A livable community is one that is safe and secure, has affordable and appropriate housing and transportation options, and offers supportive community features and services. Once in place, those resources enhance personal independence; allow residents to age in place; and foster residents' engagement in the community's civic, economic, and social life.

— AARP Public Policy Institute
**KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- Demographic change makes it imperative that we approach community planning differently than we have in the past
- Tremendous opportunity for communities today to tap into the longevity economy by embracing livable communities
- The time to act is NOW
- For ALL ages!
AMERICA IS AGING

Population Distribution in the U.S. by Age and Gender, 1900 and 2040

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, National Population Projections. Available at: http://www.census.gov/population/projections/data/national/
NUMBER OF PERSONS 50+ BY RACE (PERCENT OF TOTAL POP 50+ THAT IS PERSONS OF COLOR)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – 2008 Census projections

CONCEPTS AND EXAMPLES OF LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

- Invest in walkable and healthy neighborhoods
- Invest in public transportation
- Pull it together through TOD and other service-focused development
- Protect housing affordability
- Design for accessibility

HOW DO WE PAY FOR IT?
THE U.S. LONGEVITY ECONOMY: “GDP” = $7.1 TRILLION

- Third largest economy in the WORLD!
- Over $5 trillion in consumer spending
- Including almost $2 trillion in Health Care spending
- Twice as many startups created than by people in their 20s!
- Generates almost 90 million jobs...

IF YOU COULD LIVE ANYWHERE?

Source: ULI, America in 2015

MILLENIALS HAVE CAR COMPANIES RUNNING SCARED
"The transit system allows us to take care of the normal daily stuff you do like going to the grocery store, the doctor... and simple things like that without the public transit system would be a major problem.... A serious problem."

"Having transit available adds tremendously to the quality of life in this community. I can’t stress that too much. You know, just because we’re old doesn’t mean we don’t like to have fun and enjoy life a little... we do."

"I have mobility problems and I use the bus to get me around and getting out is important. Staying in four walls can be a little depressing. It makes me healthier, as long as I’m out and moving I’m living a much healthier life and that’s what the bus service gives you."

AARP PPI Video: Rural Transit Connects, 2014

Compact Development Can Be Implemented in Communities of all Sizes

Compact Development Promotes Efficient Land Use and Reduces the Cost of Infrastructure Investment

- Rural South Boston, VA
- Rural Sanford, ME
- Suburban King Farm, Rockville, MD
- Urban Portland, OR
TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

Heathline, Cleveland, OH

Active Living for all Ages:
Creating Neighborhoods Around Transit

www.aarp.org/livablepolicy

TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT
NOT JUST FOR BIG CITIES
TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT
NOT JUST FOR BIG CITIES

Photo by Doug Connell

COMPLETE STREETS

Dubuque, Iowa

PROTECT HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Santa Cruz ADU Development Program—
A National Model
Lifelong Housing Certification Program
Twin Creeks, Oregon

- Wide entry doors (min. 32” net opening)
- Wide entry doors (min. 32” net opening)
- Wide doors
- Low threshold shower
- Reinforced bathroom walls
- Grab bars, roll under sink, lever handles etc.
- Easy to reach and operate appliances
- Flexible room layout/design
- Easy reach cabinets
- Maneuverability
- Switch boxes 42”
- Receptacles 18”

**AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities**

Updated June 2015
FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Livability Index
www.aarp.org/livabilityindex
#LivIndex

Livable Communities Research and Policy Solutions
www.aarp.org/livablepolicy
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Livable Communities Outreach
www.aarp.org/livable
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