**Neighborhood Observation Checklist**

**for Group Neighborhood Projects**

**Understanding Communities, spring 2013**

**Organize your Neighborhood field day before going**

When and where are you going to meet?

Do you have any assigned roles? Note taker? Leader?

How are you going to divvy up tasks?

Examine questions and photos requested: how are you going to most effectively survey the neighborhood.

You should have a map of the neighborhood and a 1 page description of it.

Does everyone have a camera? A sketchbook? Recording device?

When you are done what happens? How will you summarize and organize what you learned? Hint: it is much easier to make effective use of the information if you do it during or soon after the neighborhood visit.

**Observations to Include**

Is the neighborhood safe?

Is the area old or new?

Are there any elements that make the neighborhood unique, e.g. a particular institutions, character of buildings, other landmarks.

Is the neighborhood diverse? Ethnic mix but also ages.

Are there schools in the neighborhood?

Is there visible/active social life? What indicators?

What do you think the median income is?

What about Level of education?

What is the land use? Mostly residential? How dense--is it single family homes or apartment buildings? Commercial or industrial?

What about streets and sidewalks. Busy? In good repair? Safe? Are there only automobiles? Or bicycles? Pedestrians?

Transportation systems? Buses? MAX? Other forms of transit?

What about the natural landscape? Open areas? Parks? Natural areas? Tree cover? Other important landscape elements, e.g. streams, hills.

Can you determine where people shop? Grocery in particular but are there other essential services, e.g. barber shops? Hardware stores, etc.

**Photo Record**

As you answer the questions about try to find appropriate photos or sketches, also of:

A typical house and yard

A quiet street. A busy street and/or intersection

2-3 typical businesses

People interacting

Other photos illustrating your observations related to questions above