Appendix G: Photo Display of Conditions in Low and High Opportunity Areas

To better understand the conditions in high and low opportunity communities, I have assembled a collection of photographs related to employment opportunity, educational opportunity and neighborhood conditions in some of the region’s high and low opportunity communities. As indicated in the map below (Map A1) our photos were collected from two high opportunity areas and one low opportunity area. The general vicinity of photo sites is indicated on the map below. High opportunity area photos were collected from Baltimore County and Howard County and low opportunity area photos were collected from a neighborhood in the City of Baltimore. High opportunity area photos were primarily from the Cockeysville area in Baltimore County and the Ellicott City area in Howard County. Low opportunity photos were primarily near the Johnson Square area in the City of Baltimore.
Figure 1: Low Opportunity Area – With a limited market for retail, most traditional retail employment centers are in decline in low opportunity areas. Photo from the Old Town Mall shopping district in the City of Baltimore (Near intersection of Aisquith and Monument).

Figure 2: High Opportunity Area – Thriving retail economic center in Baltimore County (Hunt Valley Mall).
Figure 3: Low Opportunity Area - Remaining businesses in some low opportunity communities are marginal enterprises, as seen in this photo in the City of Baltimore. Photo location at intersection of Homestead and Harford Road.

Figure 4: High Opportunity Area – A Concentrated hub of economic activity (offices and retail) in Baltimore County (Hunt Valley Mall Area).
Figure 5: High Opportunity Area – As illustrated in these photos, new employment opportunities are more abundant in high opportunity areas (Photo on left, 225 International Circle, Hunt Valley, photo on right from Hunt Valley Mall).

Figure 6: Low Opportunity Area – view of downtown (photo on left) and proximity of public housing to Johns Hopkins (photo on the right). Although this low opportunity area is in close proximity to downtown employment opportunities, research on spatial mismatch indicates that many of these employment opportunities are not accessible to low income people and the labor market competition is more difficult for these opportunities. Conversely, most new employment opportunities are growing in suburban areas far from the Central Business District. (Photo on left at Fayette and Broadway, photo on right Aisquith St).

Figure 7: High Opportunity Area – light rail transit (photo on left) and bus transit (photo on right) are available in these high opportunity suburban areas. Light rail stop located at the Hunt Valley Mall in Baltimore County, bus stop in Ellicott City, Howard County.
Educational Opportunity

Figure 8: Low Opportunity Area – Johnston Square Elementary School in the City of Baltimore.

Figure 9: High Opportunity Area – St. John Lane Elementary School in Howard County.
Figure 10: Low Opportunity Area – Dunbar middle school (left) and barbed wire fencing at Johnston Square Elementary (right) in the City of Baltimore.

Figure 11: High Opportunity Area – Patapsco middle school (left) and Hollifield elementary school in Howard County.
Figure 12: Low Opportunity Area – Children’s playground and recreational area located at Harford Road between Chase and Eager in the City of Baltimore.

Figure 13: High Opportunity Area - Children’s playground near Warren elementary school in Baltimore County.
Neighborhoods and Housing:

Figure 14: Low Opportunity Area – Public housing development in the City of Baltimore (Abbot Court, Latrobe Homes).

Figure 15: Low Opportunity Area – Public housing development in the City of Baltimore (Abbot Court, Latrobe Homes).
Figure 16: Low Opportunity Area – Public housing development in the City of Baltimore (Aisquith Street between Orleans and Monument).

Figure 17: Low Opportunity Area – Public housing development in the City of Baltimore (Aisquith Street between Orleans and Monument).
Figure 18: High Opportunity Area – Housing options found in high opportunity areas (photos from Greenside Drive).

Figure 19: High Opportunity Area – Housing options found in high opportunity areas (photos from Ellicott Hills).

Figure 20: High Opportunity Area – Housing options found in high opportunity areas (photos from High View in Hunt Valley and Normandy Drive in Ellicott City).
Figure 21: High Opportunity Area – As illustrated in these photos, population growth, new investment and construction are often found in high opportunity communities. Image on left from Ellicott Hills and image on left from Old Bosley Road.

Figure 22: Low Opportunity Areas - In low opportunity communities, vacancy is more prevalent than new construction. As illustrated in this streetscape view of vacant properties in the City of Baltimore. Photo from northeast corner of 20th and Greenmount.

Figure 23: Low Opportunity Area – Some new construction has occurred due to the Hope VI program in some low opportunity communities, as illustrated in this photo of the New Hope Circle Hope VI development in the City of Baltimore. Although the housing has been rehabilitated, residents of these communities remain in the same low performing neighborhoods (in respect to schools, jobs, and other neighborhood conditions). (Photo from Forrest Street).
Figure 24: Low Opportunity Area – Crime, vandalism and public safety are significant issues in low opportunity communities. Note the 24 hour police observation camera in the picture on the left (box attached to light pole in center of picture) and graffiti on playground equipment in image on the right. Image on the left taken at NW corner of the intersection of Preston and Greenmount, image on the right taken at Johnston Square elementary playground.

Figure 25: Low Opportunity Area - Abandoned housing in low opportunity area as seen in streetscape photo from the 1200 block of Valley Street in the City of Baltimore.