Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Franklin, TN

STATE: Tennessee

POPULATION SIZE: 78,000

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 18%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Ken Moore MD

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 109 3rd Ave S

Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

The community contact is the local staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work — it is not the responsible AARP staff member.

Please describe the named person’s role in the city or community’s age-friendly initiative:

Andrew Orr works on long-range planning projects, special studies, and is the go-to for the city’s sustainability initiatives. He will serve as the point of contact for this initiative.
Section 3: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS

1) Please provide a brief summary of the community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people and how the community plans to become more age-friendly.

Franklin is doing several things to ensure the community caters to the elderly. Williamson County Parks and Recreation offers several programs targeted towards seniors. Please read about them here: http://www.wcparksandrec.com/seniors_and_therapeutics/seniors/senior_activities/index.php. Franklin requires sidewalks and street trees in all new developments with ramps and crosswalks. Several residential projects have been approved that are designed for those 55+ over. Franklin is working to come into compliance with Title II of the ADA and spends approximately $1 million annually building new sidewalks throughout the community where there are existing gaps to the pedestrian network. Franklin is also a healthcare hub. Williamson Medical Hospital is located in Franklin and many healthcare companies have corporate offices in the Cool Springs area.

2) How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly?

The City administers the National Community Survey every two years. It is a scientifically valid survey that is mailed to 3,000 households. In 2016, the overall response rate was 37%. You can view the results here: https://www.franklintn.gov/home/showdocument?id=25079. There are several groups and organizations tailored specifically for the elderly including church groups and the JL Clay Senior Center. Moreover, the nine-member Board of Mayor and Aldermen is also made up of several senior citizens.

3) Briefly describe the mechanisms the community has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.

Franklin Tomorrow recently hosted “On the Table” which was an opportunity to gather around a table with friends, neighbors, colleagues, and even strangers to share a meal and have a real conversation about what’s important. The goal is to bring together local residents to discuss how we can build and sustain our community. A large formal event was held during the “Breakfast with the Mayors” event where over 300 people participated, but many more events took place around the city. At the conclusion of each event, participants were asked to respond to an online survey. Franklin Tomorrow hired a firm to review the survey results and will present the results through various outlets.
Section 4: NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your membership in the global age-friendly network and better enable us to understand how to support the network.

4) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

I hope we can share best practices and learn from each other. The US Census Bureau estimates that by 2035, those over the age of 65 will outnumber children for the first time in US history. This will have profound impacts on social services, access to healthcare, the built environment, mobility, and housing availability. Franklin is already experiencing increasing demand for assisted living and independent living for seniors.

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

Mayor Moore, MD of Franklin is an advocate of healthy living, creating an inclusive community, and improving the quality of life for the changing demographics.

6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file of a logo or other image that represents your community.

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here's ours >