Safe Routes for Older Adults:
Walking, Cycling, and Transit

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America is aging

2015

PERCENT OF POPULATION AGE 65+

12.5-15

15-17.5

17.5-20

20-22.5

22.5-25

25-27

2030

Source: US Census
Median age will increase from 38 today to 43 in 2060.

By 2050

45%

of the older population will be non-white compared to 26% in 2015.
8 IN 10 people 50+ want to live in their own homes as communities as they age
Age-Friendly Communities Model

The 8 Domains of Livability
Continuum of Transportation and Mobility Options

- Walk/Bike
- Personal Vehicle
- Market-based On-demand
- Fixed Route Transit
- ADA and Community Paratransit
Without Cars or Nearby Transit, Increasing Shares of Older Adults in Outlying Areas Are at Risk of Isolation

Source: Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University
Getting Around in our Communities
Streets are Unsafe in Many Communities

Between 2008 and 2017, drivers struck and killed 49,340 people who were walking on streets all across the United States. That’s more than 13 people per day, or one person every hour and 46 minutes.

Smart Growth America
2019 Dangerous By Design

But the number of pedestrian fatalities per year has increased since 2009, and older adults are over-represented among pedestrian fatalities in 35 states.

League of American Bicyclists
2018 Benchmarking Report
What drives this trend?
AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

Among the hundreds of communities that have joined the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, many have made improved walkability and individual mobility a priority.

63% seek to improve walkability and support Complete Streets efforts that make roads safer for bike/ped activity.

71% want to develop individual’s transportation knowledge and skills, including awareness of non-driving options for mobility.

63% of include actions related to pedestrian safety

Learn more about the Network at aarp.org/livable
Why Use the Walk Audit?

Increased pedestrian safety begins with identifying roads and intersections that are dangerous – and how they need to change.

• Engages, empowers and equips community members to evaluate safety, and identify priorities that need improvement.

• Facilitates intergenerational collaboration, civic engagements, and volunteerism.

• Provides opportunity to engage organizational and community stakeholders and partners.
Conducting the Audit

The Tool Kit will guide you to observe and record your observations on the following topics:

• Crossing Streets and Intersections
• Sidewalks
• Driver Behavior
• Safety
• Comfort and Appeal
• Overall Ratings and Observations
The Walk Audit will prompt you to convert your insights into action.

**Take Action!**

1. Present data, photos, and maps to new partners
2. Follow-up with city officials who attended the workshop (and brief those who didn’t)
3. Replicate the Walk Audit in other areas of your town
4. Advocate for new (or strengthened) Complete Streets and/or Vision Zero policies
5. Continue community conversation on walkability with workshop participants (and expand to include others)
Turn a regular walk into a walk audit!
Learn More + Stay in Touch

Twitter: @AARPLivable

Facebook: AARPLivableCommunities

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More information and tools are available at aarp.org/livable
Thank you

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