

Age Friendly St. Petersburg Stakeholder Input Report

How to Read the Summary

Standard Font: Data from Summary of Age-Friendly City Listening Session #1 February 11, 2017- The Sunshine Center, Downtown St. Petersburg

Underlined Font: Data from pre-session survey for Age-Friendly St. Petersburg event May 2, 2017 – Collaborative Labs

Domain 1: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

- **Improve Walkability:**
 - More curb cuts
 - More sidewalks
 - Sidewalks uneven or in bad repair
 - Better sidewalks, corner crossings and major street crossings
 - Better sidewalks and street cross walks on major roadways
 - sidewalks/paths conducive for walkers, wheelchairs, crutches, strollers
 - Walkability could be improved in areas besides Beach drive area. For example, streets like 1st Ave North and South and 4th street are not very walkable or wheel chair friendly, but there are a lot of neat places to visit.
 - Invest in Pedestrian mobility on all levels
 - Pedestrian friendly opportunities.
- **Have More Bike Options:**
 - Overall, make city more bike-friendly
 - Provide more bike parking places
 - More bike lanes downtown and away from downtown
 - Separate pedestrian and bike trails/walks
 - Better bike lanes and protected bike ways
 - Better bike lanes and protected cycle tracks
- **Improve Safety:**
 - Better lighting (2x)
 - Safety
 - Invest in Pedestrian safety on all levels
 - Improved safety for pedestrians
 - We need to significantly reduce speeds on area roads to make them more age-friendly and safe.
 - Reducing travel speeds on city streets
- **Improve Outdoor Spaces:**
 - More places to sit
 - More shade
 - More community friendly outdoor space
 - Better streets, sidewalks, and safe pedestrian and cycle crossings for people of all ages and abilities
 - assistance for seniors in public areas
- **Other:**
 - Homeless people
 - More parking for disabled
 - Long waits for elevator
 - Better mobility choices
 - Using bicycles and walking to improve health

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Domain 2: Transportation**• Improve Public Transportation:**

- More frequent and accessible bus service
- Extra bus service for special events
- Small and frequent buses operating after 10 p.m.
- Express bus service
- Motor scooter parking facilities
- Golf cart shuttles
- Park & ride
- More / improve / better public transportation
- Transportation (6x)
- Transportation challenges
- Increased and affordable transportation.
- Improve affordable, efficient and widespread transportation
- Increased Mobility Options - Mass Transit?
- Improved mass transit -- at least buses if not light rail
- Availability of transportation
- Expansion of public transportation options
- more shuttles and trolleys

• Improve Infrastructure:

- More bike lanes
- Safer crosswalks with push-button controls
- Properly maintain crossings
- Restore red light cameras
- Complete Streets
- Investments in sustainable infrastructure
- Well-illuminated signs with larger fonts
- Trim limbs that block signals and signage
- Transportation- Less road construction
- Expanded transit options
- Transportation infrastructure
- Complete Streets and equitable mobility options
- Increasing the number of complete streets and transit options.

• Provide Services for Seniors:

- Provide seniors transport to medical appointments
- Senior-friendly transport services
- More transportation options so elderly who shouldn't drive won't have to drive
- There's a gap in transportation. We have buses, but then we go to Care Ride. What's the in between option.
- Transportation to allow seniors to access medical and social services as well as shopping for healthier food choices.

• Improve Safety:

- Cyclists and pedestrians obey traffic laws
- Drivers respect crosswalk markings
- Lower speed limits near parks

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Domain 3: Housing

- **Have More Affordable Housing:**

- Affordability
- Lack of affordable housing options
- High-end construction dominates market
- More affordable housing opportunities
- Increased availability of affordable housing
- Increase Affordable Housing for all ages
- Affordable Housing (5x)
- Home Modification Grants
- More affordable -- and safe -- housing
- Affordable housing options.
- All-inclusive communities
- Affordable housing and health care
- Better housing choices than standard ALF's
- Zoning for co-housing and other models of accessible and affordable housing

- **Help Seniors Stay in their Homes:**

- Free home maintenance services for those on fixed incomes
- Low-income housing assistance for all who need it
- Provide multi-generational housing
- Provide aging-in-place services like Neighbors Helping Seniors, Neighborhood Senior Watch, Meals on Wheels, daily check-in calls, life-alert services;
- Partner with Healthy St. Pete
- Impose 1% quota for new housing to be reserved as affordable units for seniors
- More info on reverse mortgages
- Offer more smoking cessation services and ban smoking in parks
- Require landlords to make ADA changes
- Offer more diabetes and mental health education

- **Provide Housing for Seniors:**

- More affordable housing for low income seniors.
- additional senior housing
- Comprehensive independent senior living
- Improved senior housing units for low-income seniors
- More age friendly communities where the elderly can live at home but with a "safety net", for example a community concierge who can help obtain needed services and check in on the residents
- Increased variety of independent living opportunities for older persons
- Housing - make all new high-rises dedicate some space to low income seniors
- Accessible services and Low Cost Housing to increase elder citizens' ability to age in place

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Domain 4: Social Participation

- **Expand Events/Projects:**
 - Provide more events for middle-age adults and for under-21s
 - Environmental opportunities for people to interact on a daily basis
 - Education & Outreach through contractors for preparedness and response activities of elderly
 - more events held here like in other major cities
 - Community projects, such as Community gardens in highly senior populated areas, across all socio economic levels
 - New community health/wellness events like Open Streets/Ciclovia
 - Have surveys for people of all ages to fill out about events that they would be interested in attending
- **Other:**
 - Move meetings around
 - Do more to welcome new arrivals
 - Make events affordable
 - Do more to promote YMCA offerings
 - Provide more info through neighborhood associations

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Domain 5: Respect and Social Inclusion

- **Increase Opportunities for Inter-Generational Interactions:**
 - Adopt a grandchild for a certain period of time. This will empower the seniors and help them relate with the younger generation. (Respect and social inclusion domain)
 - Increased opportunities for multiple generations to interact and engage
 - Easy access to intergenerational activities.
 - Intergenerational opportunities
 - More intergenerational activities
 - Launching our Generation to Generation campaign that will mobilize and recruit older activities geared towards specific age groups
 - Public spaces that attract intergenerational audiences
 - Organizational efforts to bridge social inclusion across generations
- **Other:**
 - adults to use their time and talent by volunteering with our local youth serving agencies
 - community conversation on topics that appeal to the young and older generation
 - Greater opportunities to bring together diverse cultures/age levels of people to reduce stereotyping and stigma and improve support systems

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Domain 6: Civic Participation and Employment**• Engage Everyone:**

- Address the challenges of: Proper motivation, Not convenient, Inadequate notification of meetings, Inconvenience of day/night meetings, Lack of transportation, Too much emphasis on computers for those not online, Limited volunteer opportunities
- Make everyone feel more involved, by allowing them to participate in events to choose big future decisions

• Assist with Employment:

- Not many substantive jobs and wages too low
- Stigma of retraining
- Inconvenient location of jobs
- Employer flexibility lacking
- Lack of knowledge of jobs and training for over 55
- Older workers not valued as much as younger
- Age Friendly Employer Pledge (raising awareness of the value of older workers in the workplace)
- More opportunity to earn income (even if part time)
- Engaging with business leaders to incentive more age-friendly businesses.
- Employment
- Create more age-friendly jobs
- More high wage jobs

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Domain 7: Communication and Information

• Increase Communication:

- Provide more information on parks and public facilities
- Communication and Information
- Solve the "information and communication" problem so people know what's available in the community
- Senior citizen monthly news publication
- Put the Seniors Helpline in bold numbers on the County's main website
- Provide a senior community resource guide
- Education and Collaboration of resource- Getting info to those that need it.

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Domain 8: Community and Health Services**• Address Challenges:**

- Professionals who speak a variety of languages: English should be primary, Translators should be provided. Ask volunteer agencies to provide.
- Specialists: Specialists not informed on other specialists
- Better case management among specialists and primary-care doctor, Info on caliber of providers
- Home health services: More info needed – unsure of what’s available, affordability, insurance acceptance, Want resources for caregivers, Younger family members do more to help
- Access latest technology
- Lack of on-call physicians and dentists

• Improve Access and Affordability:

- Accessibility issues due to location, affordability, insurance acceptance
- access to affordable health care
- Affordable housing and health care
- Greater access of health care services by diverse communities
- more resources available for the elderly
- Increase access to healthcare
- Availability of services
- Availability to county & city resources

• Educate:

- Better education for doctors on role and referrals
- More info on healthy lifestyle as preventative strategy
- Education on the vast benefits of physical activity for graceful aging and mental health

• Protect Medicare/Medicaid:

- Elected officials to champion Medicare/Medicaid expansion
- Protect Medicare protections under the ACA
- Protect Medicaid from changing to block grants or per capita caps

• Provide Services:

- More sunny day services being contracted for during times of emergency to provide needed support then
- Provide a free program like an Elder ID for those with Alzheimer's disease so they can return safely when they wander. (Safety and security domain)
- More dementia friendly aids such as signage, lines on the path indicating the way to go and training and information for the service communities on how to interact with customers with dementia
- services to allow folks to remain in their homes just as hot meals and cleaning services
- Promotion of vetted, purposeful, and ongoing physical activity resources
- More funding for services that allow a senior to age in place. Maybe someone to help them get groceries, or someone to walk with them to the park. they need companionship and just a little bit to help to stay at home.

- **Other:**

- Unaffordable insurance rates
- More overall funding of community health facilities
- More meetings at Parks & Rec sites
- A central clearing house for all info
- Health Services
- Health Equity
- Health and Wellness
- Connecting with the arts community.
- hydration stations though out the city

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