Deliberative Engagement in the City of Pittsburgh
Deliberative Civic Engagement

• Engages a group of citizens reflective of the diversity of the communities impacted by the outcomes of the deliberation

• Involves citizens in structured discussions

• Provides citizens with the opportunity to compare values and experiences, consider a range of policy options, and engage relevant arguments and information

• Activities aim to produce tangible actions and outcomes

-Matt Leighninger, “Mapping Deliberative Civic Engagement”
Deliberative Community Forums

- Engage difference as a resource
  - Individual's particular wisdom engaged to create a shared, public resource: collective wisdom

- Collective wisdom
  - Individual's opinion informed by relevant facts, expert information, and knowledge of how policies effect different people differently
Benefits

• Improved relations: in neighborhoods, with city, among departments

• Many voices—not just the loudest—are heard

• Creates non-confrontational environment for neighbors to learn from neighbors and for policy makers to learn from constituents

• Efficient means to collect robust data
Insights

• Necessary organization and planning creates additional benefits

• Important to consider When and Whether deliberative forums are useful

• Timely and appropriate delivery of results important