

URBAN SUSTAINABILITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

The South Providence Public Street Vision and an analysis of Urban Sustainability Improvements as Capital for Community Revitalization

Executive Summary:

This thesis investigates the synergies between neighborhood revitalization and urban sustainability. An active urban revitalization project in South Providence provides the framework and context for this research while a case study analysis informs its recommendations. Using triple-bottom-line criteria, the case study analysis of revitalization strategies shows compelling results for the social, environmental and economic profitability of energy retrofits and adaptive reuse of vacant lots. Energy savings associated with the two primary funding mechanisms for energy retrofits of fourteen low income housing units show cumulative annual returns of \$9,000 and \$15,000 respectively, including emission reductions of 360,000 and 440,000 tons of carbon dioxide. Additionally, analysis of the adaptive reuse of three lots along Public Street demonstrate potential increases in property values of approximately \$55,000 for neighboring homes, excluding added benefits in municipal storm water management savings and quality of life improvements for nearby residents.

Joshua Morrison
Candidate for Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies
Brown University

