future quality of life and the natural and built environments.



Why have an up to date comp plan?

- View the big picture –looks at inter-related issues on a macro scale and how decisions affect all aspects of a community
- Coordinate local decision making –goals and policies that guide local government decisions in land use, zoning, and policy matters
- Provides guidance where the community is headed and how property will be developed
- Establish a sound basis in fact for decisions make informed decisions on land use and other topics and provides consistency in decision making.
- Involve a broad array of interests involves various levels of government
- Builds an informed community



How does Public Participation Impact this Process?

- Government of the people, by the people, and for the people.
- Without public participation decisions over a communities future rely on a small group of individuals...or no one at all.
- As those individuals change, leave, or get voted out the priorities change leaving little consistency or lasting legacy.



Benefits of Public Participation?

- Create a Better Understanding of:
 - What people desire for the future of their community
 - What people need from their community
 - What concerns people have
 - How people view the physical characteristics of their community
- Develop a Community "Vision"
- Identify Supporters / Activists
- Develop "By-In" or support for the plan
- Improve the sense of community
- Foster Trust in elected officials
- Legal Backing

Traditional Methods of Public Participation



Traditional (Old Fashioned) Methods Today...

- Open House Meetings
- Visioning Meetings
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Steering Committees
- Business and Resident Surveys
 - Mailed
 - Online
- Charrettes



The MOST Important Step!

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

The Way of Lao-tzu
Chinese philosopher (604 BC - 531 BC)



CREATING AWARENESS...



Creating Awareness...

- Public Campaign Kick Off
 - Give the Public the 411 (What, Why, When & Where)
- Spreading the Word
 - Newspaper ads (tired but required)
 - Township Newsletter
 - Township Website / Blog
 - Collective Billing (trash, etc.)
 - Fliers, Fliers, Fliers
 - Mailed
 - Distributed by staff or volunteers
 - Posted where residents gather
 - School kids





Other Options...

"Public Notice - Rezoning for Toxic Waste Dump!"







General Purposes...

- Project Kick Off
- General Information Gathering
- Project updates



Characteristics...

- Easiest to organize
- Require the least preparation / Low Budget
- Good for getting lots of information to lots of people
- Can incorporate several exercises



Simple Exercises...

SWOT Analysis:

- Can be done in large groups
- Usually a series of 4 to 6 questions
- Open Brainstorming
- Important to keep order
- Write answers on large pads, tape to the wall and let residents rate answers
- Looking for repetition in answers
- Finding key phrases
- Answers can help develop goals



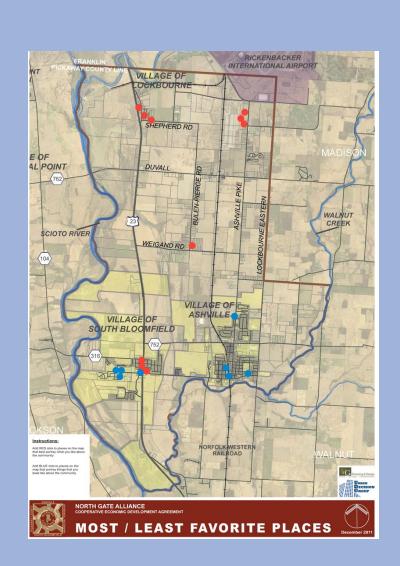




Simple Exercises...

Incorporating Maps (paper kind)

- Low tech way of soliciting targeted and location based information
- Usually done with colored dots
- Specific questions for each map
- Can help to identify residents opinions on different areas and characteristics of the twp.
- Can be done at the end of a meeting





Simple Exercises...

Word Exercises:

- Usually asking people for key words that describe the township
- Key words can become part of the overall vision statement
- Can help define what residents overall expectations of their community are...



Visioning Meetings...

Purpose for Visioning Meetings

- Engage the public in developing a common vision
- Develop a vision Statement
- Public input developing community goals

Why...

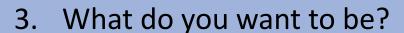
- Common Vision and goals are a key
- Helps planners tailor strategies and policies



Visioning...

Easy as 1...2...3...

- 1. Where are we and how did we get here?
 - Identify challenges
- 2. What makes you special and what do you want to change?







Census
County Engineer
County Auditor
Aerial & Parcel Mapping
Floodplain mapping

Unique Features
Historic Architecture
Agricultural Heritage
Environmental
Close knit community



Vision Statement
Goals
Community Character
Environmental
Close knit community



Visioning how to...

- Requires pre-planning
- Start with information developed during open house meetings
- Break larger groups up into smaller groups (12 – 18 people)
- Each group develops vision statement / goals
- Groups get back together and share statements
- Incorporate statements and goals





Sample Vision Statement...

"Our Township and Village residents and leaders value their small town friendliness, community charm, and agricultural heritage and in the future, through smart growth policies and the coordination of local government resources and efforts, our entire community will promote balanced growth opportunities, coordinated transportation and pedestrian connectivity, and environmentally responsible industry that respects our environment, enhances our small village centers, and increases the success and quality of life of our families and employers."



Sample Goals...

- Continue to promote cooperation and collaboration between the Township and Villages to share resources, plan collectively, promote economic development, and make decisions that improve the quality of life for the entire community.
- Protect the Rural character, small town charm and agricultural heritage of the community.
- Preserve and/or support farmland as a viable industry where appropriate.



Visioning...

Resources:

- "Building Our Future A Guide to Community Visioning" Gary Green
- "Planning for the Future A handbook on Community Visioning" The center for Rural Pennsylvania
- "The Community Visioning and Strategic Planning Handbook" National Civic League

Stakeholder Meetings



Stakeholder Meetings...

Who are the Stakeholders?

For this purpose - people that have a vested interest other than residence.

Stakeholders can provide "Insider Information"

- Key business owners
- Government offices (ODOT, ODNR, County, etc.)
- Life Safety (Police / Fire)
- Regional Planning Authorities
- Large Landowners and Developers

Stakeholder Meetings



Purpose for Stakeholder Meetings...

- Great for Strategic Planning
- Develop a basis of info specific to various topics
- Coordinating with various departments
- Private development plans / Business concerns

How to...

- Hold in addition to public meetings
- Keep to groups of 6-8 people
- Organize around like agendas
- Prepare specific questions ahead of time and also allow time for open discussion.

Steering Committees



Purpose for Steering Committees...

- Bring public representatives into the conceptual planning process
- More heads making decisions rather than one opinion dominating
- Lend more credibility to results

How to...

- Keep them small (10-12 people max)
- 1 trustee, 2 zoning commission, residents and stakeholders
- People must be willing to dedicate time
- Organized, Efficient, Objective



Surveys



Polling the community

The Survey...

- Can be done online
- Minimal cost to host (\$ 20 mo.)
- Anonymous
- Easy to sort results

Resources:

- Survey Monkey.com
- Fluidsurveys.com

North Gate CEDA Land Use Plan

The Harrison Township Trustees, and the Mayors and Council members of the Village of Ashville and the Village of South Bloomfield, invite you to participate in our online survey. The survey is the first step in our effort to involve the community in the creation of our joint comprehensive land use plan. Your response to this survey will be 100% anonymous and should only take a few moments. Your participation is greatly appreciated and will help us to determine the future needs of our community. As this survey is completely anonymous you will not receive any responses from your comments but if you have a question or comment that you would like someone to respond to please feel free to email us at northgateceda@gmail.com

Thank you for your participation in this important endeavor.

Are you a resident or business owner?

- I am a local resident
- I am a local business owner
- I am both a local resident and a local business owner
- O I own property in the township / village but I live elsewhere

What is your age?

(remember responses are 100% anonymous)

- O Under 18
- 0 18-24
- 0 25-34
- 35-44
- 3 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- O 75 or older

Surveys



Benefits of Surveys...

- Great for asking specific questions
- Can reach many people
- Anonymous
- Can get a broad makeup of your audience
- Can ask a variety of questions / Rankings

How to...

- Develop questions pertaining to study
- Start with general then move to topic specific
- No more than 25 30 questions
- Get the word out...

The Charrette



The Charrette...

- 1. One or Two day meeting...
 - Intense brainstorming process
 - Identify StrengthsWeaknesses
 - Create a "community" based vision.
- 2. Setting up a Charrette:
 - Plan
 - Advertise
 - Educate
 - Participate





The Charrette



Sample Charrette Process



The Charrette



The Charrette

Keys...

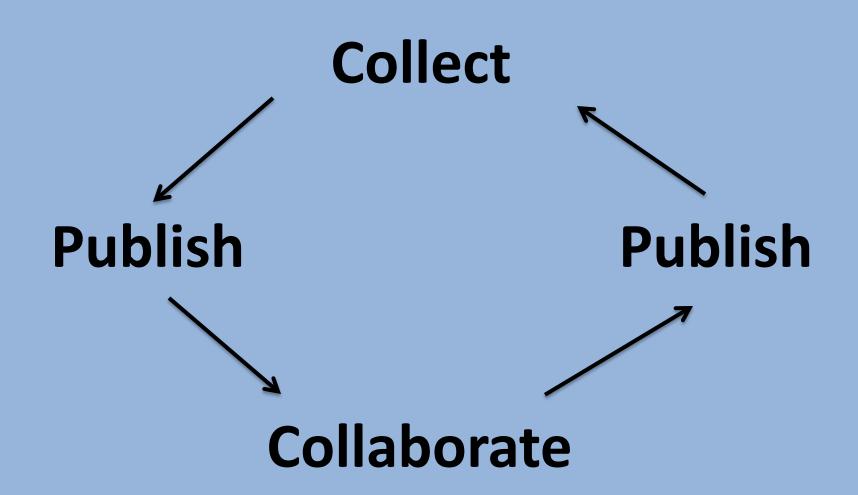
- Good Outreach
- Refreshments
- Comfortable Neutral Environment
- Follow up with an Open House at a later date

Resources:

The National Charrette Institute

Using Technology to Engage the Public

Cycle of Information



The Old Web

- Static
- Limited feedback
- Browser only
- Not easily updated

The New Web (web 2.0)

- Dynamic
- Social Media = Feedback loops
- All platforms
 - Traditional browser
 - Mobile
- Easily updated

Type of Tools

- Content Mgmt. System (CMS)
- Blogs
- Social Media
- Media Sharing
- Wikis
- •GIS & Mapping

Start with Your Website

A good CMS can help you maintain a website that is:

- Simple
- Organized
- Useful
- Dynamic

CMS examples







Then Add the Tools



Blogs: Newsworthy content Links to pages & resources

Social Media Maps

Blogging examples

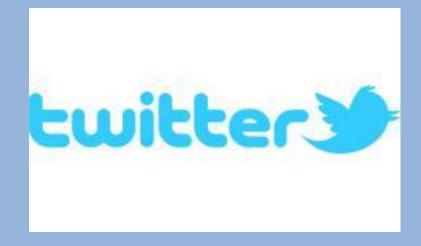






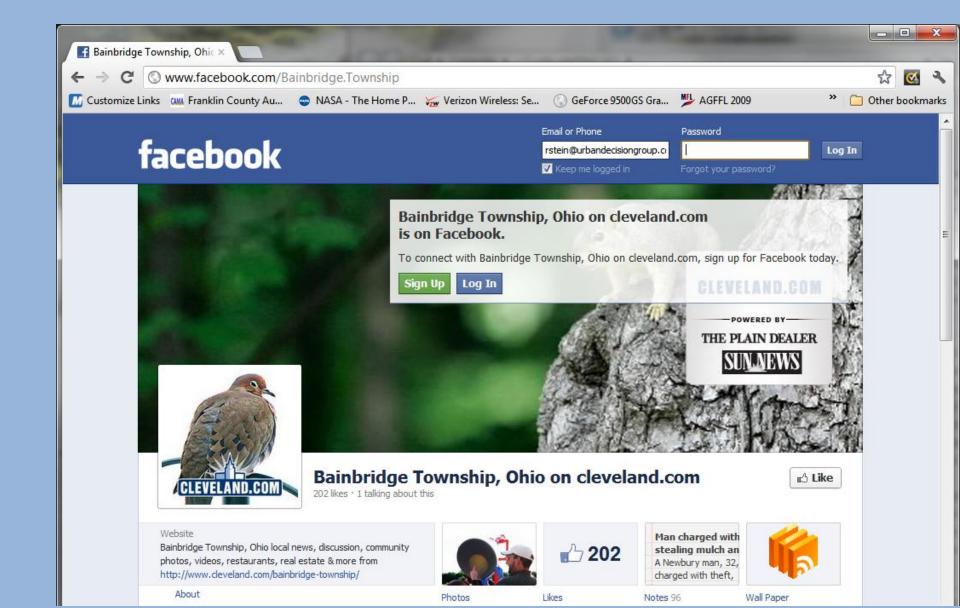
Social Media

facebook





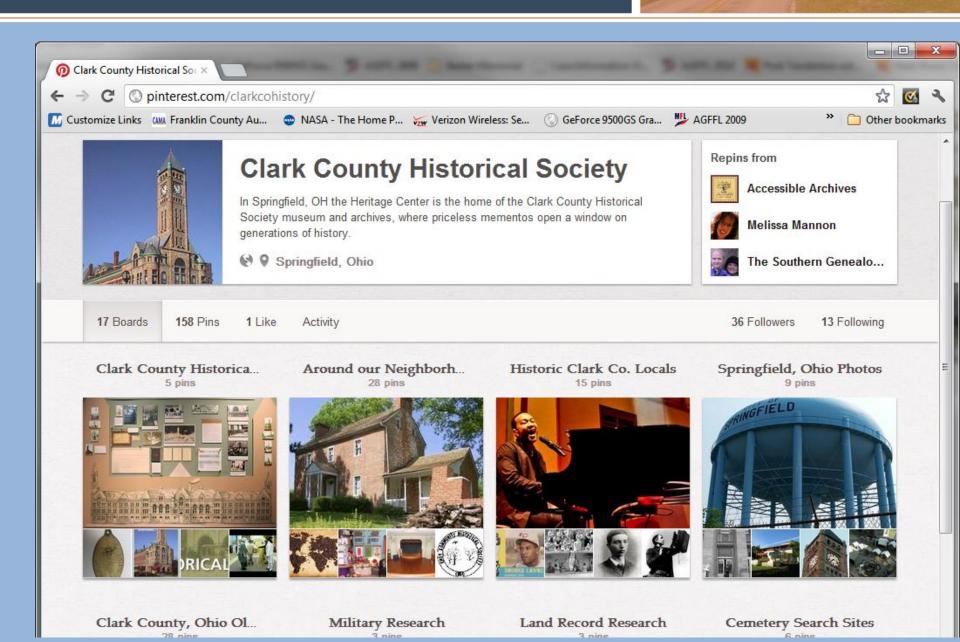
Social Media (Facebook)



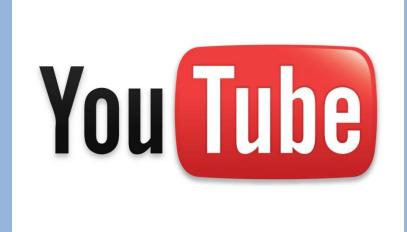
Social Media (Twitter)



Social Media (Pinterest)



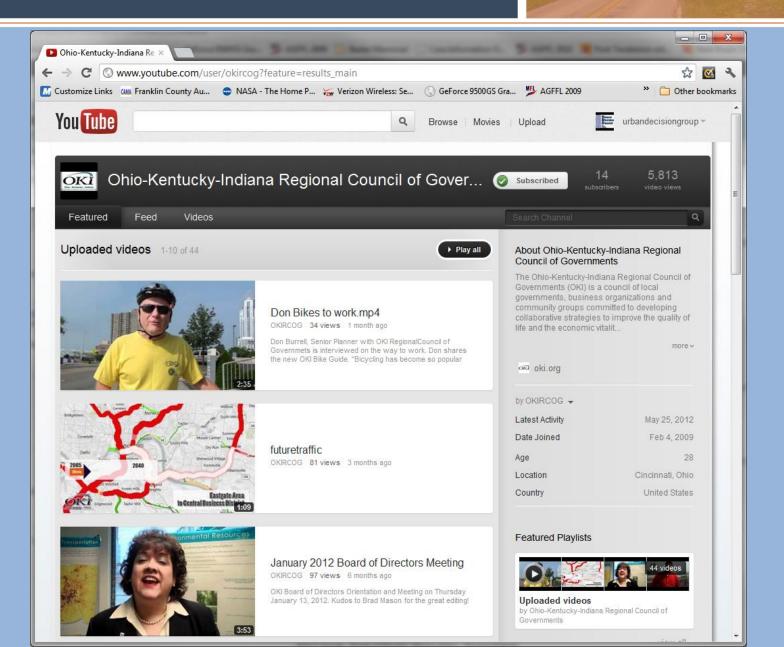
Media Sharing



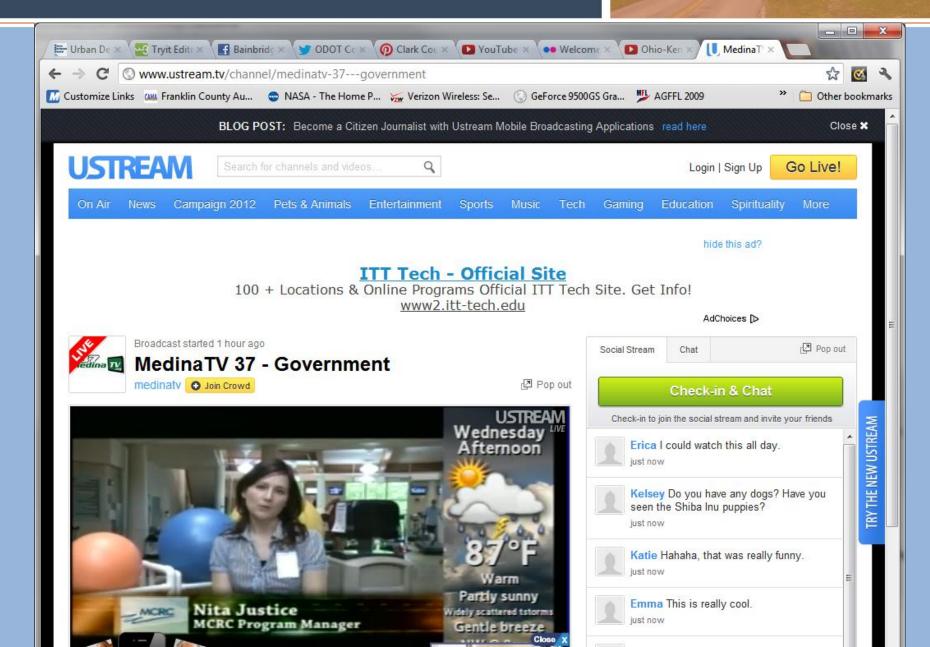




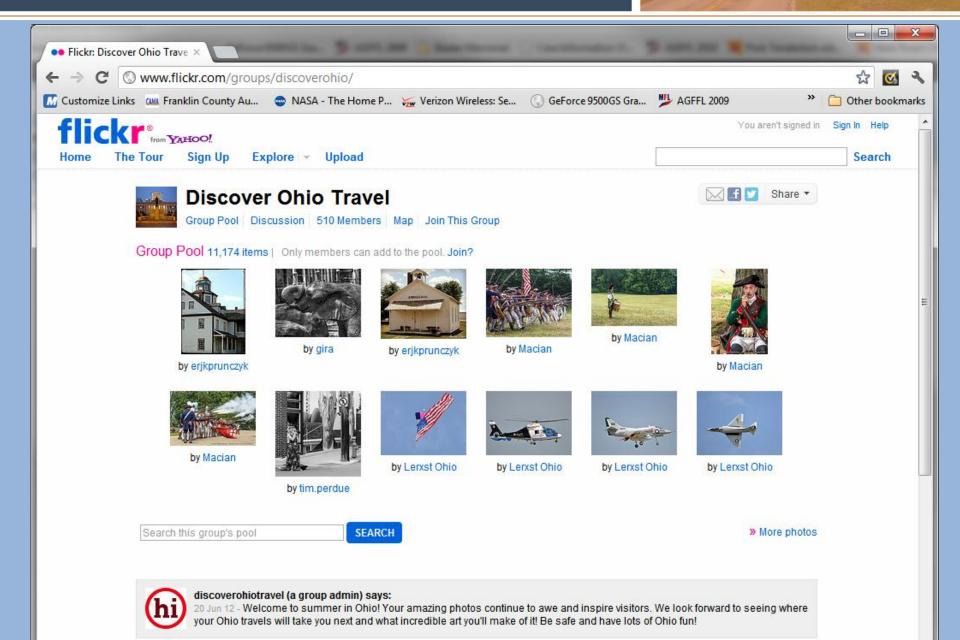
Media Sharing (YouTube)



Media Sharing (Ustream)



Media Sharing (flickr)

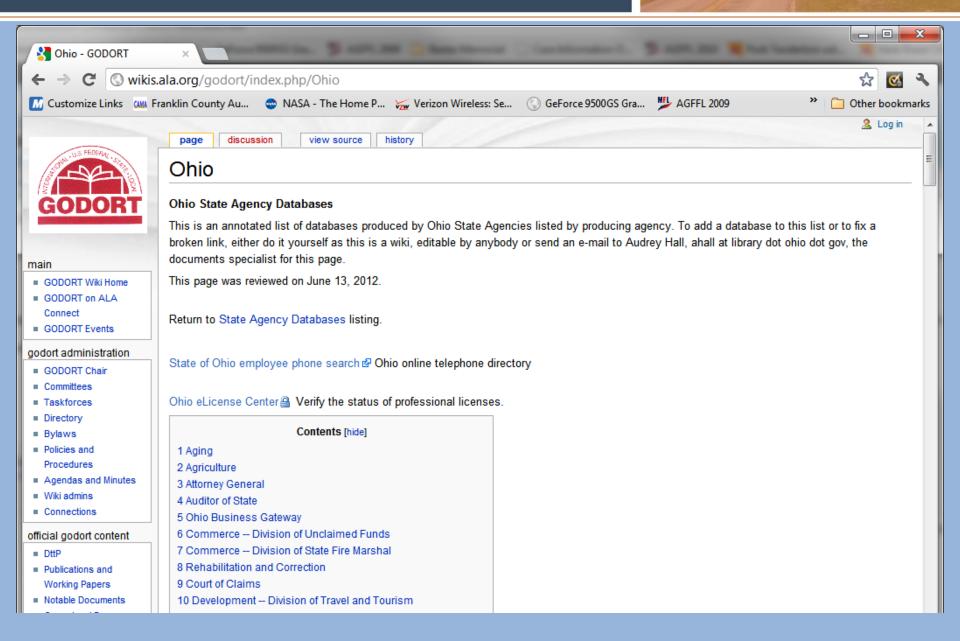


Wikis

Wiki pronounced wikē

Noun: A web site developed collaboratively by a community of users, allowing any user to add and edit content.

Wikis



GIS & Mapping

Possible uses:

- Resource mapping
- Crisis\Disaster mapping
- Visual preference surveying
- Political boundaries
- Traffic management
- ?

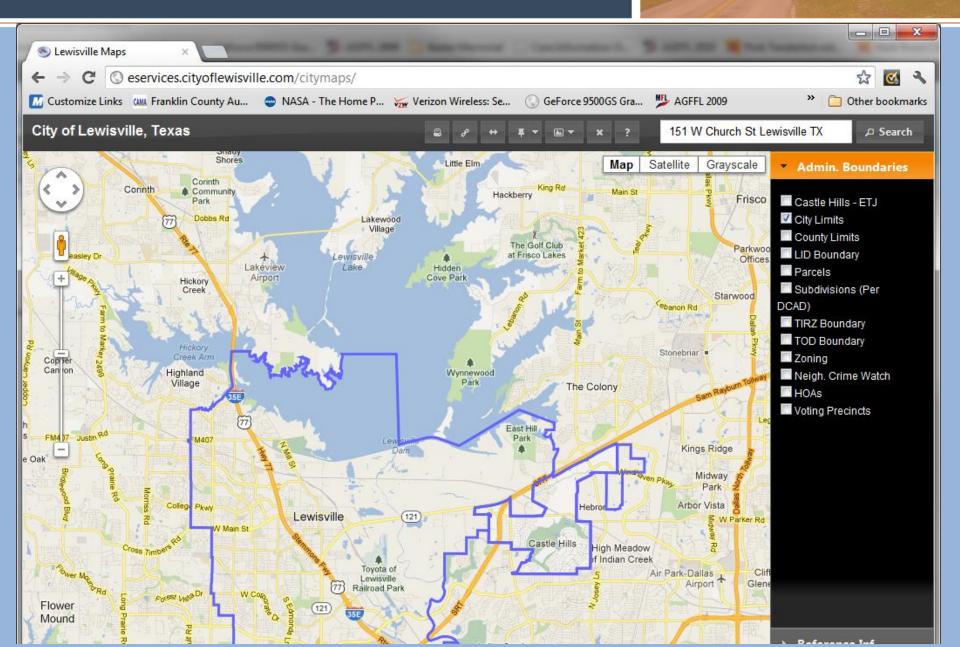
GIS & Mapping



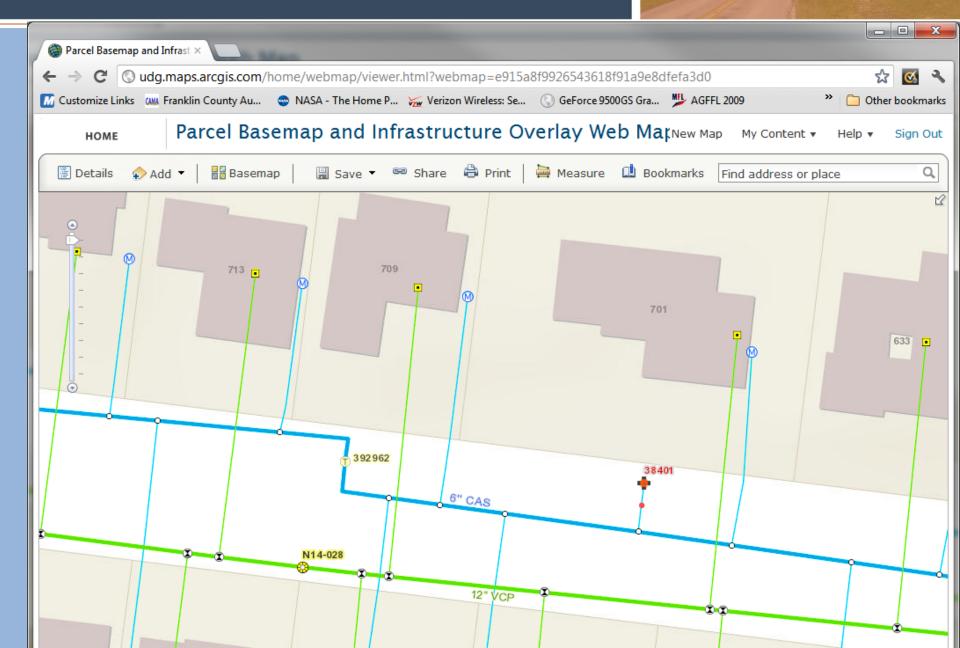




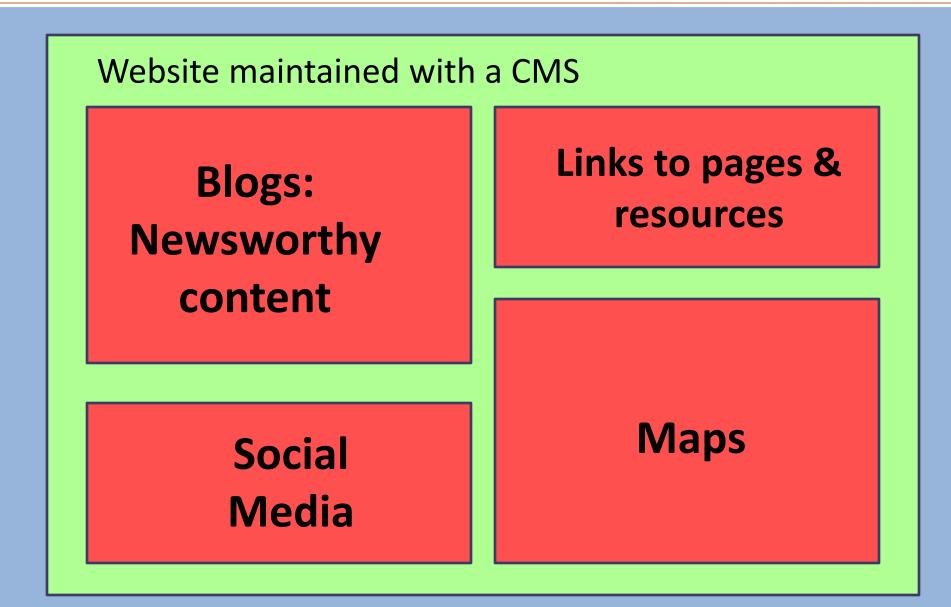
GIS & Mapping (Google)



GIS & Mapping (ESRI)



All the pieces together in one place



Cycle of Information

Collect [Information]

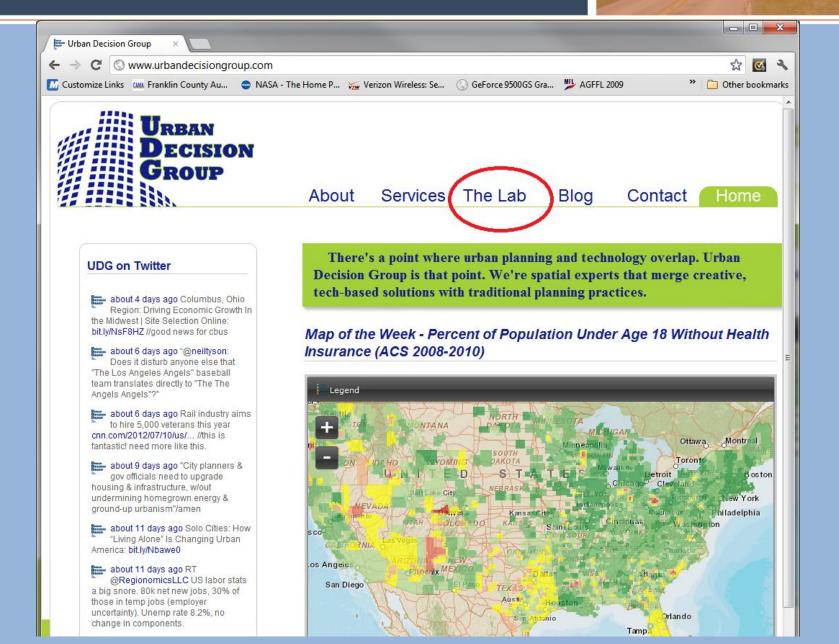
Publish to Web

Collaborate using Web Tools

Publish to Web & Social

Media

Today's Presentation



Contact Us



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