My goals for you for this assignment are threefold: (1) Spend some time in the field observing life in the Chinatown North area and conducting an interview or two; (2) Experience reducing your observations about some of the physical structures in that area to a quantitative set of measurements; (3) Communicate what you’ve learned through your observations, analysis of your data and secondary data obtained through PolicyMap into a 7-10 page paper/essay. (I created and saved within the My PolicyMap section of PolicyMap an official Chinatown North boundary. That area is called “Chinatown North – Official”.)

Specifically, you will be given a geographic area of responsibility for your coding exercise. You and a fellow student will share that responsibility. All coding must be complete and in the spreadsheet provided (on Blackboard) by no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 18, 2012. The data coding will be conducted with a partner but each person must prepare and submit their own project paper/essay. Interview(s) can be conducted along with your data coding partner.

During class on the night of the 18th, we will combine each of the teams’ data into one master dataset, you will be (re)instructed on getting the data into PolicyMap. Once in PolicyMap, you can create a series of maps for the Chinatown North Study area.

As you know, this is an area that has undergone some significant change in recent years. Your observations and analyses should focus on some aspect(s) of that change. My preference is that you treat this as an exploratory exercise rather than one in which you are confirming some pre-existing conclusion you had entering the project.