LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

DESIGNING COMMUNITIES FOR AN AGING AMERICA

Bill Armbruster
National Advisor
Livable Communities, AARP
Every State and Community is Aging

PERCENT OF POPULATION AGE 65+

Source: US Census
The U.S. is Getting Older & More Diverse

By 2050 there will be

- 18 MILLION AMERICANS AGE 85+
- 32 MILLION 65+ MINORITIES

Source: CDC
Survey after survey finds that today’s older adults want to stay in their community.

80% of adults ages 45+ agree or strongly agree with the statement: “What I’d really like to do is stay in my current community for as long as possible.”

For the past 50 years, communities have developed around cars and other motor vehicles as our principal form of transportation.

Source: AARP Home and Community Preferences of the 45+ Population, 2014
Pedestrians’ average risk of death by vehicle speed in the US

- Average risk of severe injury or death increases with age
- The average risk of severe injury or death of a 70-year-old ped struck by a car traveling at 25 mph is similar to the risk for a 30-year-old ped struck at 35 mph

Source: AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, September 2011
Survey after survey finds that today’s older adults want to remain in their homes.

78% of adults ages 45+ agree or strongly agree with the statement: “What I’d really like to do is stay in my current residence for as long as possible.”

But most houses haven’t been designed to adapt. American homes have traditionally been designed and built for able-bodied 35 year olds.
Even at Advanced Ages, the Vast Majority of Older Adults Lives in Private Homes

Share of Population by Age Group (Percent)

- Single-Family Homeowners
- Multifamily Owners
- Single-Family Renters
- Multifamily Renters
- Mobile Home Occupants
- Group Quarters Residents

Notes: Mobile home occupants include owners and renters living in trailers, boats, RVs, vans, and other structures. Group quarters residents may live in either institutional or non-institutional facilities.

Source: JCHS tabulations of US Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey.
What Community Amenities Do Older Adults Want Close to Home?

We asked older adults what amenities they want close to home. Access to transportation, food, and green space top the list. These are among the many community indicators that we are measuring as part of the Livability Index project. Find out more about our livability research and the development of our index here: www.aarp.org/pp/liv-com/

% endorsed within 1 mile or less

- Bus Stop: 50%
- Grocery Store: 47%
- Park: 42%
- Pharmacy / Drug Store: 42%
- Hospital: 29%
- Church / Religious: 29%
- Train / Subway: 23%
- Big Box Store: 18%
- Entertainment: 16%
- Mall (shopping): 13%

Source: AARP Public Policy Institute

GRAPHIC: AARP Digital Design
PEOPLE WANT LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

**Boomers** and **Millennials** have similar preferences for walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods.

- **72%** | **54%**
  - Want to be near shops, restaurants and offices

- **62%** | **49%**
  - Would move into a smaller home for a shorter commute

- **42%** | **59%**
  - Prefer to live where there’s a mix of homes

- **52%** | **55%**
  - Want public transportation options
Livable Communities are Economic Boons

Increase Economic Activity

Save Money for Cities

Are a Funding Opportunity
Mixed-use property in Livable Communities generates higher tax revenue per acre than single-use property.
AARP’s Network of Age-Friendly Communities
AARP’s Network of Age-Friendly Communities

Our Vision and the “8 Domains of Livability”

The Built Environment

- Transportation
- Housing
- Social participation
- Respect and social inclusion
- Civic participation and employment
- Communication and information
- Community support and health services
- Outdoor spaces and buildings

The Social Environment

Age-friendly city
AARP’S NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

The 5-Year Cycle for Members

Years 1-2
Plan

Years 3-5
Implement
Evaluate Your Progress

Continuously Improve
Livability Fact Sheets

Livable Communities are Great Places for All Ages

Bicycling
Density
Economic Development
Form-Based Code
Modern Roundabouts
Parking
Revitalization Without Displacement
Road Diets
Sidewalks
Street Trees
Traffic Calming

A Publication of AARP
Real Possibilities
Valuable and Livable Communities Institute
aarp.org/livable

Folletos Informativos sobre Habitabilidad
La recopilación completa

Uso de la bicicleta
Densidad
Desarrollo económico
Código en base al diseño urbano
Rotondas modernas
Estacionamiento
Revitalización sin desplazamiento
Dietas Viales
Aceras
Árboles de la calle
Moderación del tráfico

Una publicación de AARP
Habitable y Llevables a la mano
Valuable and Livable Communities Institute
aarp.org/livable
Tactical Urbanism

“Pop-up" demonstration projects — temporary bike lanes, protected intersections, crosswalks, parklets, sidewalk cafes, plazas, benches, street trees and more
The median US community has adopted only six of the 20 policies tracked in the Index. There is still much room for improvement.
THE LIVABILITY INDEX OVERVIEW

Metrics & Policies

Metrics and policies are the indicators used to measure livability. They are drawn from over 50 sources of data.

**Metrics**

- Metrics indicate how livable communities are in the present by measuring community characteristics.
- 40 metrics are used in the Livability Index; 21 of those evaluate livability at the neighborhood scale.
- Each category contains 4-9 metrics.
- Metrics must be relevant and subject to direct/indirect influence by state and local policymakers.

**Policies: Updated Jan 26, 2017**

- Policies are actions communities can take to improve livability over time.
- 20 state and local policies are evaluated in the Livability Index.
The Livability Index

Categories & Attributes

**Housing**
- Housing Accessibility
- Housing Options
- Housing Affordability
- Commitment to Livability

**Neighborhood**
- Proximity to Destinations
- Mixed-use Neighborhoods
- Compact Neighborhoods
- Personal Safety
- Neighborhood Quality
- Commitment to Livability

**Transportation**
- Convenient Transportation Options
- Transportation Costs
- Safe Streets
- Accessible System Design
- Commitment to Livability

**Environment**
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Resilience
- Energy Efficiency
- Commitment to Livability

**Health**
- Healthy Behaviors
- Access to Health Care
- Quality of Health Care
- Commitment to Livability

**Engagement**
- Internet Access
- Civic Engagement
- Social Engagement
- Equal Rights
- Commitment to Livability

**Opportunity**
- Equal Opportunity
- Economic Opportunity
- Education
- Multi-generational Communities
- Local Fiscal Health
- Commitment to Livability
A county executive and staff want to know how to meet the housing needs of the growing population of older adults.

A real estate agent wants to market his walkable community as a place to find great housing near many local businesses and other amenities.

A non-profit organization wants to show the need for transportation services in the community.

A community advocate wants to make the streets safer for those who cannot afford to drive and those who can no longer drive.

An AARP member is deciding between two locations and wants to live close to medical services because she is taking care of a family member.

What will the Livability Index do for your community?
Health in the Livability Index

A Holistic Approach

The Livability Index provides more than just a score for each category. It also shows the potential impact that some categories may have on others.

Use the diagram to see how health can be affected by the remaining categories and vice versa.

**Transportation**
- Frequency of local transit
- Walk trips
- ADA-accessible stations and vehicles

**Neighborhood**
- Access to grocery stores, farmers’ markets, and parks

**Housing**
- Accessibility for older adults and the people with disabilities

**Engagement**
- Civic involvement
- Social involvement

**Environment**
- Drinking water quality
- Regional air quality
- Near roadway pollution
- Industrial pollution

**Opportunity**
- Jobs per worker
- Income inequality
One Way We Highlight Community Change

- Highlights creativity from across US
- Features 130 Projects from 100 Mayors
- Free e-book download at www.aarp.org/wherewwelive
- Free print copy available at livable@aarp.org
Sharing Ideas

WE WANT TO HIGHLIGHT GOOD WORK NATIONWIDE

- Spread ideas
- Profile projects
- Give examples of work in other places
- Provide community & issue specific resources

But, we need you to send us examples

AARP.org/SharingLivableSolutions
5 Things to Do and NOT to Do

**DON’T…**
1. Assume changes HAVE to be costly
2. Just build a senior center
3. Plan JUST for one age group
4. View older people as a drain
5. Ignore pedestrians and design JUST for cars

**DO…**
1. Reach out to your residents
2. Bring in other funders and partners
3. Recognize the value of 50+ residents
4. Borrow ideas from others
5. Understand that small changes can make a big difference
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit us on the Web!

AARP’s Livability Index
www.aarp.org/livabilityindex

AARP Public Policy Institute
www.aarp.org/ppi
@AARPpolicy

AARP Livable Communities Resources
www.aarp.org/livablepolicy
www.aarp.org/livable

Bill Armbruster
National Advisor – AARP Livable Communities
warmbruster@aarp.org
585-729-1850