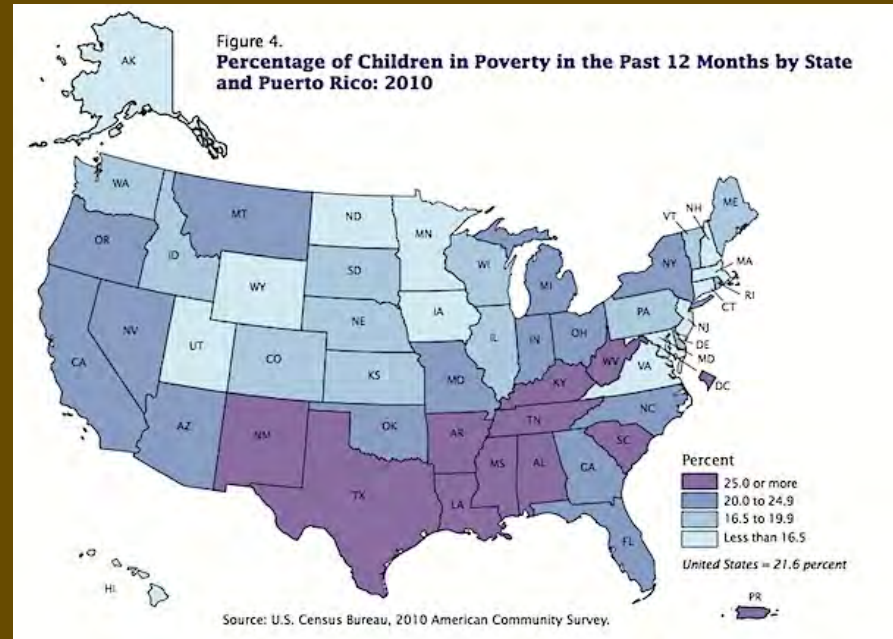


No Easy Way Out

Neighborhood Revitalization and Child Poverty



- 22% of all children live below federal poverty level
- 45% of children live in low-income families
- Childhood poverty most prevalent among black (35%), Latino (28%) and American Indian (29%) children
- Increased from 16.2% in 2000
- 71% of poor families with children are unmarried



a national issue

- Reduced cognitive development
- Lower school achievement
- Behavioral and emotional problems
- Poor physical health
- Teenage pregnancy



primary effects on children

- Poor children 1.3 times more likely to have developmental delays or learning disabilities
- Significant gap noticeable by age 3
- Duration of poverty increases effects
- Developmental delay caused by poor nutrition
- Shorter attention span
- Lower motivation
- Illiteracy and low school achievement later on



cognitive development

- Poverty alone has small impact on years completed
- Schools and neighborhoods have impact
- 1/3 of children from low-income communities enter kindergarten behind peers
- More than 1/2 behind in reading by fourth grade
- Dropout rates 6 times higher than for students from higher income families
- School performance affected by nutrition level



school achievement

- Externalization and internalization
- Persistent poverty increases internal emotional problems (anxiety, depression, withdrawal)
- Current or short-term poverty may increase external emotional problems (aggression, fighting, acting out)
- Behavioral and emotional problems more likely to be untreated
- Exposure to parental depression, domestic violence and substance abuse



behavioral and emotional problems

- Low birth weight and infant mortality
- Growth stunting (2X that of nonpoor)
- Exposure to lead can cause irreversible cognitive problems
- 1/3 of poor children obese (1/5 of nonpoor)
- Increased rates of asthma and anemia
- Less health coverage or treatment

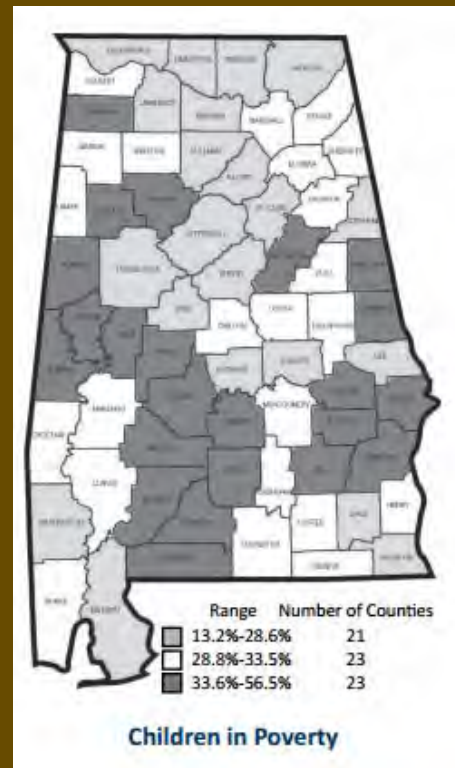


physical health

- 28% of Alabama children live in poverty
- 22% of children in urban areas are poor
- 30% of children in rural areas are poor
- 45th state in overall child well-being (best since 1990)

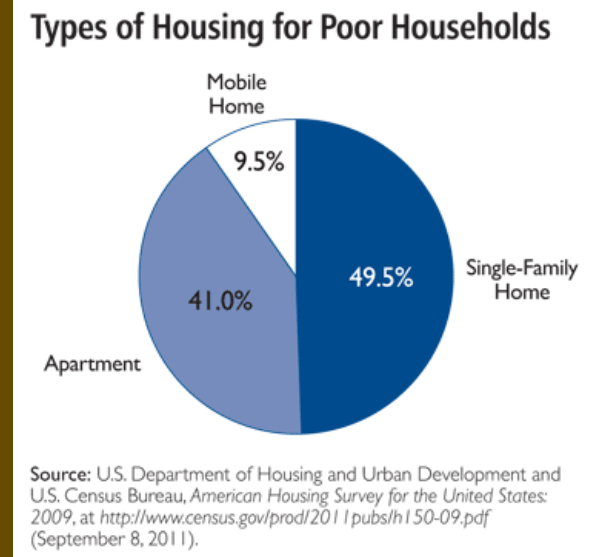


in alabama



Kids Count Data Book – Alabama 2012

- Children in poverty – 307,000
- Children living in areas of concentrated poverty – 14%
- Children w/ no full-time employed parents – 399,000
- Children in households that spend more than 30% income on housing – 394,000
- 67% of children have parents with no college education



in alabama

Kids Count Data Book – Alabama 2012

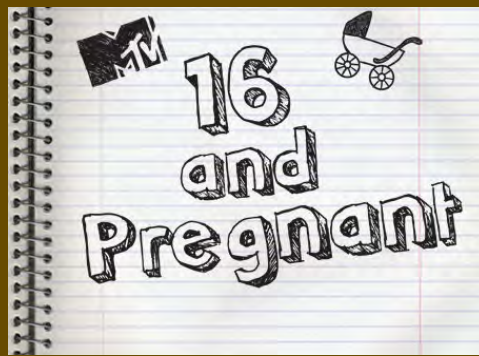
- Teens (16-19) not in school or working – 28,000 (10%)
- Children (3-4) not in preschool – 72,000 (58%)
- 1/3 of 4th graders below basic reading level
- 40% of 8th graders below basic math level
- 28% of high school students do not graduate on time



in alabama

Kids Count Data Book – Alabama 2012

- 10.3% of babies born with low birthweight
- Teen births – 7,343
- Teen births to women who were already mothers – 1,392
- Children in single-parent families – 417,000 (39%)
- Children in care of grandparents – 70,000 (6%)
- Female-headed families receiving child support – 28%



in alabama

The Poverty Cycle

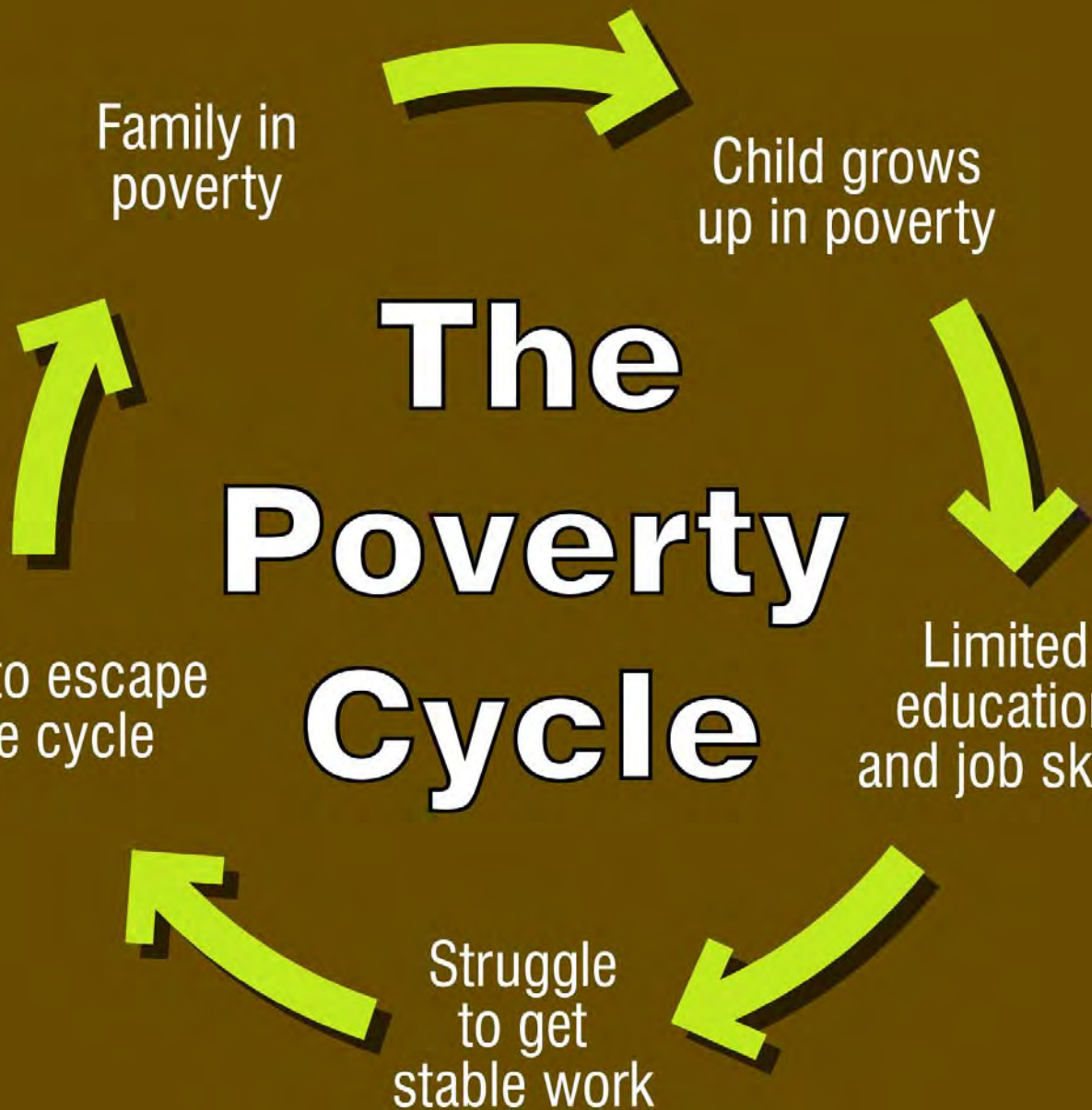
Family in poverty

Child grows up in poverty

Limited education and job skills

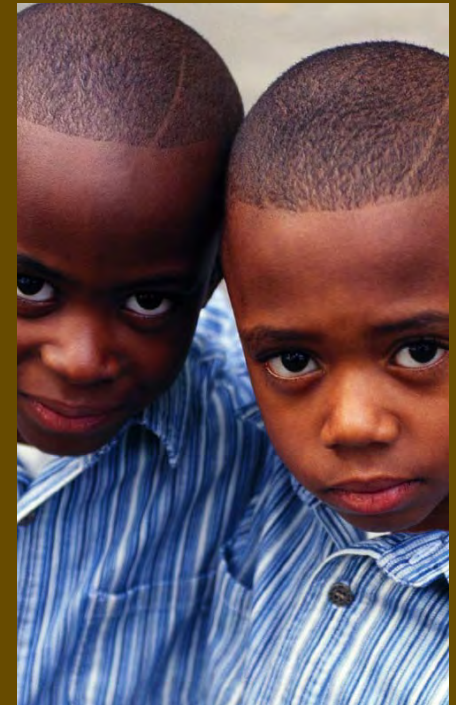
Struggle to get stable work

Fail to escape the cycle



- Reduce the education gap
- Secure and stabilize the neighborhood
- Provide affordable, decent housing choices
- Assure accessibility and mobility
- Remediate any environmental problems
- Enhance job access and readiness
- Improve access to health care
- Support food security and nutrition
- Provide social support services

breaking the cycle

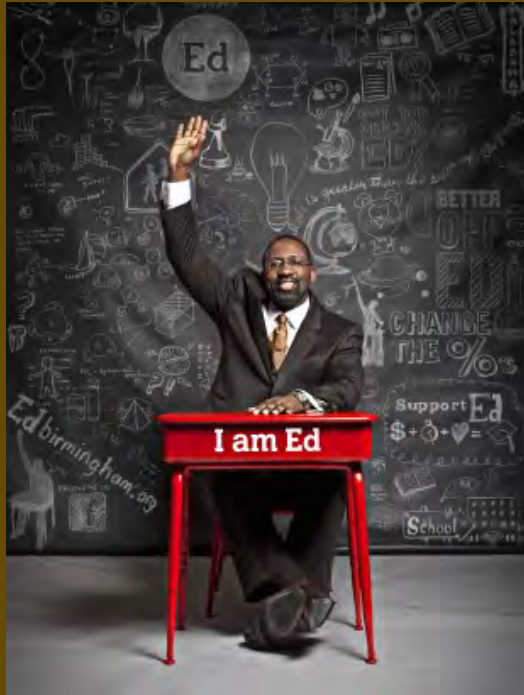


- Mixed income housing
- Accessibility and mobility
- Infrastructure
- Economic development
- Food security and food deserts
- Environmental justice
- Education and services
- Quality of life

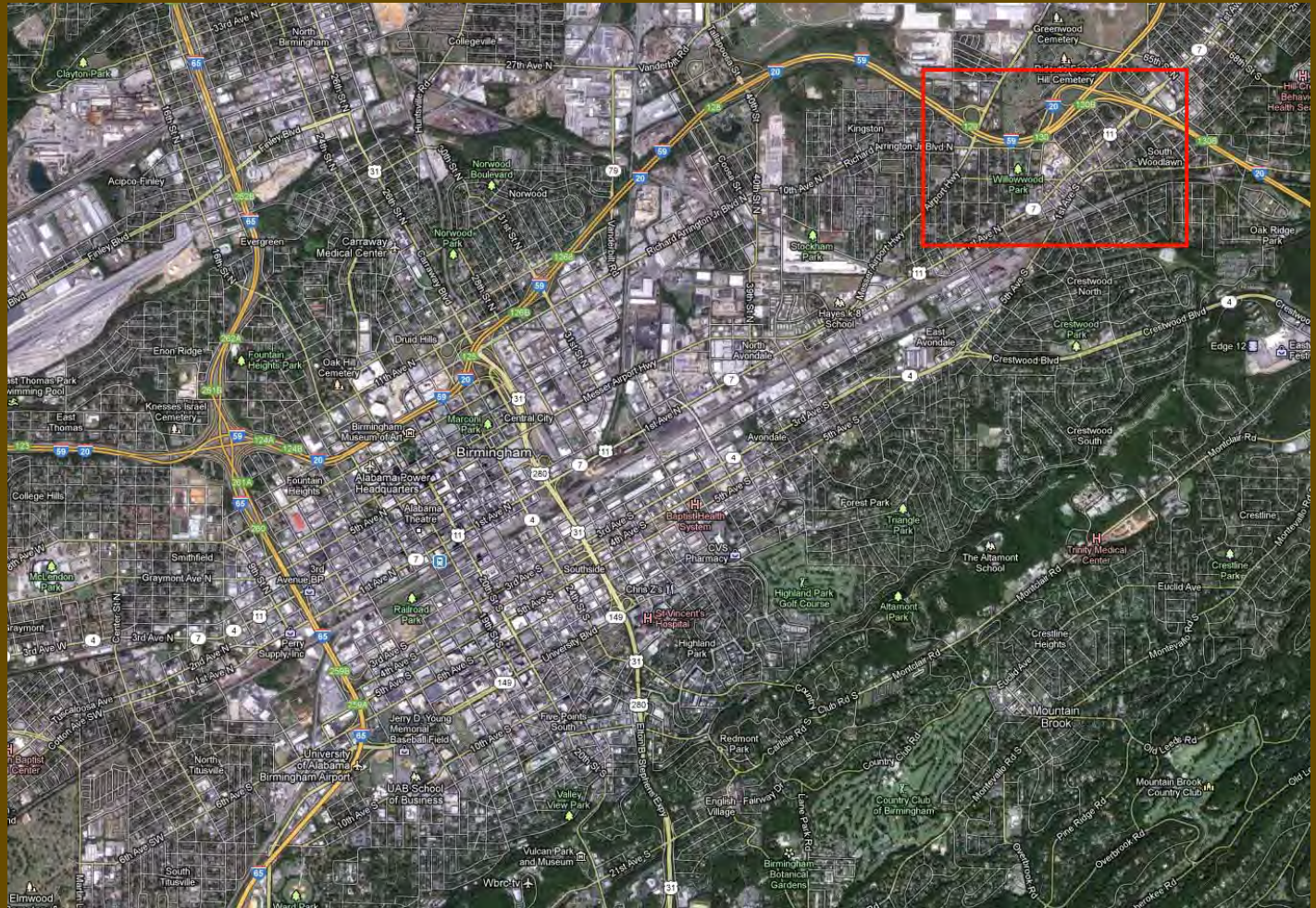


Planners can help put the pieces together.

roles of the planner



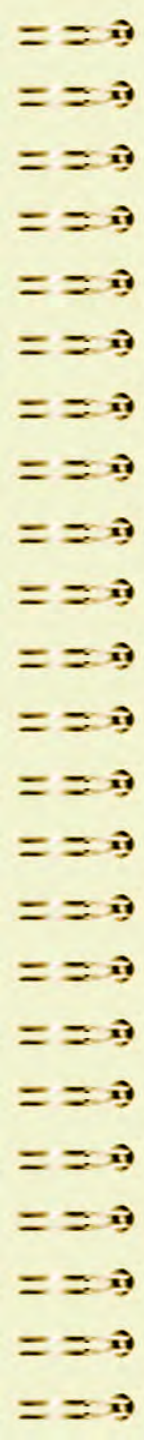
woodlawn



the neighborhood



the neighborhood

- 
- Woodlawn incorporates in 1891
 - Grows to over 2500 by 1899
 - Public library, fire department, City Hall, central business district, 3 elementary schools and 2 high schools
 - Annexes into Birmingham in 1910
 - Develops as a streetcar suburb
 - Decline experienced in 1950s, intensifies during 1970s
 - Unsustained revitalization efforts in 1980s and 1990s
 - Woodlawn United partnership forms in 2009

background

- Woodlawn Foundation
- YWCA Central Alabama
- Church of the Highlands
- Cornerstone Schools
- Main Street Birmingham
- Merchants Association
- Neighborhood Associations
- Woodlawn High School
- Desert Island Supply Co.
- Purpose Built Communities



woodlawn united

- Historic business district
- Landmarks and institutions
- Accessibility (airport, interstate, US 11)
- Past streetscape improvements
- YWCA housing investments
- Well-defined edges
- Proximity to thriving neighborhood
- Traffic counts on 1st Avenue North
- Historic housing stock



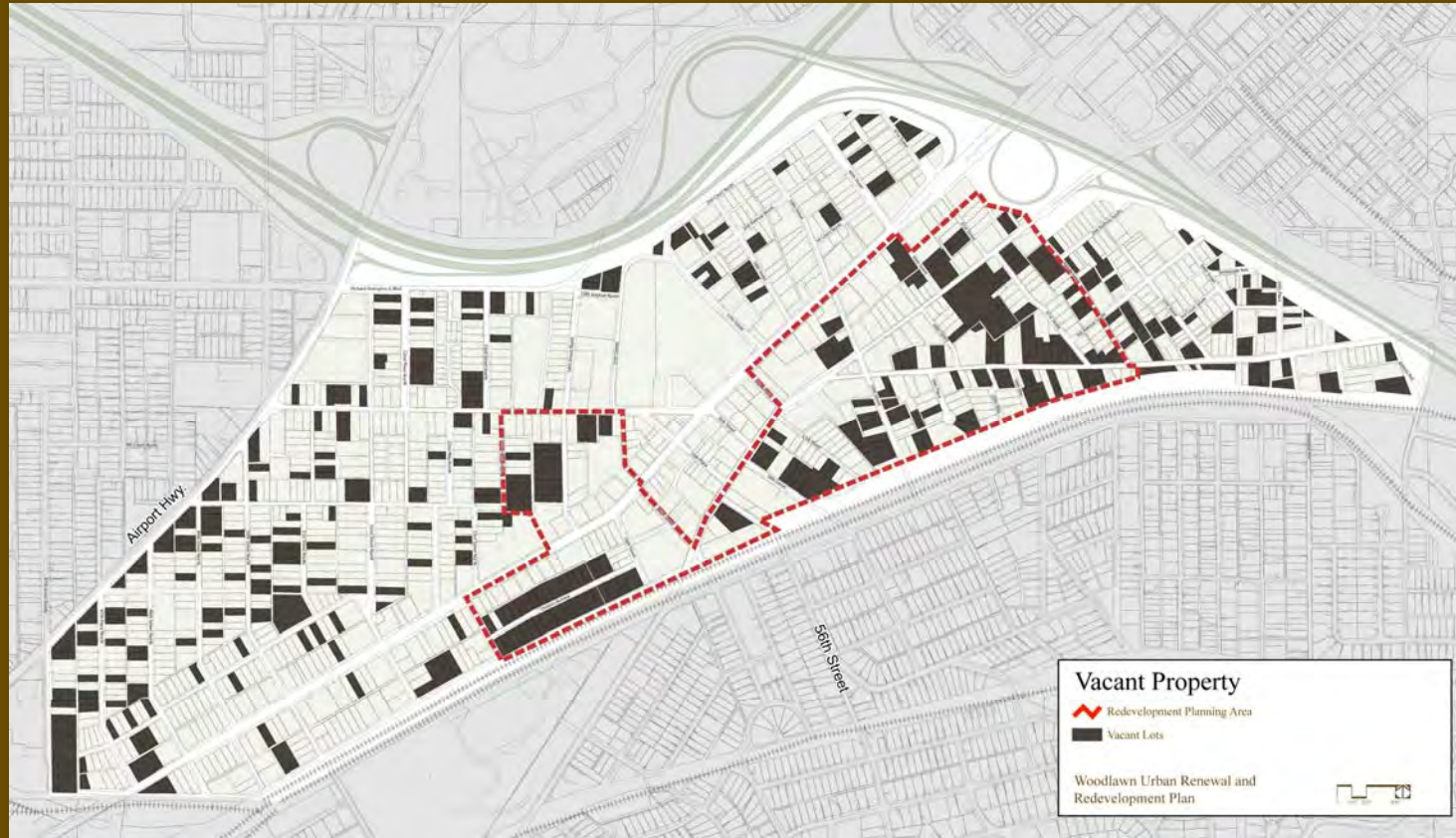
assets

- Crime, perception of crime
- Inadequate code enforcement
- Scattered vacant properties
- Deteriorated, vacant housing
- Poor rental property management
- Low home ownership
- Limited early learning options
- Noise (airport, railroad, industry, interstate)
- Lack of retail and dining
- Spot zoning for multifamily



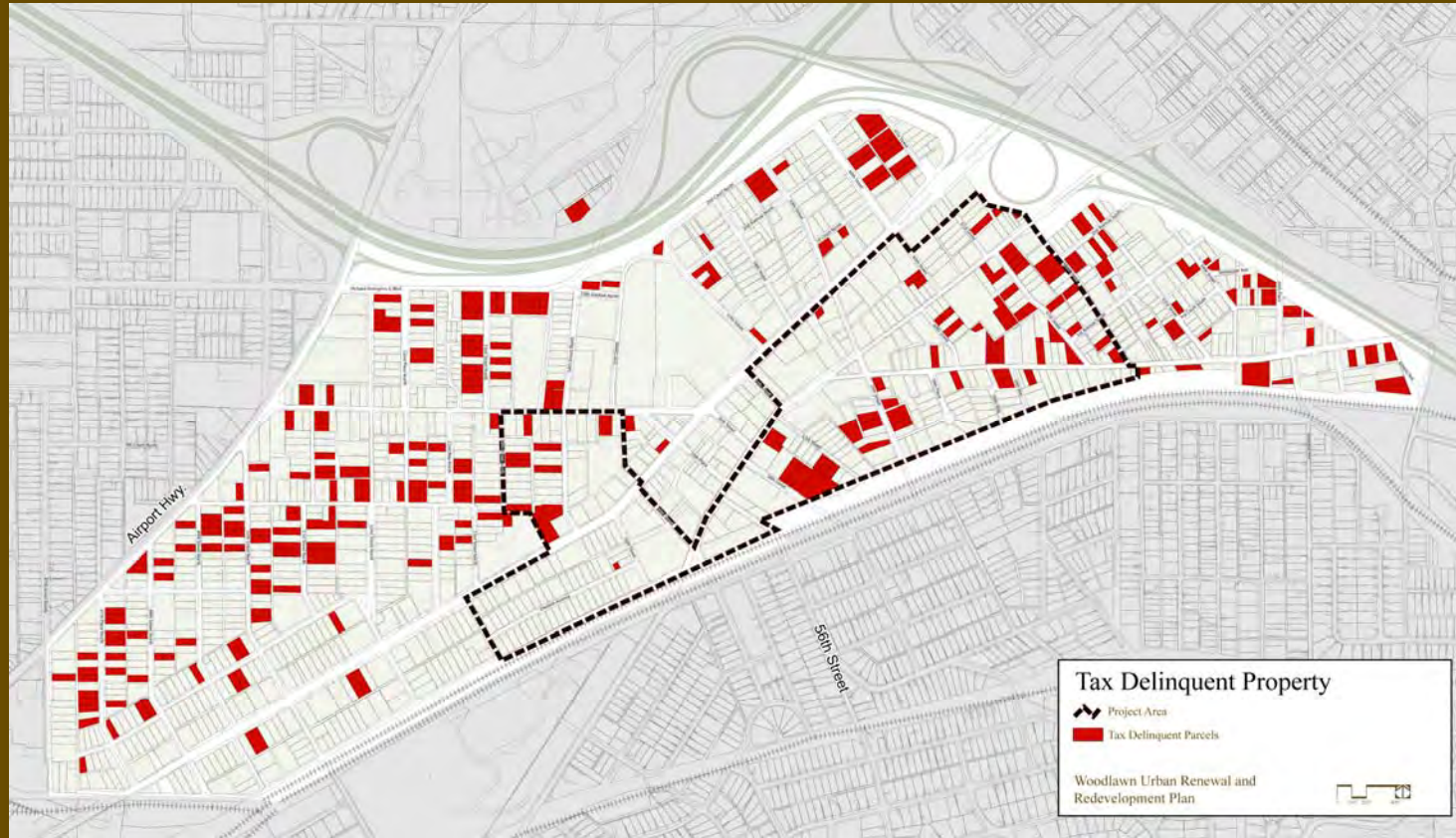
issues

30% of residential property vacant, neglected, overgrown



vacancy

294 delinquent properties (48.7 ac), mostly residential

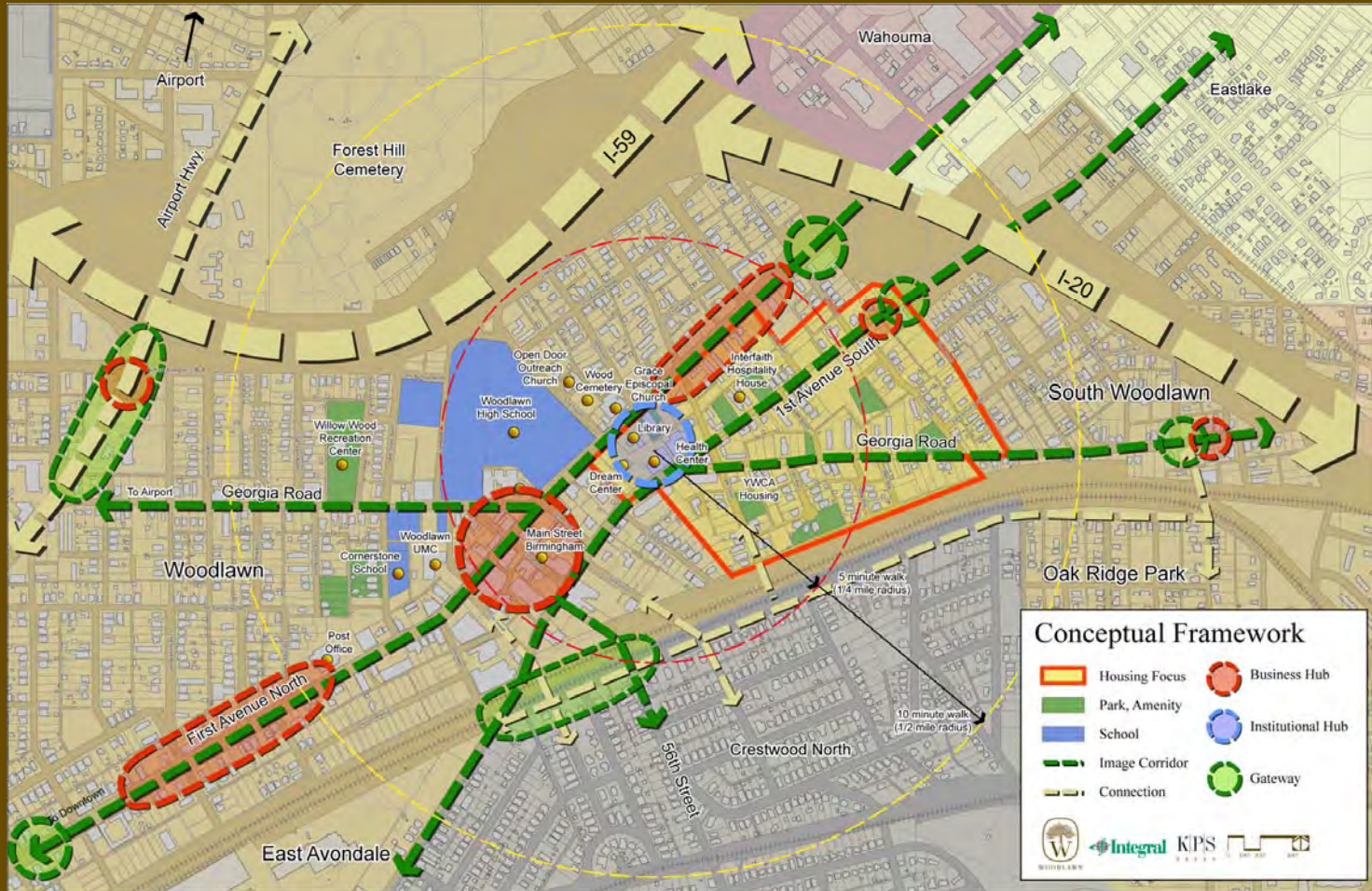


tax delinquent property

- Build on sense of place
- Land banking
- Early learning/workforce education
- Partnerships with churches and nonprofits
- Improve gateways
- New mixed density, mixed income housing
- Street and lighting improvements
- Police visibility, substation
- Grocer, other retail
- Neighborhood open space(s)



opportunities



revitalization concept

- Improve public safety and access
- Improve perception/image
- Focus residential reinvestment
- Provide educational pipeline
- Expand economic opportunity
- Improve quality of life



revitalization strategy

- Citizens on Patrol program
- Increase police presence and visibility
- Code enforcement
- Improve streets, sidewalks, lighting

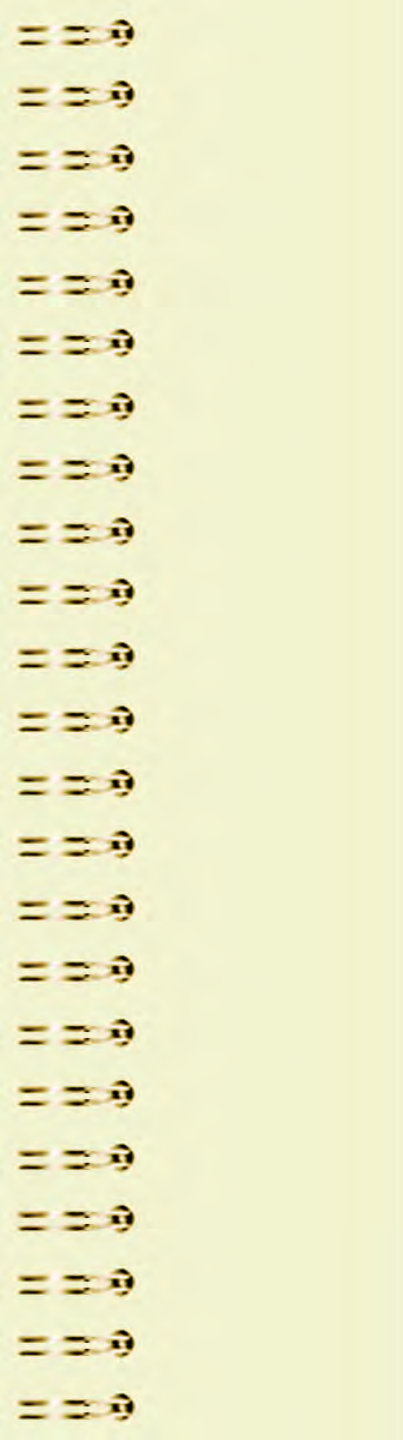


public safety and access

- Maintenance along gateways and corridors
- Beautification project on First Avenue North
- Code enforcement
- Streetscape improvements
- Railroad overpasses
- Public art



perception/image

- 
- Initial focus: critical mass, quality and affordability
 - Ultimate focus: stable housing market, increased home ownership
 - Vacant sites for residential infill
 - Avoid disruption to existing homes
 - Expand housing choices
 - Larger population to support business growth
 - Density part of “transit readiness”

residential reinvestment



housing concept

Strategic rehab, infill and redevelopment



single-family housing



YWCA Central Alabama
won APA Davidoff Award
for its Ywoodlawn
Program



multi-family housing

Infill, redevelopment for multi-family and attached housing



multi-family housing

- Quality, affordable early learning
- Woodlawn Innovation Zone (feeder school system)
- Enrichment programs
- After-school and tutoring programs
- Workforce training
- Adult education



educational pipeline

- Quality, affordable early learning
- Woodlawn Innovation Zone (feeder school system)
- Enrichment programs
- After-school and tutoring programs
- Workforce training
- Adult education



educational pipeline

- Initial focus: neighborhood-oriented
- Ultimate focus: Woodlawn as a destination
- Improve perceptions/image of business district
- Increase residential population
- Continue REV Birmingham/Merchant efforts
- Workforce training



economic opportunity

- 
- Assure access to affordable health care
 - Expand food choices, improve nutrition
 - Improve economic opportunity
 - Create educational pipeline
 - Provide parks, open space and recreation
 - Reduce crime
 - Improve walkability
 - Strengthen pride in the community

quality of life

- Initial focus: neighborhood-oriented
- Ultimate focus: Woodlawn as a destination
- Improve perceptions/image of business district
- Increase residential population
- Continue REV Birmingham/Merchant efforts
- Workforce training



economic opportunity

- YWCA completed YWoodlawn program
- WU hosted community/stakeholder meetings
- WU continuing property acquisition
- City/WF received CMAQ grant
- Citizens on Patrol program created
- Redevelopment Plan prepared and adopted
- WF applied for LIH Tax Credits
- Feeder school program approved by BOE
- Social Venture project opened
- WF planning early learning center



progress

How is your community tackling neighborhood revitalization and child poverty?

