AARP Age Friendly Communities Network Event

The experiences of Portland, Oregon

October 8-9, 2013
Portland Cycle of Activities as Part of the Global Network of Age-friendly Cities®

1. Planning
   - Baseline assessment (Original AFC project)
   - Join the Network
   - Establish Advisory Council
   - Build partnerships
   - Develop Action Plan
   - Identify indicators

2. Implementation
   - Approval of Action Plan by Local Government
   - Implementation of Action Plan
   - Monitor indicators

3. Evaluate progress & continual improvement
   - Measure progress
   - Identify success and remaining gaps
   - Refine Action Plan, indicators and partnerships

Assess → Plan → Act → Measure → Refine

Ongoing 5-year cycles
Starting with Assessments...
Embedding Age-Friendly Concepts in City Plans

Making Portland a great place for people of all ages and abilities
“Portland is a place for all generations.”

- Framework for Equity
- Age-friendly city action plan
- Accessible housing
- Accessible community hubs
- Safety and accessibility on civic corridors
- Medical institutions
- Inter-generational mentoring
An Age-Friendly City: the Eight Domains

Built Environment
- Transport
- Outdoor spaces & buildings

Social Environment
- Housing
- Social participation
- Community support & Health services
- Civic participation & employment
- Communication and information
- Respect & Social inclusion

Source: Suzanne Garon, University of Sherbrooke
Healthy Connected City
What makes a city healthy?

- Basic Public Services
- Parks & Nature
- Healthy Food
- Businesses & Amenities
- Watershed Health
- Social Connections
- Active Transportation
- Safety
- Quality Housing
Neighborhood Centers: Age-Friendly Policy Approaches

Integration of Age-Friendly Concepts into Comprehensive Plan policies
Neighborhood Centers: Age-Friendly Policy Approaches

Neighborhood Centers
Cultivate a system of hubs that provide equitable and convenient access to local services, food, gathering places and amenities.
Location matters
Address disparities first; prioritize areas which now lack good access to services, sidewalks, and other elements that support active living.
Community services
Prioritize centers as locations for community services including medical clinics, libraries, day care, schools, etc.
Healthful & affordable food
Support the viability of grocery stores, local markets and community gardens in neighborhood centers.
Accessible housing near services and transit
Prioritize housing options accessible to older adults and mobility-limited individuals where close proximity to services and transit makes it easier to live independently.
Neighborhood Centers: Age-Friendly Policy Approaches

Access and connections
Cultivate centers as places that are eminently walkable and accessible to people of all ages and abilities.
Safe and accessible transit corridors

Prioritize improving major transit corridors as safe, accessible, livable places.
Employment for all ages and abilities
Reduce disparities in income and employment opportunity for older adults and people with disabilities, and promote workforce development for historically underserved communities.
Household Prosperity: Age-Friendly Policy Approaches

Household budgets
Transportation costs factor into a household budget along with rent, so affordable housing close to jobs and services is critical for lower-income households.
Community use of schools

Encourage co-location of facilities and programs in schools that provide community services to people of all ages and abilities.
Portland’s Challenges

- Change in city leadership during the evolution of this work
- Involving communities of color
- Moving from policies to action
- Messaging for greatest impact
Portland’s Successes

- Diversity and number of private and public partners

- Holistic approach that includes the social as well as physical environment

- Opportunity to memorialize the Age-Friendly City concepts into long-range plans with teeth
For more information...

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Portland’s Comprehensive Plan Update
www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/pdxcompplan