

Govans Elementary School INSPIRE Plan

Recommendation Report

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Standard Improvements – Primary Walking Route

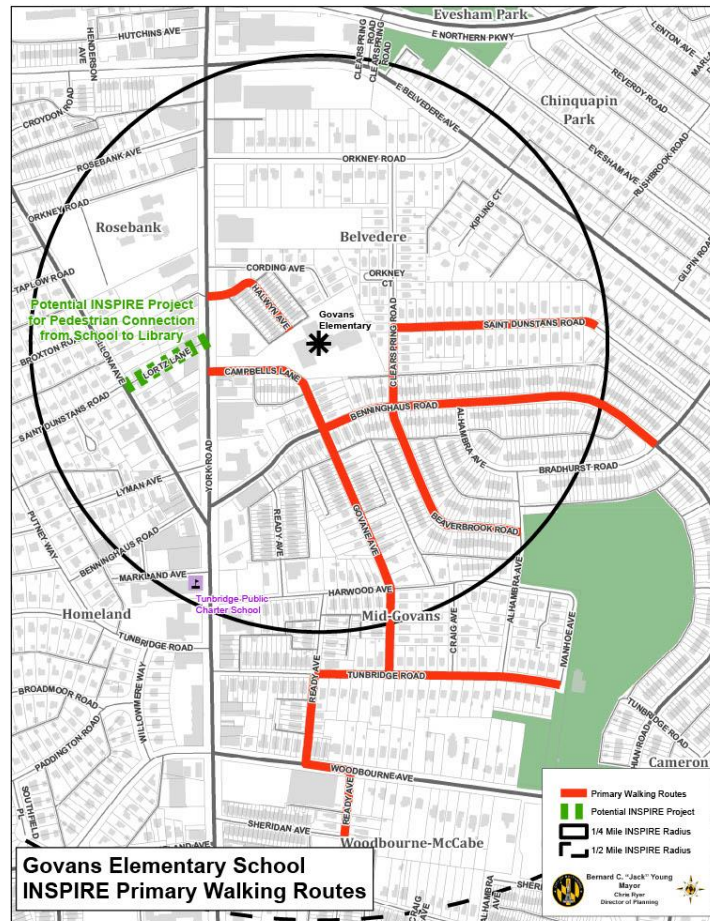


Figure 1 - Designated Primary Walking Routes for Govans Elementary

All INSPIRE plans include a dedicated focus on the blocks that have been designated as the “Primary Walking Routes”. Cultivating safe, accessible, and appealing pedestrian paths of connection between the school and surrounding community is a critical component of the INSPIRE philosophy that strong schools and strong communities build from one another.

The Department of Planning used Baltimore City Public School System school zone data to map concentrations of families with children that attend Govans Elementary School, and worked with community stakeholders, school staff and leadership, and the Department of Transportation to identify the predominant routes that students use to get to and from the school within the maximum ½-mile INSPIRE planning area. Routes that have been designated as the primary walking routes were prioritized for streetscape improvements that improve the pedestrian experience of community members of all ages and level of ability.

Through coordination with multiple City agencies, improvements made along the primary walking routes included:

- Bringing sidewalks up to a safe and standard condition
- Repainting or adding crosswalks

- Assessing need for repairs of ADA ramps at intersections
- Pruning and planting street trees
- Picking up trash and maintaining vacant lots

Area Recommendations

Goal: Invest in Housing and Market-Strengthening Development Opportunities

Time frame: Medium/Long

Partners: Mid-Govans Community Association, York Road Partnership, GEDCO, MD-DHCD, Baltimore DHCD, DOP, Govans Elementary, Live Baltimore, MVLS, Community Law Center

Strategy: Pursue opportunities to build base of area homeowners

Recommendation 1) Further strengthen the Govans area housing market and support sustained homeownership through targeted programming and outreach to young families.

- Home ownership rates around Govans Elementary School are strong, with many legacy and senior community members. The quality of education and student experience at Govans Elementary will be a substantial draw for future homebuyers who are young families that want to settle and grow in the community. As residents median age increases, opportunities to bring in new families will be critical to the success of the neighborhood. There has been an influx of new neighbors, but there should be increased outreach to these new neighbors to ensure community bonds and relationships are strengthened. Community association working with the school community to direct outreach to younger potential homeowners will be critical in the sustainability of the community. Partners in this work could include Live Baltimore, Govans Elementary School, Mid-Govans Community Association, and the York Road Partnership.

Recommendation 2) Seek funding opportunities at municipal and state levels for building facade improvements to improve curb appeal and improve housing stock value for residents at 80% AMI.

- Roughly half of the housing stock of Mid-Govans was built between 1939 and 1949; age and exposure to the elements has worn down some of the façade work of residences. Additionally, many legacy or lower income homeowners may not have access to the capital that is required to maintain historic homes. Exterior repairs can be financially inaccessible, but funding support from local and state government can create opportunities for owners to upgrade and boost neighborhood appeal. Oftentimes there are minimum income requirements for repairs at 60% AMI or less. However, even residents with full time jobs are sometimes unable to afford repairs like roofs or windows that cost thousands of dollars. Grant funds managed by a non-profit partner with looser income requirements who are focused on housing repair and rehab services will be critical to spanning the funding gap and maintaining the safety and curb appeal of homes. Organizations such as Rebuilding Together Baltimore, Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake, Healthy Neighborhoods, York Road Partnership, and Loyola University might be good collaborators to create a general fund to be used towards the cost of repairs for homeowners.

Recommendation 3) Connect new homeowners, legacy residents, and homeowners with limited income to home repair services through hosting an annual home repair workshop in partnership with non-profit and government resources.

- York Road Partnership hosted a home repair workshop in the Mid-Govans neighborhood highlighting the ways that area residents can benefit from government and non-profit resources

for home repair and improvement. Organizations like the Department for Housing and Community Development, CivicWorks HUBS program, and Rebuilding Together Baltimore provided resources at the workshop and enrolled eligible individuals at the event. From that event, about one third of participants were eligible and received services. Encouraging participation, especially for new homeowners and legacy neighborhood members, instills community connectivity and exposes residents to resources of which they might have previously been unaware. If the event becomes annual, this will allow for residents who have been through the process to mentor neighbors who might be interested in the program.

Strategy: Support rehabilitation projects on blocks in Mid-Govans and Woodbourne-McCabe with a larger number of vacant building notices.

Time frame: Short

Partners: York Road Partnership, Rebuilding Together, Civic Works, DHCD, Habitat for Humanity, GEDCO, Private Investment, [MVLS](#), [Community Law Center](#)

[Recommendation 4\) Support the York Road Partnership's strategies for managing vacant building inventory within the area.](#)

- While outnumbered by occupied residences, there is a concentration of vacant buildings in the community that would benefit from a concerted plan of reducing inventory. Locations with a larger concentration of vacant building notices include:
 - The 5200, 5300, and 5600 blocks of Ready Avenue
 - 5600 Block of Govane Avenue
 - 500 Block of Sheridan Avenue
 - 500 Block of Woodbourne
 - 500 Block of Tunbridge



Figure 2 - 500 Block of Tunbridge



Figure 3 - 500 Block of Sheridan



Figure 4 - 500 Block of Woodbourne



Figure 5 - 5600 Block of Govane



Figure 6 - 5200 Block of Govane

Recommendation 5) Strengthen relationships with local small developers interested in completing rehabilitation projects around Govans Elementary School.

- Habitat for Humanity has been a long-term partner in rehabilitating residential structures in the community and has seen marked improvements in the Woodbourne McCabe community in particular. Not many neighborhoods have the benefit of a large organization or developer who rehabs dozens of properties at a time. However, concerted work of a handful of small developers can make a large impact in an already strong middle market such as the Mid-Govans community. There are some scattered site opportunities within the Govans Elementary quarter mile radius, including on the 5600 block of Govane Ave. Small developers are interested in vacant land and rehab opportunities, but often run into issues around ownership of the homes or receivership processes. Representatives from the Mid-Govans Association and the York Road Partnership should work on building relationships with small developers who are currently or would like to do work within the neighborhood. These relationships can be symbiotic to both share information about what properties are of interest to developers and resident leaders can help to advocate to city government to help remove blockages toward development in their community.

Recommendation 6) Cultivate partnerships with organizations and individuals that promote homeownership assistance services, such as counselling for new buyers and estate planning for legacy homeowners

- Currently there is no homeownership counseling program within the York Road community. The closest organizations are St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center, Northeast Housing Initiative, and Belair Edison Neighborhoods. Many home counseling organizations also promote housing

opportunities within the immediate area and help individuals seeking homes to find and purchase homes in their immediate area. As there is no homeowner counseling program in the immediate area, organizations like the Mid-Govans Association and York Road Partnership should work to develop relationships with homeowner counseling programs already in existence to promote and market the Govans and greater York Road corridor area as opportunities for home buyers. One of the benefits of the York Road corridor is the diverse housing stock and range of affordability. Partnerships with these organizations and deepening relationships with Live Baltimore and real estate professionals can help keep York Road and the Govans area at the top of mind when engaging with potential homeowners. Additionally, for long term homeowners, specifically Black residents, services like “My Deed, My Legacy” from the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service and will or life planning expertise should be utilized to ensure that current homeowners are able to gain the most financial benefit from the sale of their home or passing it on to the next generation.

Goal: Create Connectivity and Access

Strategy: Improve area street lighting

Time frame: Medium

Partners: DOT, BG&E

Recommendation 7) Complete installation of a previously conducted Department of Transportation Light Survey of the area

- At the request of residents and based upon community engaged conversations, in 2022 Department of Transportation assessed that the 500 Block of Halwyn Avenue and the 600 Block of Saint Dunstons Road along the Primary Walking Routes were eligible for prioritized upgrading to improve illumination. Completion of this project will contribute to making area pedestrian transit more accessible.

Recommendation 8) Remove older police lights along Tunbridge and replace with lighting set-up that contributes to area placemaking.

- Due to a persistence of an open-air drug market and related crime at the corner of Tunbridge and York Road, there has historically been the presence of a police light at the corner. The lights are bright fluorescent, and the accompanying generator creates noise and air pollution at the corner. Additionally, the police light was often used as a reaction to a crime versus a preventative measure. Neighbors complained about the use of the light as a signal to passerby's that their neighborhood is unsafe. Due to neighbor's efforts, the number of vacant homes where loitering and drug peddling occurred, has decreased. There has been an influx of new residents and families to the block and there is a marked decrease in the open-air drug market at Tunbridge and York Road. The recommendation is to remove the police lighting and instead investigate lighting options that both increase the light quality and the sense of placemaking for the neighborhood. This can also be mimicked or extended to the adjacent commercial corridor to create flow and harmony.

Strategy: Improve pedestrian comfort and safety in the area

Time Frame: Long

Partners: Loyola, DOT, DOP, Govans community, York Road BID

Recommendation 9) Explore opportunities for enhancing non-automotive transit along East-West corridors; contending routes include Lortz Lane and the southern component of Bellona Avenue.

- A study completed by Baltimore City’s Department of Transportation in 2022-2023 recommended possible changes in road uses in the Govans INSPIRE catchment area such as:
 - Closing Lyman Avenue permanently and transitioning Bellona Triangle to a public pedestrian space to make the Bellona Avenue and York Road intersection safer for both pedestrian and automotive traffic.
 - Developing a pedestrian pathway along Lortz Lane between York Road and Bellona Avenue to create a nexus for Govans students to access the local branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. This pathway could be utilized by the elementary school to connect students to educational programming at the library as well as residents who are accessing the York Road commercial corridor.

Recommendation 10) Develop a phased approach for implementation strategy of branded through 1) creation of a walking directory of community resources and facilities and 2) seeking grant funding for placemaking.

- Placemaking is an important part of the York Road Corridor Vision & Action Plan (2015). One of the ways to highlight neighborhood assets and history is through branded signage and directional wayfinding signs. Wayfinding signs can include maps, historical facts, and other features that celebrate a sense of place in an area, while directing community members and visitors to assets such as parks, commercial areas, and public facilities. Creation and installation of wayfinding signs can be funded by a variety of grant sources. The forthcoming York Road BID will be tasked with funding corridor wide improvements from Northern Parkway to 43rd Street, including navigation and placemaking tools

Strategy: Enhance safety of students traversing the neighborhood.

Time Frame: Short/Medium

Partners: Govans Community, School, Enoch Pratt Library

Recommendation 11) Secure community adult chaperones for accompanying younger students to programming after school hours.

- We heard from school staff and parents that morning and afternoon drop off and pick up times pose a problem for both neighborhood and school traffic. Double parking, traffic jams, and parking in illegal spots are a persistent issue. Additionally, the distance between Govans Elementary and the Dewees Recreation Center is .4 miles and the distance to the Govans Library is .2 miles, but across a major 4 lane thoroughfare. Neither of these sites, which host youth programming on a regular basis, are easily walkable for children along. One potential solution to the issues of high rates of car traffic and unaccompanied youth is a “walking school bus.” Baltimore, as well as other municipalities across the country, have implemented “walking school bus” programs that make traversing the community fun and safe for children. Neighborhood or school adult volunteers have a designated meeting place on school grounds or in locations throughout the neighborhood where children meet the adults and then traverse to school or back home. For children who live in the neighborhood adjacent to school, this could be a great benefit for working parents and ensure children stay safe on the way to and from school. Similarly, for after school programming at the Library or Recreation Center, staff or a volunteer could bring children to the sites safely and parents could pick them up after activities are finished. Establishing this program through Govans would likely need minimal volunteer support and could ensure comfortable passage between the school and other community assets

for everyone. Additionally, grant funds could be allocated to pay a parent or teacher for this additional responsibility.

Strategy: Improve pedestrian and transit user experience along York Road

Time Frame: Long

Partners: DOT, DPW, DOP, York Road BID

Recommendation 12) Coordinate with the Maryland Transit Administration to explore the installation of shelters at eligible stops

- At the following stops along the York Road Corridor, there is no shelter in place for protection from the elements. Public transit shelters are a helpful amenity for transit riders and can help lend to a sense of place and safety for transit riders.
 - York Road and Orkney Road
 - York Road and Lortz Lane
 - York Road at Bellona Avenue (Southbound) and Benninghaus Road (Northbound)
 - York Road and Woodbourne Avenue (Southbound side)

Strategy: Bolster the relationship between Govans Elementary School and Dewees Park Recreation Center

Time Frame: Short

Partners: DOT, BCRP, Govans Elementary, Friends of Dewees.

Recommendation 13) Cross promote activities at both the school and recreation facility at Dewees Park to encourage community attendance where available and appropriate.

- There is a long-term relationship between Govans Elementary and Dewees Recreation Center. Many of the children who attend the afterschool program are students at Govans Elementary. Post pandemic, the Recreation Center has been experiencing decreased participation from neighborhood children. In order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Center, it is important to increase utilization rates. Since the majority of Govans students live within the quarter to half mile around the school, promotion of activities such as the afterschool programming, after school activities, and clubs to the students will be important. School and Rec Center administrators may also consider joint programming creation to ensure that there is a display of collaboration and trust promotion for parents and families. This can be supported in collaboration with the Friends of Dewees group who has members of both the school, rec, and local institutions.

Goal: Create Opportunities for Health and Wellness

Strategy: Increase the number and diversity of community programs available for area residents of all ages.

Time Frame: Short

Partners: Community, BCRP, Enoch Pratt Free Library, York Road Partnership

Recommendation 14) Conduct a survey of community members regarding desired activities and events that can be held at Dewees Park Recreation Center

- The Dewees Recreation Center was closed during most of the pandemic, but still provided important access to emergency food resources during the first wave. The Center was part of the second phase of recreation centers to reopen in 2021, but still largely remained closed to youth from entering the center. This created a gap in generations of neighborhood youth and families who viewed the Center as a secondary safe space where youth could play and socialize. When the reopening occurred, the long-term Recreation Center Director was moved to a different Center without communication to the community. Residents were concerned about the lack of communication but attempted to build relationships with the new Rec Center Director. After less than a year, this Rec Center Director left the position, and another was installed. After a long period of instability, new and engaged leadership is at the Center and a new opportunity for programming and relationship building is available. Utilization rates of the center are not at pre-pandemic levels, and families have still not returned for a variety of reasons: lack of knowledge of the new leadership, lack of programming or knowledge of what programming is available, and lack of feeling like the Center meets the community's need. A survey of community members, with particular focus on youth, regarding the desired variety of future activities they would like to see happen at Dewees Park Rec Center is needed. Charettes and creative public engagement can help add to the opportunity to ensure all voices are heard and help to create a strategic game plan for moving forward for BCRP to implement with fundraising support from the Friends of Dewees.

Recommendation 15) Coordinate with the Enoch Pratt Free Library branch to increase presence of youth from the east side of the York Road Corridor at programming.

- Govans Library is one of the most highly utilized public amenities along the York Road corridor with free programming for participants of all ages. However, there is disparity in the utilization of the Library as a resource. Because east-west connectivity across York Road is limited and unsafe for youth to cross alone along this corridor, children and youth on the east side are frequently low in representation at public activities at the library. Focused outreach efforts on the east side of the corridor, in coordination with adult chaperoning and new east-west pedestrian networks, can give community youth the opportunity to participate in their community more fully.

Strategy: Implement the Dewees Park Master Plan

Time Frame: Medium/Long

Partners: YRP, Friends of Dewees, Mid-Govans Association, BCRP, Baltimore Greenspace

Recommendation 16) Explore funding opportunities that align with plan priorities

- During the Rawlings-Blake Administration, Dewees Recreation was slated for closure but this was prevented through partnership and advocacy from the York Road Partnership, Loyola University, and the Mid-Govans Association. Since 2012, the Friends of Dewees group has been active in varying capacities for the promotion of capital improvements and programming at the recreation center. In the beginning phases, the Friends group was supported through capacity of a series of AmeriCorps members, but is now supported mainly through volunteer leadership. This group, made up of individuals from the Mid-Govans Association, York Road Partnership, Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore City Rec and Parks, and others has consistently supported long term planning for the Park, including a Master Planning process in 2014 with the Neighborhood Design Center. The Friends group has consistently advocated for implementation

of pieces of the plan and impending projects include: installation of a new playground and tot lot, construction of a walking trail around the park, and a memorial garden. The future of the Dewees Recreation Center is uncertain as there is no capital funding allotted for the building, which was built in 195x and has damage to the roof and is showing age. If the Friends of Dewees organization wishes to continue for additional improvements to the Park and Recreation Center, it is recommended the organization becomes more formalized and begins a process towards evaluation of bylaws and work towards exploring non-profit status or fiscal sponsorship to begin fundraising in earnest for improvements.

Goal: Create an Environmentally Sustainable Neighborhood

Strategy: Expand tree planting and volunteer stewardship in the area.

Time Frame: Medium

Partners: Govans Elementary, DOP, DOT, BCRP, Baltimore Orchard Project (Civic Works)

[Recommendation 17\) Explore opportunities to increase tree shading in the community with new plantings while providing community education on street tree stewardship](#)

- In addition to other benchmarks, tree canopy and the presence of street trees is disparate across York Road. The area surrounding Govans Elementary has a noticeable lack of street trees, which contributes to a regional heat island effect. As per Tree Baltimore's Street Tree Inventory Map, there is opportunity for planting of street trees, especially along the Govans INSPIRE Area walking path. This creates an opportunity for community members to learn about the street tree planting process and support long-term care and stewardship, as well as serving as liaisons with the City of Baltimore for major removal and planting projects. Community participation in tree species and location selection can bolster the sense of community ownership. In 20xx a collaboration between the York Road Partnership's Greening Committee and a class from Loyola University created a tree maintenance guide which speaks to the benefits and how to care for trees that can be distributed to residents along routes where street tree planting occurs.

[Recommendation 18\) Increase service projects that focus on the maintenance of smaller green spaces](#)

- Smaller parklet spaces, such the green space at the Bellona Triangle, do not get the same level of attention for community supported maintenance that larger spaces, such as Dewees Park, receive. Historically, the Govanstowne Business Association was responsible for paying for ongoing maintenance of the Bellona Triangle and the Woodbourne Clock Tower. Due to unsuccessful legislation for a new Business Improvement District in 2019, this effectively shuttered the Govanstowne Business Association and thus maintenance of these sites has discontinued. Now, volunteer groups are mainly responsible for the upkeep and maintenance until the newly formed York Road Business Improvement District begins programming. In the short term, targeted maintenance efforts are needed to both resolve cleanliness and increase the knowledge about the history of green spaces in the community. In the longer term, collaboration with the York Road Business Improvement district for maintenance and ongoing fundraising for the sites are needed.

Strategy: Improve maintenance and sanitation in public spaces near Dewees Park and Govans Elementary School

Time Frame: Short

Partners: Govans Elementary, York Road Partnership, Loyola University, Friends of Dewees

Recommendation 18) Provide training on use of 311 service and code enforcement requests to address ongoing violations in the area. Work with the City Council District 4 Office to track 311 requests along the York Road Corridor and their outcomes.

- 311 service requests in Baltimore City come in two forms: the standard phone number system and a mobile app for online reporting. Oftentimes when residents come to City Agencies with an issue, the first question from the agency is: “Did you put in a 311 request?” While this may seem frustrating, this is often a good starting point for navigating where issues are in process, maintains accountability, and how long it takes for issues to be resolved. Additionally, City Agencies can track the number of requests for a certain location to help resolve chronic issues. Providing full training to community members in the operation of the 311 service and follow-up with requests can help residents directly address infrastructure and maintenance issues in the neighborhood. Community-based organizations such as the York Road Partnership, in concert with the Council Office, can maintain a database of regional 311 requests and their outcomes; this will establish community trust in the 311 system and the City’s capabilities of addressing endemic dilemmas.

Goal: Placemaking and Economic Development

Strategy: Expand programming directed towards opportunity youth (youth aged 14-21 who are either out of school or unemployed) to create more opportunities for safe gathering and socializing.

Time Frame: Medium

Partners: YRP, Community

Recommendation 19) Increase the number of community activities and venues that are welcoming for opportunity youth ages 14-21.

- Through a community survey held in 2018-2019 by Loyola University Maryland, residents shared that the two most important issues in the York Road corridor communities were public safety and youth engagement. Often these two issues are interconnected. Neighbors have a perception that youth without jobs or who are not in school perpetuate crime, which may not always be the case. However, low cost or free opportunities for extracurricular or non-school related engagement dramatically decreases when youth reach high school age and beyond. The York Road corridor area has no public high school, therefore high school aged youth who are attending school are leaving the neighborhood to go to sites throughout the City for learning, making it much harder to connect and have consistent youth engagement in the Govans area. Much of the programming is short term and work force development related like YouthWorks, which only runs for 6 weeks during the summertime. There can be workforce development related programming and activities throughout the corridor such as a Clean Corps model with the York Road Business Improvement District, which hires local youth to clean and beautify the corridor. There has also been a rise in teen involved shootings over the 2022-2023. There also needs to be spaces where teens feel safe to gather for social events while with trusted adults at second space locations such as the Recreation Center, Safe Streets, or a business on the corridor. Event organizers and neighborhood leaders should consider engaging local youth in leadership roles to support planning and have representation in decision-making where possible to nurture community engagement, knowledge, and well-being. Many young people are deeply passionate about art, fashion, social issues, and culture, engaging youth in planning events

geared towards their age group and peers can be dramatic to improving collaboration, team building, and employable skills.

Strategy: Complete aesthetic improvements along the York Road commercial corridor to promote investment, increase business traffic, and site activation.

Time Frame: Medium/Long

Partners: Loyola University, YRP, BDC, DOP, York Road BID, Private enterprise, MD-DHCD, BOPA, Govans Elementary, Community

Recommendation 20) Expand pop-up events to create new business opportunities for local businesses and to showcase local entrepreneurship.

- Because establishing brick and mortar storefronts is prohibitive due to cost and available space, cultivating pop-up events in the community creates venues for local merchants to sell their wares and build a customer base. Pop-up events can be epicenters of community gathering and serve as opportunities for placemaking and interaction. The Govans Farmers Market has worked with small local entrepreneurs in the past and can help populate a list of Govans-based small businesses who might be interested in participation. Additionally, resources from Community Wealth Builders and Invest York Road, non-profits dedicated to financial education and small business ownership could be supportive in creating a network of small business owners. This network and supports could create a pipeline of entrepreneurs to prepare them to invest in brick and mortar stores along the York Road commercial corridor in currently vacant storefronts.

Recommendation 21) Create a list of interested business owners for façade improvements of York Road storefronts, focusing on the 5400-5700 blocks. Work with the York Road Business Improvement District to engage Baltimore Development Corporation and leverage grant funding to support improvements.

- A commercial corridor with an exceptional amount of automotive and pedestrian traffic, the community's segment of the York Road Corridor is home to multiple active and growing businesses with products and services that range from food to entertainment to banking, among others. Exterior the condition of commercial facades is a critical component of area placemaking; façade improvements such as light repairs and fresh coats of paint can boost curb appeal of local businesses and beautify local communities. Between 2021 – 2023, several storefronts received improvements thanks to a BRNI grant from the State of Maryland and capacity support from Loyola University. Murry's Food, Hex Superette, and GEDCO's Epiphany House within the half mile area around Govans received funds, but additional funding and sites are needed in order to ensure cohesion. One of the lessons learned during this process was that store owners who are sole owner and operators or do not have a high amount of flexibility with their margins often have a hard time with capacity needed to apply for funds and fill out paperwork needed to get grants. The York Road BID should work collaboratively with interested business owners to provide capacity support and expertise for best practices.

Recommendation 22) Work with the York Road Partnership's Public Spaces & Greening Committee to create a list of public sites that should be maintained on an ongoing basis and determine ongoing collaboration between the organizations.

- Many of the public sites throughout the corridor have been maintained through volunteer labor and small grant funds. Now that an organization is established to promote the cleanliness and maintenance of the corridor, professionalized help will go a long way to improving the seasonal maintenance. Volunteers can and should still play a role in ongoing maintenance, however

aesthetics cannot be based solely on volunteer labor. The York Road Business Improvement District and YRP Public Spaces & Greening Committee should meet on a regular basis to collaborate on what support is needed and ensure both organizations are engaged in the ongoing beautification and maintenance of the corridor.

Recommendation 23) Inventory opportunities for public art installation and restoration.

- Public art installations are helpful placemaking tools that can instill a sense of community pride in an area. Govans Elementary has had a previous success restoring the dragon mascot statue in the front of the school with assistance from local artisans. Additionally, the B'more Bird Murals throughout the York Road corridor, creates a sense of cohesion and adds brightness and placemaking aspects to a largely transitory corridor. Cultivating a resident-led effort for location and content selection can help build social cohesion and make the Govans community an attractive place to live and visit. The Baltimore Office of Promotion of the Arts (BOPA) has been a previous partner with the greater York Road community through its Art @ Work program and has worked alongside the INSPIRE program to offer opportunities for area youth to be employed in the development and implementation of public artwork. Some sites to consider: on the southern facing side of Family Dollar which faces Govans Elementary School, a temporary façade on the former Favorite's Pub at 5804 York Road until a new business is installed, the street facing façade of the Staples at 5835 York Road, the southern facing façade of the Verion Building at 5711 York Road, the southern facing wall of Maaco at 5600 York Road, and on the southern facing side of the Tax Master business at the corner of York Road and Tunbridge Road.

Goal: Support Capacity Building for Area Partners

Strategy: Creating funded opportunities for local youth or longtime residents to work with community development organizations

Time Frame: Short

Partners: YRP, AmeriCorps

Recommendation 24) Access funding for AmeriCorps positions that support local leadership support.

- AmeriCorps offers funding for service-learning projects with community organizations; positions are funded for periods of time ranging from several months to a year and offer opportunities for learning leadership skills to be carried into future work and community engagement. The York Road Partnership, as a community-focused nonprofit, is a potential candidate for receiving funding that can be used to train local youth for future community leadership. The organization previously hosted AmeriCorps members from 2011-2014 and much of the day-to-day work such as e-mail answering, website maintenance, meeting reminders, and special projects were handled by the AmeriCorps member working with the York Road Partnership. Although the model is a one year service program, this offers consistent support for the organization and the opportunity for local residents to gain leadership skills and for youth to build their professional skills.

Strategy: Explore opportunities for entrepreneurial engagement along the York Road corridor

Time Frame: Medium

Partners: YRP, YRI, Loyola, co-working spaces, community, BID, GEDCO

Recommendation 25) Consult with public co-workspace spaces in Baltimore City about the process of setting up a similar space within the community.

- Co-working spaces in Baltimore, such as Open Works and the Impact Hub, offer cost-effective venues for local aspiring entrepreneurs and innovators to develop their business ideas and meet with other community members and investors. Co-working spaces provide hubs for learning from other local business leaders and can serve as centers for events.

Strategy: Cultivate leadership and support capacity building for the Mid-Govans Neighborhood Association.

Time Frame: Short/Medium

Partners: Mid-Govans Association, YRP, Govans Elementary, Friends of Dewees, Govans Elementary School community

Recommendation 26) Invite new neighborhood residents to the Mid-Govans Association and develop volunteer leadership.

- The Mid-Govans Community Association has always been a strong organization. The neighborhood has had an increase in new families since the pandemic and still maintains high rates of homeownership. A campaign to increase participation in the Association is needed in order to develop and build the next generation of community leaders, share history of neighborhood projects, plans, and people, and support ongoing strength of the neighborhood through sharing culture and resources. Ideas include a “meet your neighbor” door knocking campaign, community walk, porch parties, or social events like a cookout at the park.