State: Maryland
Community Name: Frederick
Population Size: 72237
Percentage of Residents Above Age 60: 22
Community Structure: City
Other:
Community Type: Urban,Mixed,Suburban (offices, apartments and shops),Small Town
Elected Official Signing the Letter of Commitment
Name: Michael O'Connor
Title: Mayor
Office Mailing Address: 101 North Court Street / Frederick, MD 21701
Community Contact Name: Bob Smith
Email: [blank]
Position: Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation
Telephone: [blank]
Role: Mr. Smith currently serves the City of Frederick as the Deputy Director for Parks and Recreation. He oversees the Parks Division, Recreation program and facility operations, the Office of Special Events, and Clustered Spires Golf Course. He has held this position for the past 5 years. Prior to being appointed as Deputy Director, he worked as Recreation Supervisor within the department for over 18 years. The Department serves seniors and the aging community by providing for diverse recreational opportunities and amenities that enhance the quality of life for our residents and visitors to the City of Frederick through the creation, operation, and maintenance of a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Department.

Older Adult Involvement: The State vision of public participation is endorsed by the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan: Citizens are active partners in the planning and implementation of community initiatives and are sensitive to their responsibilities in achieving community goals. According to 2019 ACS 1-year Estimates Data Profiles, Frederick is home to more than 15,500 residents over the age of 60. This is a
relatively high percentage of the total City population (21.6%) and it is yet estimated to increase in the next 10-15 years. The City of Frederick actively engage and involve all residents, including seniors, in every decision-making process. In addition to the efforts already in place, the City intends to conduct surveys and (virtual) gatherings and hearing sessions. Gatherings will be for asset based community engagement in targeted communities throughout the city, surveys will be designed in a way to be accessible for all age groups with all abilities to ensure the highest return rates, and hearing sessions will be hosted virtually and in different locations and various times to ensure maximum turn out. We will work with the Department of Public Works and Parks and Recreation to ensure that senior residents will be participating in the regulating phase, design process, and construction of streetscapes and public outdoor spaces, parks, and other recreational facilities. They will also be participating in the planning process of providing housing options for seniors and home modification programs to ensure accessibility and connectivity in their neighborhoods in order to engage them in the process to improve their access to leisure and cultural activities and to provide ample opportunities for senior residents to participate in social and civic engagement with their peers and younger people.

Increasing Collaboration and Coordination:

The City works with different agencies and departments and have different programs to ensure the maximum collaboration and coordination among community members. The Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) is a forum for residents to become involved in identifying and recommending positive changes to improve their neighborhoods by enhancing communications with elected officials. It is the goal of the elected officials to work with residents, including seniors, to understand and address the issues that impact the quality of life in neighborhoods. Currently, Planning Department collaborates with the Departments of Public Works, Building Department, Department of Housing and Human Services, Economic Development, Parks and Recreation to achieve the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan and the Comprehensive Plan in terms of housing, transportation, parks and open space, local businesses, etc. Regarding transportation potentials, The City of Frederick is proud of the wide variety of collaborative efforts underway within the region. The City’s membership in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) provides access to federal transportation funding. Other federal efforts to work toward mutual infrastructure goals include the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). On a state level, collaborative partners include the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), which operates the State Highway Administration (SHA), the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) and the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), which in turn operates the Maryland Area Rail Commuter (MARC) train service and MTA Bus Service. On the County level, the City is collaborating with Frederick County and their local bus transportation system (TransIT). Finally, at a local
level, the City also partners with groups like the Chamber Transportation Advisory Committee and the Transit Services Advisory Council regarding future transportation needs. All the collaborative efforts with different agencies and departments in various elements of city planning will be enhanced due to the importance of age-friendly concept in building a more sustainable and livable community for all.

AARP Team Member Contact Info:

Most Instructive Area of Work: Policies and regulations to achieve a livable city and an age-friendly community will contribute to the AARP network of age-friendly communities. By enhancing the walkability and bikeability, by providing more public outdoor spaces and streetscapes relevant to the senior population needs and desires, and by providing housing options suitable for the aging community, we expect to achieve higher senior participation in their community as they age. This approach will have great contribution and develop Frederick as a model for other urban/rural mixed cities in their city planning practices such as housing development with senior population in mind and complete street to promote walkability and connectivity in general.

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