On May 31, 2006, Mayor Cicilline and the City Council announced the creation of Providence Tomorrow—an innovative and inclusive planning process designed to create a framework for growth and preservation of Providence neighborhoods. Since then, the City Council adopted a new Comprehensive Plan, and the Department of Planning and Development has begun detailed planning studies in each of the city’s neighborhoods.

Providence has 25 distinct neighborhoods, each with unique character and identity. While neighborhoods share many features, each has its own set of planning challenges and concerns. An important part of Providence Tomorrow is the outreach, detailed planning studies that were conducted at the neighborhood level. The neighborhoods were grouped together so that there were fewer neighborhood charrettes, or planning studies, conducted from 2007 to 2009.

The West End, Federal Hill, and Reservoir Neighborhood Charrettes was held May 4-7, 2008. Sessions were held at the Federal Hill Library. Approximately 100-150 people participated in the charrettes, casting their opinions on how to improve public spaces in their neighborhoods, where and how they would like to see commercial growth in the future, and how to enhance the existing qualities of their neighborhoods, among other issues. The planning team collected all of the information from the week, and drafted an action plan that was presented at a follow-up meeting in June 2008.

This map is a summary of the information that was collected from residents, business owners, and neighborhood groups over the course of an intense week of many public meetings. The Plan summarizes neighborhood history and demographics, illustrates the existing character of the neighborhoods through photos and topography of building types, and identifies key issues and neighborhood priorities. The Action Plan identifies goals and objectives for the neighborhoods, and the parties who will lead each effort. The Plan will be used to guide the review of development projects in these neighborhoods by the city’s boards and commissions, help the City prioritize funding for projects and infrastructure improvements, and provide a guide for redevelopment efforts.

**West End, Federal Hill, and Reservoir Neighborhood Plan**

- **Reinforce Atwells Avenue as a restaurant and retail destination.**
  - Study the impacts of increased Atwells Avenue business parking on the surrounding residential properties.
  - Consider applying commercial design regulations along Atwells Avenue.

- **Maintain and enhance Franciscan Park for passive recreational use.**
  - Evaluate the feasibility of an off-leash dog area within the park.

- **Improve the programming and maintenance of Dexter Training Ground.**
  - Improve existing park facilities by adding benches and water stations to the dog park and adding recycling and composting receptacles throughout the park.
  - Improve maintenance of park grounds and trees; consider adding education signs to identify tree types.

- **Preserve and protect the Cranston Street Armory by working with the State to increase incentives to attract potential users of the building, and indentify a permanent funding source for maintenance and upkeep.**

- **Enhance Cranston Street as a vibrant, multi-cultural, mixed-use corridor.**
  - Enforce design regulations of the West Side Overlay District.
  - Clean up blighted properties along Cranston Street to attract new businesses.

- **Redevelop the gas station lots at the intersection of Westminster and Dexter streets.**
  - Consider a transitional use such as making the fruit and vegetable vendors a structured open-air market.
  - Seek a context-sensitive mixed-use project for the site with retail uses on the ground floor and residential uses on upper floors.

- **Redevelop the former Louthan Laundry site.**
  - Encourage buildings to have frontages on Westminster and Cranston streets with commercial or retail uses on the ground floor and a mix of uses, including residential, on the upper floors.
  - Incorporate green space into the redevelopment project.
  - Encourage building heights to reflect the character of the existing buildings along Westminster and Cranston streets.

- **Construct the Westminster Streetscape Enhancement Project.**
  - Repurpose the historic development patterns of Federal Hill.
  - Consider establishing additional layers of historic property protection, such as conservation districts, particularly for areas such as Jones and Mountain streets and the area between Broadway and Westminster.

- **Seek high-quality, neighborhood-serving projects to fill in vacant and underutilized sites along Service Road 7.**
  - Consider a form-based zoning approach to the parcels along the service road; incentivize icons/innovative design that will add to the character of the neighborhood.
  - Add green buildings and sustainability practices to the performance standards to be considered for these parcels.
  - Prioritize locally-owned neighborhood services and businesses on the first floor with residential uses on upper floors where possible.
  - Step down building heights into the residential areas and consider topography when setting height limits.

- **Reconnect Westminster Street to Downtown through the site of Bishop McVinney Auditorium.**

- **Cranston Street is a fast-paced and diverse area with a mix of commercial or retail uses on the ground floor and a mix of uses, including residential, on the upper floors.**
  - Consider making the fruit and vegetable vendors a structured open-air market.
  - Seek a context-sensitive mixed-use project for the site with retail uses on the ground floor and residential uses on upper floors.

- **Create walkable schools for neighborhood residents; prioritize renovation of existing school buildings over demolition and new construction.**
  - Renovate the West Broadway School so that it may be returned to use as a neighborhood elementary school.
  - Renovate and revalue the Bridgham Middle School.

- **Work with businesses and residents to establish an identity for Westminster Street.**

- **Redevelop the former Gorham Manufacturing site into a beneficial use for both the neighborhood and City.**
  - Focus redevelopment efforts on a mix of retail, office, institutional, and multi-unit.
  - Maintain green space along Mashapaug Pond.

- **Improve access to Mashapaug Pond.**
  - Connect trails at the Pond to Roger Williams Park through streetscape improvements and bike lanes in the Reservoir neighborhood.
  - Work with RIDEM to address contamination concerns and improve water quality.

- **Evaluate the potential for structured parking north of Spruce Street in the Route 10/Dean Street interchange right-of-way land to provide additional parking for Federal Hill businesses.**

- **Consider establishing additional layers of historic property protection, such as conservation districts, particularly for areas such as Jones and Mountain streets and the area between Broadway and Westminster.**