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Over the past year, communities across the world have been strained like never before by a global pandemic, social and political unrest, and economic hardships. Throughout these challenging times, the Franklin community has proven resilient. Despite the uncertain times, Franklin has experienced continued growth and development and has proven to be a community of choice.

Franklin strives to be age-friendly to everyone in our city and part of that is recognizing the aging population. According to AARP, while 76% of Americans age 50 and older say they prefer to remain in their current residence and 77% would like to live in their community as long as possible, just 59% anticipate they will be able to stay in their community, either in their current home (46%) or a different home still within their community (13%). Franklin seeks to be a place where residents can age in place and hopefully through improvements to the transportation network, expanding recreational opportunities, and housing options, our residents will be motivated to stay.

The Action Plan draws from previous planning efforts and emphasizes our desire to provide a mix of housing types, develop a robust multi-modal transportation network, and provide an increasing amount of recreational opportunities. While this is Franklin’s first Age-Friendly Plan, I hope we can continue to build on it in the years ahead and improve the services, resources, and amenities our senior citizens desire to remain happy and healthy.
Community Profile

Downtown Franklin, comprised of a beautiful 15 block historic district, offers true Southern hospitality with a great American Main Street and 200 years of rich history. Visitors will find commemorative brick sidewalks, beautiful landscaping, lovely Victorian architecture, and stunning renovated historic buildings – all located in the heart of Franklin. Downtown Franklin offers elegant shopping, restaurants, antique shops, a variety of clothing stores, art galleries, professional services, and more.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has given Franklin the prestigious title of Distinctive Destination for offering an authentic visitor experience by combining dynamic downtowns, cultural diversity, attractive architecture and a strong commitment to historic preservation.

Quality of Life...
That's why people move to Franklin. They want to live where they have some of the best schools in Tennessee including the Franklin Special School District and the Williamson County Schools. The City of Franklin also features award winning parks known for their beauty, fun playgrounds for the kids and sporting activities, plus we have two parks just for dogs! Franklin has won numerous awards! One is for our great neighborhoods from the American Planning Association.

OUR CITY
Franklin is a unique blend of history and progress. Since our beginning in 1799, we have grown from a tiny, agricultural community into a strong blend of residential, commercial and corporate citizens. There is much to see and do in Franklin, from a Civil War battlefield, to a host of museums and antebellum mansions, to our thriving downtown shopping area and the Cool Springs Galleria. Just a few miles from town is the Natchez Trace Parkway, and if you like antiques, Franklin has some of the best shops in Tennessee.
Introduction of the Plan

Franklin is focusing specifically on three domains of an Age Friendly Community:

A  TRANSPORTATION
B  HOUSING
C  RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE
How this Plan was Developed and who was Involved

Local and state AARP staff provided an outline for the Plan based upon multiple planning efforts, including the following:

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<td>A random scientific sample of 2,800 households received surveys their confidential responses were weighted and analyzed to determine just what a representative sample of Franklin thinks about the community, governance and participation.</td>
<td>1. 1 on 1 interviews with the Mayor, Aldermen and Planning Commissioners (May 4-6, 2015) 2. 3-night series of public workshops (May 4-6, 2015) 3. Over 100 participants over 3 nights 4. Online discussion forum on MindMixer to identify transportation issues along with growth and development concerns 5. 45,000 people and businesses reached through Facebook 6. September 2014, Planning and Sustainability Department hosted a meeting with Planning Commission, the Board of the Mayor and Alderman, Historic Zoning Commission, the Sustainability Commission and the design community to participate on an Infill Working Group 7. September 2016, City hosted 2 public open houses for initial plans 8. 200 attended 9. Over 80 comment cards</td>
<td>1. Stakeholder Interviews held May and June of 2014 2. Website &amp; Social Media - Approximately 140 citizens participated on the website creating over 800 interactions and over 6,000 unique page views 3. Community Workshop was conducted on Wednesday October 22, 2014 at Franklin City Hall. This public workshop was an opportunity for City staff, residents and visitors to review the existing condition information gathered to date, comment on the preliminary population and employment projections and help identify areas of concern regarding the transportation and multi-modal networks. 4. Online Discussion Forum in an effort to gain additional comments, suggestions and ideas</td>
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Information about who will manage implementation of the plan

AARP LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

CITY OF FRANKLIN

NON-PROFIT PARTNERS
The Action Plan

FOUR KEY STRATEGIES

A safe, clean and livable city

Having a safe, clean, and livable city is a primary requisite for our citizens, and they are supportive of the means necessary to assure the idyllic, yet progressive character of Franklin. Residents want to live healthier, sustainable lives and will support services that deliver high standards. Franklin takes pride in the professionalism and quality of our police, fire, and emergency response teams. We understand the importance of code enforcement as a means of precluding declining and unsafe neighborhoods and business districts. The City recognizes its role as a steward of the environment as we deliver essential services while preserving the natural beauty of the community.

An effective and fiscally sound city government providing high quality service

Franklin citizens have high expectations for their government. As the city continues to grow, it must remain vigilant in the prudent management of taxpayer funds by continuously working to improve the quality, efficiency, and cost effectiveness of services demanded by its citizens. The pace of technological change and innovation in our world is accelerating, and the City depends on the expertise and creativity of its employees to integrate new ideas and tools that will improve service delivery and operational efficiency while maintaining the sense of personal touch our citizens have come to expect. The City of Franklin understands that in this era of rapid change, the need for knowledgeable, active, and engaged employees is greater than ever. Building and retaining a skilled, adaptable, and diverse workforce requires the City to recruit qualified employees and provide competitive salaries and benefits along with opportunities for ongoing training and professional development in order to meet future needs. Employees will be encouraged to become adaptable, take initiative and keep their skills current through organizationwide initiatives and individual development. They will also need to continue to build their ability to serve our increasingly diverse community.
Quality of life experiences
Franklin citizens are proud of their community. They want it to remain among the best places to live in the United States—a place envied for its engaging quality of life. People are invested in their neighborhoods as well as in the city. They willingly volunteer, participate, and support the many activities, recreational pursuits, and special events that bring them together as a community. Franklin’s rapidly growing and increasingly diverse population, both in age and ethnicity, is both a strength as well as a challenge to the vision of our city. Our citizens understand the importance of ensuring that everyone who works within our community is able to live within our community. A critical part of sustaining our unique sense of inclusiveness is ensuring that a range of housing options is available for varying income and demographic groups. As our boundaries expand, the efficient and effective varieties of land uses—residential, commercial, open space, and institutional—are critical components for sustaining our vibrant community. Our citizens are concerned that traffic congestion is increasing everywhere—on major streets and in neighborhoods. They would like a functional transportation system, more bicycle and pedestrian connections between residential neighborhoods and shopping districts or employment centers, and better transit options, not only within the city but connecting the greater metropolitan region.

Sustainable growth and economic prosperity
Franklin has a heritage of economic stability, defying many of the struggles faced in other communities and the nation. This heritage is a result of a dedication to sustainable growth through thoughtful public policy decisions and well-managed developments. The community values the diversity of high-quality and high-worth places—the mix of suburban and downtown shopping districts that serve the community’s needs and are magnets for out-of-town visitors; a vibrant corporate and office environment that is the home to industry-leading businesses of all sizes; well-designed and maintained parks and recreational gathering places that also focus on historical, cultural, or natural attributes; and opportunities to pursue a wide range of activities without leaving the community. City leaders also understand the importance of having a self-sustaining economic engine that through collaboration and partnership with both private and public entities supports efforts that attract, retain, and create quality jobs to ensure a diverse economic base, a resilient and growing tax base, and thriving neighborhoods.
The transportation goals include:
1. Improve mobility, accessibility and transportation alternatives to provide for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods;
2. Safe, efficient and convenient movement of people and goods within the City and its UGB by integrating land uses, circulation routes and transportation facilities;
3. Implement industry accepted best practices in transportation planning and transit oriented planning and ensure they are in conformance with the Regional Travel Demand Model developed by the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO); and
4. Implement a smart growth policy that promotes sustainable economic development, maintains the character throughout the city, and improves health and safety by increasing the amount of recreation and open space.
Vibrant neighborhoods are essential to the overall health of the community and should include a range of housing options and price points (both for rent and for sale) interspersed within neighborhoods across the City. A variety of lot sizes is encouraged. Neighborhoods should have a pedestrian friendly design that makes walking and biking pleasurable along streets and open spaces. They should be connected to convenient amenities and services. In some locations, integrating and mixing land uses with pedestrian-oriented, traditional building form is encouraged. Neighborhoods should have a strong identity with intentional design and architectural features that are visually interesting. They will be beautiful places for multiple generations to enjoy, fostering community involvement and social activities, while maintaining a secure environment.

**Mixed Residential**

The Mixed Residential design concept contains residential neighborhoods with a combination of single-family dwellings, big houses, duplexes, and townhouses. The defined character across this design concept may vary by neighborhood, but new development should transition from existing development patterns in adjacent neighborhoods.

New neighborhoods should have walkable, well-connected street systems that connect to surrounding neighborhoods and nearby destinations. They should be designed around natural features to highlight forested areas, hillsides and hilltops, streams, and tree rows as accessible amenities.

Infill and redevelopment near Downtown Franklin should maintain the traditional residential character and reflect the scale of the area. Architecture, building setbacks, housing choices, scale, and walkability are important components of this design concept.

**Neighborhood Commercial**

The Neighborhood Commercial design concept contains a mix of active uses at key intersections that serve surrounding residential concentrations. These centers must be compatible with and contribute to neighborhood character and livability. These centers should be defined by building frontages and an activated street, and not by parking lots. They should be pedestrian-friendly places with high-quality architecture, plazas, outdoor dining, sidewalks, and other pedestrian and bicycle amenities that create active, connected gathering places.
H O U S I N G

Neighborhood Mixed Use
The Neighborhood Mixed-Use design concept provides a diverse mix of high-activity uses with a connected and walkable block layout. These centers and corridors should have coordinated development patterns at a pedestrian scale, with high-quality architecture, plazas, sidewalks, and pedestrian and bicycle amenities to activate the street and connect these gathering places to the residential neighborhoods they support.

Single Family
The Single-Family Residential design concept consists of single-family residential neighborhoods, which provide a range of single-family dwelling and lot sizes. The defined character may vary by neighborhood, but new developments should transition from the existing development patterns in adjacent neighborhoods. New neighborhoods should have walkable, well-connected street systems that connect to surrounding neighborhoods and nearby destinations. They should be designed around natural features to highlight forested areas, hillsides and hilltops, streams, and tree rows as accessible community amenities.

Multifamily Residential
The Multifamily Residential design concept provides for a range of housing types that offer both for sale and for rent options across a range of price points. Multifamily residential includes apartments, condominiums, stacked flats, assisted living facilities, and is encouraged to be mixed with big houses, duplexes, townhouses, and other housing types. This allows for greater flexibility in form and scale to achieve active, cohesive, and vibrant neighborhoods.
Recreation

Recreation design concept in Envision Franklin comprises areas of public and private recreational opportunities. These areas include active and passive open spaces, as well as City parks, and should be interconnected through bike lanes, multi-use paths, and sidewalks.

GOALS:

COMMUNITY VISION FOR PARK LAND AND TRAILS
Our goal for park land is to achieve 12 acres per 1,000 population, with a balance of active and passive parks distributed as equitably as possible throughout the city.

COMMUNITY VISION FOR PROGRAMMING
Determine what core programs will be developed and managed by Franklin Parks in the most cost effective manner.

COMMUNITY VISION FOR FACILITIES
Develop a program plan with the County and determine how much indoor facility space is needed, as well as location, and how to fund the development of these facilities in the most cost effective manner.

COMMUNITY VISION FOR OPERATIONS AND STAFFING
Implement funding sources to support the operational needs of the Department based on community expectations and determine the right staffing levels based on the ‘right person, for the right job, with the right skill set, for the right pay’ to achieve the outcomes desired by BOMA and residents.
Appendices and Supporting Documentation

1. ENVISION FRANKLIN

2. CONNECT FRANKLIN

3. FRANKLIN FORWARD

4. PARKS MASTER PLAN

5. 2019 FRANKLIN CITIZEN SURVEY

2019 Franklin Citizen Survey Results

May 28, 2019