

INDYVITALS MEASURES PROGRESS TO PLAN 2020 GOALS

Web-Based Decision Support Tools

The Challenge

Dozens of groups are engaged in collective action work in neighborhoods across the city. But there is no consistent way to define place or measure impact.

IndyVitals, a new digital neighborhood monitoring tool for Marion County that is powered by SAVI, debuted June 7, 2016 to mark the City of Indianapolis' official community-wide unveiling of its Bicentennial Plan.

The Polis Center developed IndyVitals for Plan 2020, the city-planning initiative that includes representatives from the Greater Indianapolis

The Solution

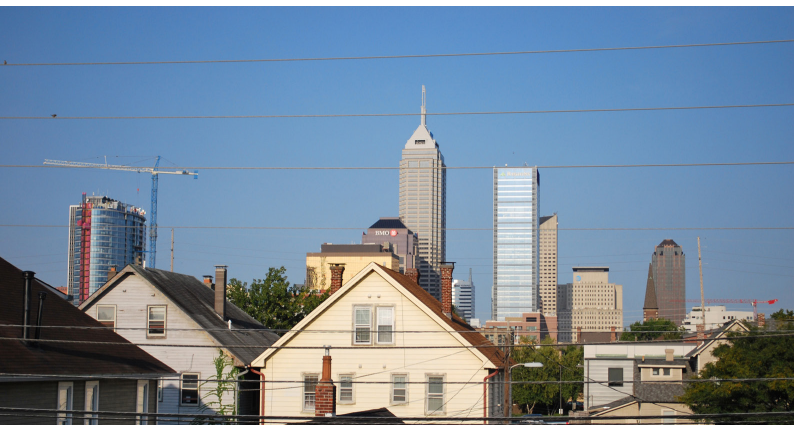
SAVI developed IndyVitals to create consistent boundaries, or neighborhood areas, that cover the entire city and easy-to-use dashboards on key indicators.

Progress Committee, the Department of Metropolitan Development, the Department of Public Works, the Indy Chamber, and other community leaders.

“Plan 2020 is the name of the Bicentennial Planning process for Indianapolis and Marion County that involves the creation of a broad, values-based vision, a set of actions steps that partners have committed to completing by the city’s Bicentennial in 2020, and updates to six technical city plans,” said Brad M. Beaubien, AICP, Administrator for Long Range Planning, Department of Metropolitan Development, City of Indianapolis-Marion County.

The tool is one of the four main elements of the city’s bicentennial plan (the other elements are the agenda, the plan, and engagement evaluation). It will help organize the Plan 2020 endeavor and monitor the impact of the blueprint within neighborhoods so that Plan 2020 members can determine if the results match the desired outcome.

IndyVitals captures information within various categories such as education, health, and pover-



IndyVitals will facilitate collective action and neighborhood evaluation throughout Plan 2020 efforts and beyond.

ty from exact geographies within Marion County, which—when coupled with existing SAVI community information system profiles—promotes coordination of strategies and services. Viewers can access high-level metrics and/or detailed data about specific neighborhoods, interact with detailed data on each neighborhood, and explore patterns and trends in these neighborhoods. The dashboard is very user-friendly and, at a glance, gives the viewer a thumbnail sketch of what is going on in the neighborhood and how it compares to others over particular time periods. The tool is free to use and will be useful to other organizations in Marion County beyond the Plan 2020 team.

Beaubien commented “The Plan 2020 vision lays out how Indy can be a healthier, more resilient, more inclusive, and more competitive city, and the action steps are intended to implement that vision. As our community development system evolves from a peanut-butter approach, where we spread limited resources evenly everywhere, to the point it’s too thin to taste, IndyVitals will allow all community development partners to look at a neighborhood, see the same story, and respond to the specific needs of each neighborhood in a way that is much more targeted and more relevant to the needs of residents. In this way it’s not only a way to measure the progress of our collective impact partnership, it’s a way to coordinate the actions of the collective partners through data.”

“Plan 2020 isn’t just about action. It’s about im-

pact,” continued Brooke Thomas, AICP, Deputy Director, Plan 2020 Co-Manager, The Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee. “Even if every single action step was completed, Plan 2020 wanted to be able to measure if neighborhoods across the city were improving as a result. IndyVitals is intended to help answer that question while also improving the coordination of all those in the private, public, non-profit, and phil-

“Measuring the impact of Plan 2020 and coordinating collective-impact investments: these are the two drivers of IndyVitals”

— BROOKE THOMAS, AICP

*Deputy Director,
Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee*

anthropic sectors working at the neighborhood level to make investments that are most relevant to the diverse needs of neighborhoods across our city.”

IndyVitals is a 2017 recipient of the Exemplary Systems in Government Awards from URISA, a multi-disciplinary geospatial organization that fosters excellence in geographic information systems (GIS).

The site was also nominated as 2017 Innovation of the Year Award for Techpoint’s Mira Awards. Mira Awards honor Indiana best technology innovations in Indiana. ■



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