Forging Neighborhoods for All Generations

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January 1961: At the first-ever White House Conference on Aging, AARP founder Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus shows President Dwight D. Eisenhower a model of the "Freedom House," a home designed and built by AARP using "universal design" features so older adults can "age-in-place."

About AARP

- Founded in 1958 by Ethel Percy Andrus.

- Nonprofit, nonpartisan organization for people 50+

- For more than 50 years, AARP has been serving the 50+ and creating positive social change.

- **Mission**: To enhance the quality of life *for all* as we age.

- **Vision**: A society in which everyone ages with dignity and purpose, and in which AARP helps people fulfill their goals and dreams.

THE UNITED STATES ENTERS WORLD WAR II IN DECEMBER 1941

The war in Europe ends in May 1945 | The war in Japan ends in August 1945

And then the Baby Boomers arrive!
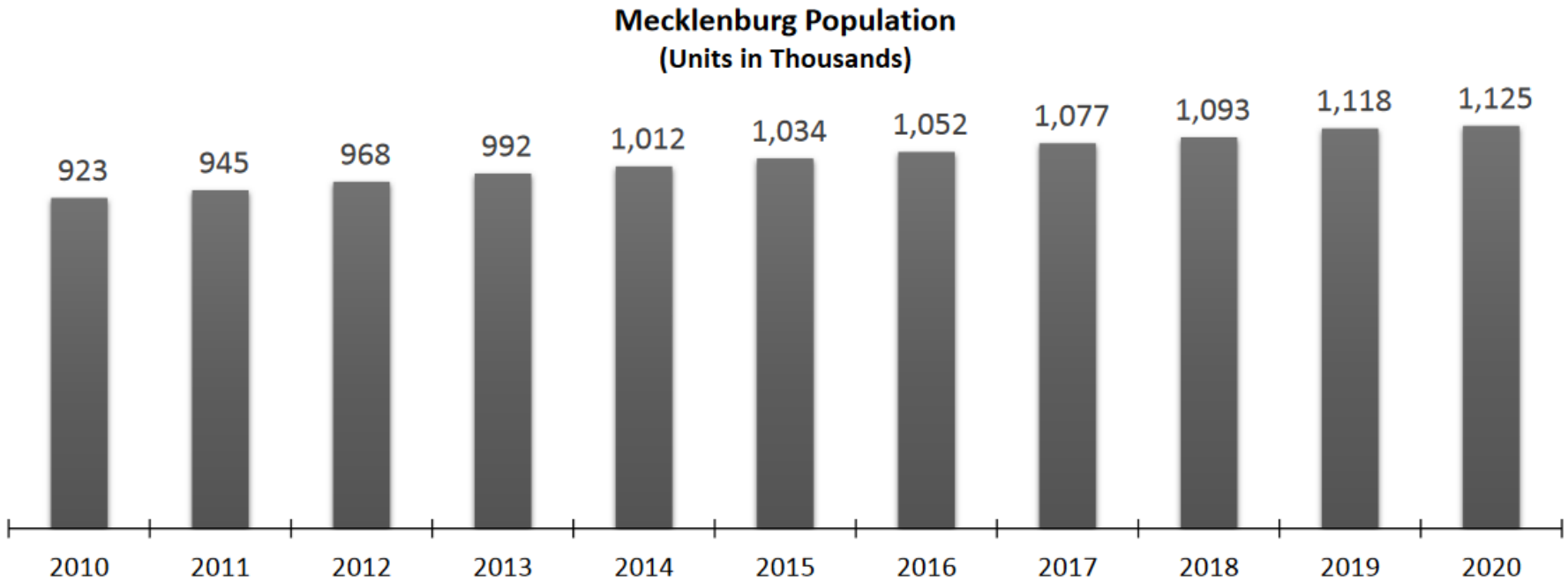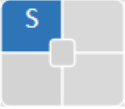76 million American children are born between 1945 and 1964.

Those babies now range in age from 51 to 70 years old.

# By 2030, one out of five adults in the U.S. will be 65 or older.

Photos from iStock.com

People: Mecklenburg population continues to grow

Projections show approximately an additional 200K people from 2010 to 2020.

Mecklenburg Population
(Units in Thousands)

Year	Population
2010	923
2011	945
2012	968
2013	992
2014	1,012
2015	1,034
2016	1,052
2017	1,077
2018	1,093
2019	1,118
2020	1,125

Sources: US Census for historic data estimates, Applied Geographic Solutions (AGS) for projections
Note: 2017 and 2019 data are calculated from series data.

6

SWOT Analysis Mecklenburg County 2017
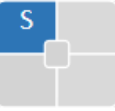
People: Mecklenburg is among the fastest growing

Between 2010 and 2015, Mecklenburg County was the eighth fastest growing large population county in the US. Projected 2020 population of 1.13 million.

Rank	County	2010 Pop	2015 Pop	Change	% Change
1	Fort Bend County (*Richmond*), TX	584,832	716,087	131,255	22.4
2	Denton County (*Denton*), TX	662,615	780,612	117,997	17.8
3	Collin County (*McKinney*), TX	782,351	914,127	131,776	16.8
4	Travis County (*Austin*), TX	1,024,347	1,176,558	152,211	14.9
5	Denver County (*Denver*), CO	599,860	682,545	82,685	13.8
6	Wake County (*Raleigh*), NC	901,021	1,024,198	123,177	13.7
7	Lee County (*Fort Myers*), FL	618,754	701,982	83,228	13.5
8	**Mecklenburg County (*Charlotte*), NC**	**919,666**	**1,034,070**	**114,404**	**12.4**
9	Orange County (*Orlando*), FL	1,145,954	1,288,126	142,172	12.4
10	District of Columbia	601,767	672,228	70,461	11.7
11	Utah County (*Provo*), Utah	516,640	575,205	58,565	11.3
12	Gwinnett County (*Lawrenceville*), GA	805,324	895,823	90,499	11.2
13	Harris County (*Houston*), TX	4,093,076	4,538,028	444,952	10.9
14	Bexar County (*San Antonio*), TX	1,714,774	1,897,753	182,979	10.7

Source: US Census, Population estimates April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2015, filtered for counties with 500K population or more.

But unlike prior generations of "older adults," most of today's "older adults" …
Do Not Want to Live in "Retirement Communities"
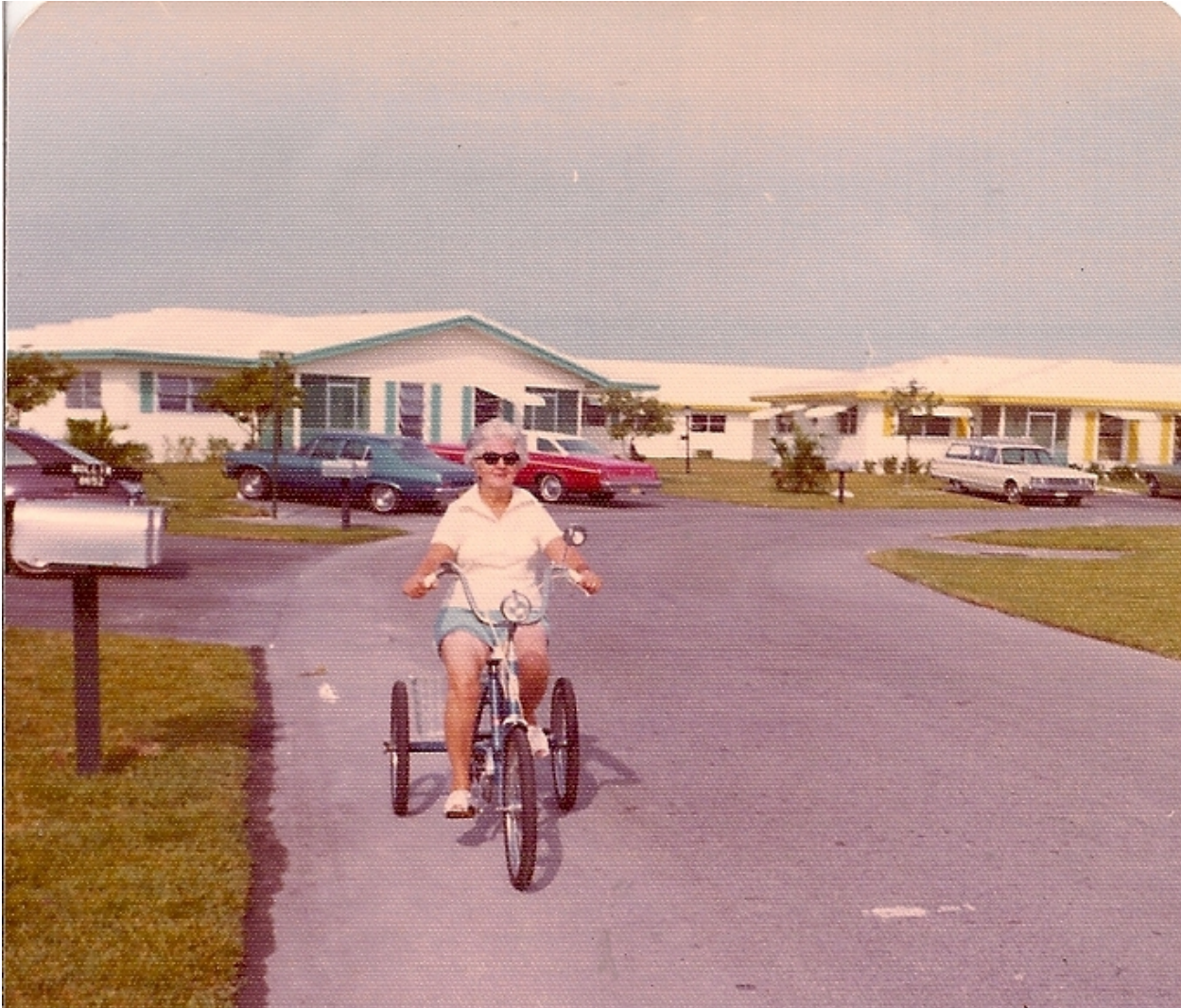
< **In 1975, soon after moving with her husband from the New York City suburbs to a 55+ community in South Florida, "Bubbi Sheila" took her new bicycle for a ride.**
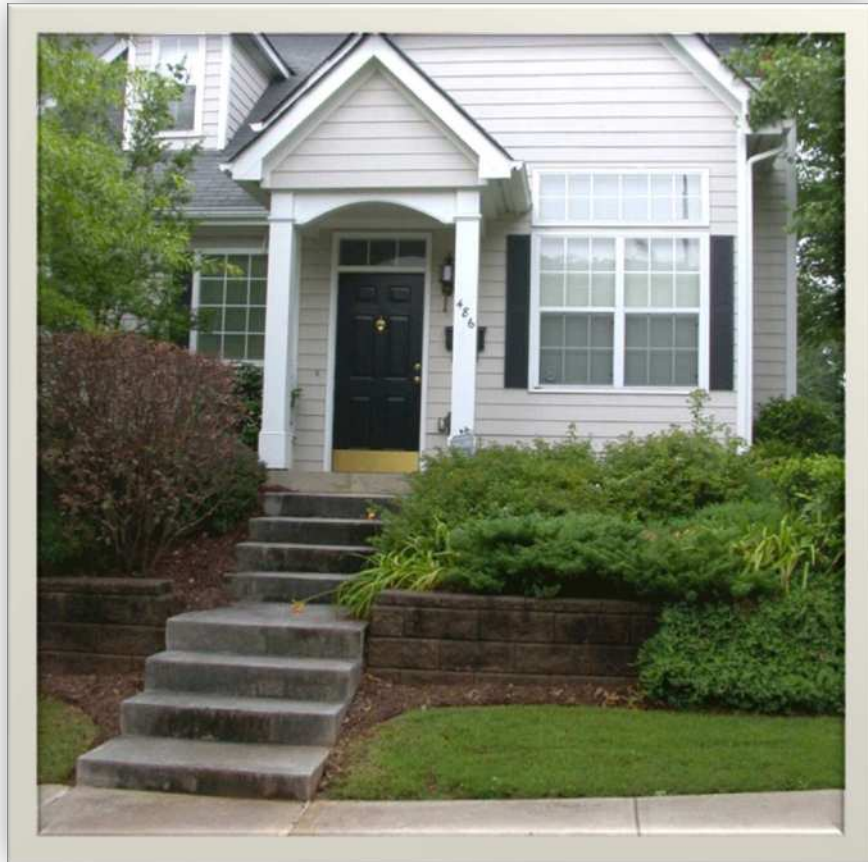
Photo courtesy Melissa Stanton

Survey after survey finds that today's older adults want to remain in their homes.

78%
of adults ages 45+ agree or strongly agree with the statement: "What I'd really like to do is stay in my current residence for as long as possible."

Source: AARP Home and Community Preferences of the 45+ Population, 2014

But most houses haven't been designed to adapt. In fact, American homes have traditionally been designed and built for able-bodied 35 year olds.

Photo from ThinkStock.com

Survey after survey finds that today's older adults want to stay in their community

80%

of adults ages 45+ agree or strongly agree with the statement: "What I'd really like to do is stay in my current community for as long as possible."

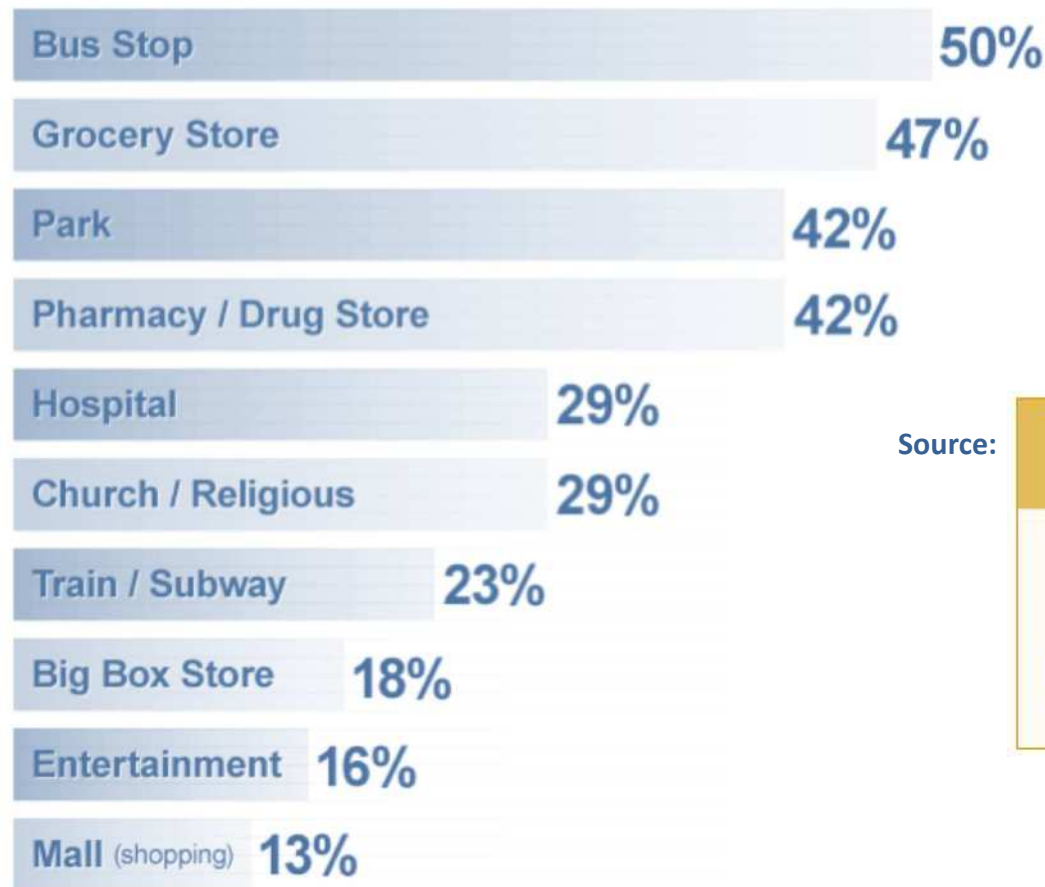Source: AARP Home and Community Preferences of the 45+ Population, 2014
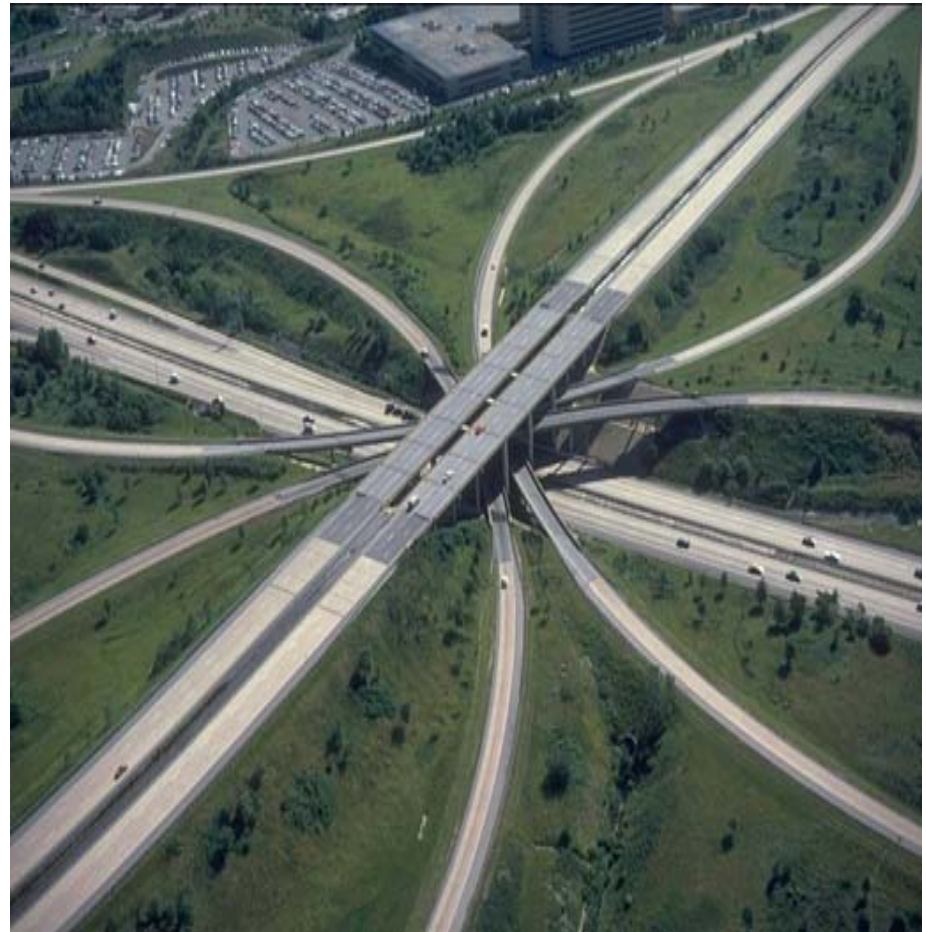
But for the past 50 years, communities have developed around motor vehicles as the principal form of transportation. Adults who don't or no longer drive are often out of luck.

Photo from ThinkStock.com

What Community Amenities Do Older Adults Want Close to Home?

We asked older adults what amenities they want close to home. Access to transportation, food, and green space top the list. These are among the many community indicators that we are measuring as part of the Livability Index project. Find out more about our livability research and the development of our index here: www.aarp.org/ppi/liv-com/

% endorsed within 1 mile or less

Amenity	%
Bus Stop	50%
Grocery Store	47%
Park	42%
Pharmacy / Drug Store	42%
Hospital	29%
Church / Religious	29%
Train / Subway	23%
Big Box Store	18%
Entertainment	16%
Mall (shopping)	13%

Source:

Livable Communities
Policy and Research

Learn More   aarp.org/livablepolicy

Source: AARP Public Policy Institute

An increasingly aging population

+ **the desire to age in place**
+ **housing not suitable for aging in place**
+ **streets unsafe for non-drivers**
+ **a lack of public transit options**
+ **the desire to be active in community**
+ **better health/longer life expectancy**
+ **numerous other factors** (e.g. employment, distance from family, health issues, isolation, urban and suburban sprawl)

= the reason for the **AARP Livable Communities** in the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities**

Network of Age-Friendly Communities

Established April 12, 2012

Updated April 1, 2016

84 communities (and counting) representing more than 44 million people

Age Friendly Matthews

October 2015

Age-Friendly

Mecklenburg

September 2016
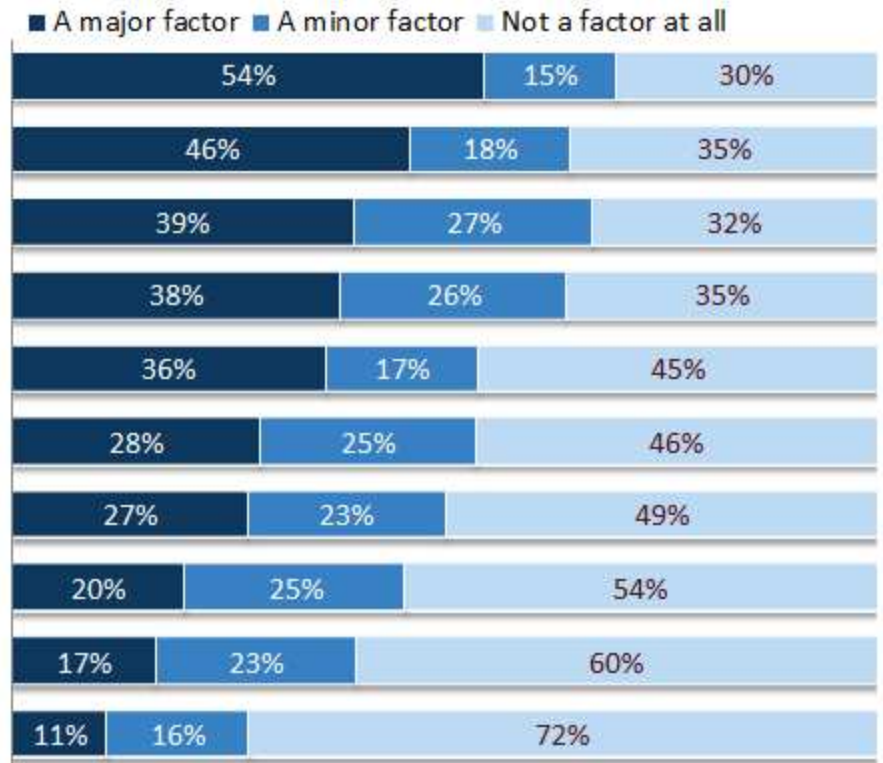
Age Friendly is for EVERYONE

SURVEY

Livability for All in Mecklenburg County, NC An Age-Friendly Community Survey of Residents Age 50-Plus

AARP
September 2016

Real Possibilities

Research

Age-friendly housing, safety, wanting to be closer to family, and affordability are influential factors for Mecklenburg County residents age 50+ considering moving when they get older.

Legend: ■ A major factor ■ A minor factor ■ Not a factor at all

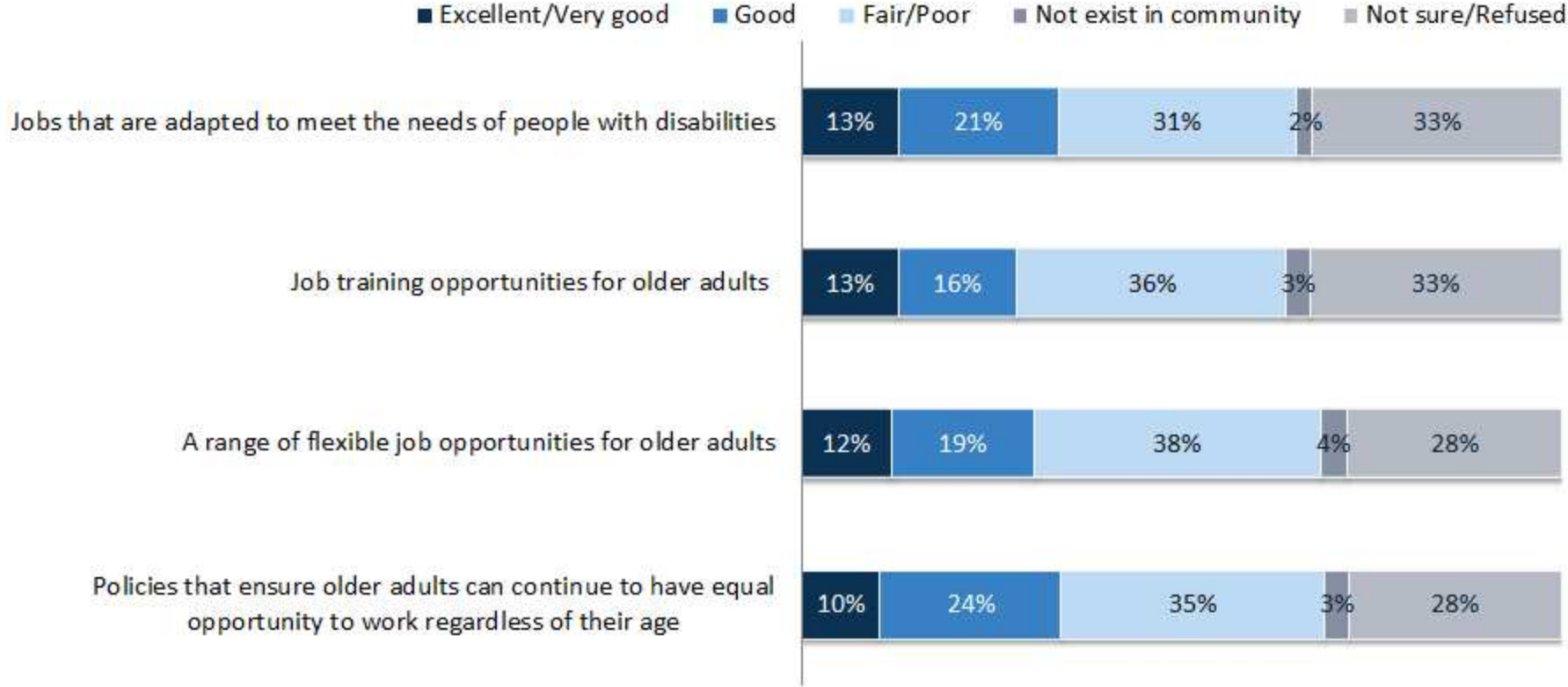| Factor	A major factor	A minor factor	Not a factor at all
Wanting a home that will help you live independently as you age	54%	15%	30%
Your personal safety or security concerns	46%	18%	35%
The cost of maintaining your current residence	39%	27%	32%
Wanting to live in an area that has a lower cost of living	38%	26%	35%
Wanting to be closer to family	36%	17%	45%
Wanting to move to an area that has better health care facilities	28%	25%	46%
Wanting a smaller size home	27%	23%	49%
Needing more access to public transportation	20%	25%	54%
Wanting to live in a different climate	17%	23%	60%
Wanting a larger size home	11%	16%	72%

Over half of Mecklenburg County residents age 50+ rate their community excellent to very good on having well-maintained and conveniently located health care facilities.

Legend: ■ Excellent/Very good ■ Good ■ Fair/Poor ■ Not exist in community ■ Not sure/Refused

Category	Excellent/Very good	Good	Fair/Poor	Not exist in community	Not sure/Refused
Well-maintained hospitals and health care facilities	58%	29%	10%		3%
Conveniently located emergency care centers	51%	30%	15%		3%
Easily understandable and helpful local hospital/ clinic answering services	34%	30%	16%	2%	18%
Affordable health and wellness programs and classes	31%	30%	14%	3%	22%
Conveniently located health and social services	30%	33%	21%	2%	15%
Affordable fitness activities specifically geared towards older adults	30%	28%	17%	5%	21%
A service that provides people to help seniors easily find and access health and supportive services	24%	23%	20%	4%	30%
Affordable home care services (e.g., personal care and housekeeping)	21%	23%	17%	3%	36%

A plurality of Mecklenburg County residents age 50+ give a negative rating for how well their community is doing in terms of having employment opportunities for older residents.

Legend: ■ Excellent/Very good ■ Good ■ Fair/Poor ■ Not exist in community ■ Not sure/Refused

	Excellent/Very good	Good	Fair/Poor	Not exist in community	Not sure/Refused
Jobs that are adapted to meet the needs of people with disabilities	13%	21%	31%	2%	33%
Job training opportunities for older adults	13%	16%	36%	3%	33%
A range of flexible job opportunities for older adults	12%	19%	38%	4%	28%
Policies that ensure older adults can continue to have equal opportunity to work regardless of their age	10%	24%	35%	3%	28%

Respondent Profile: Demographics

Gender	
Male	45%
Female	55%

Age	
50-54	17%
55-64	44%
65-74	23%
75-84	10%
85 or older	5%

Tomorrow's 65+ population

Race/Ethnicity	
White or Caucasian	66%
Black	30%
Asian	1%
Native American or Alaskan Native	<1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%
Hispanic	2%
Other	2%

Marital Status	
Single, never married	13%
Married	52%
Not married, living with your partner or significant other	2%
Separated	2%
Divorced	12%
Widowed	18%

Health Status	
Excellent/Very good	55%
Good	29%
Fair/Poor	15%

Disability Status	
Yes, myself	20%
Yes, my spouse or partner	4%
Yes, both myself and my spouse or partner	3%
No	73%

AARP Membership	
Yes	34%
No	64%

1. **Outdoor Spaces and Buildings**

2. **Transportation**

3. **Housing**

4. **Social Participation**

The **AARP** Network of Age-Friendly Communities

and work within

The 8 Domains of Livability

help communities become great for people of all ages

5. **Respect and Social Inclusion**

6. **Civic Participation and Employment**
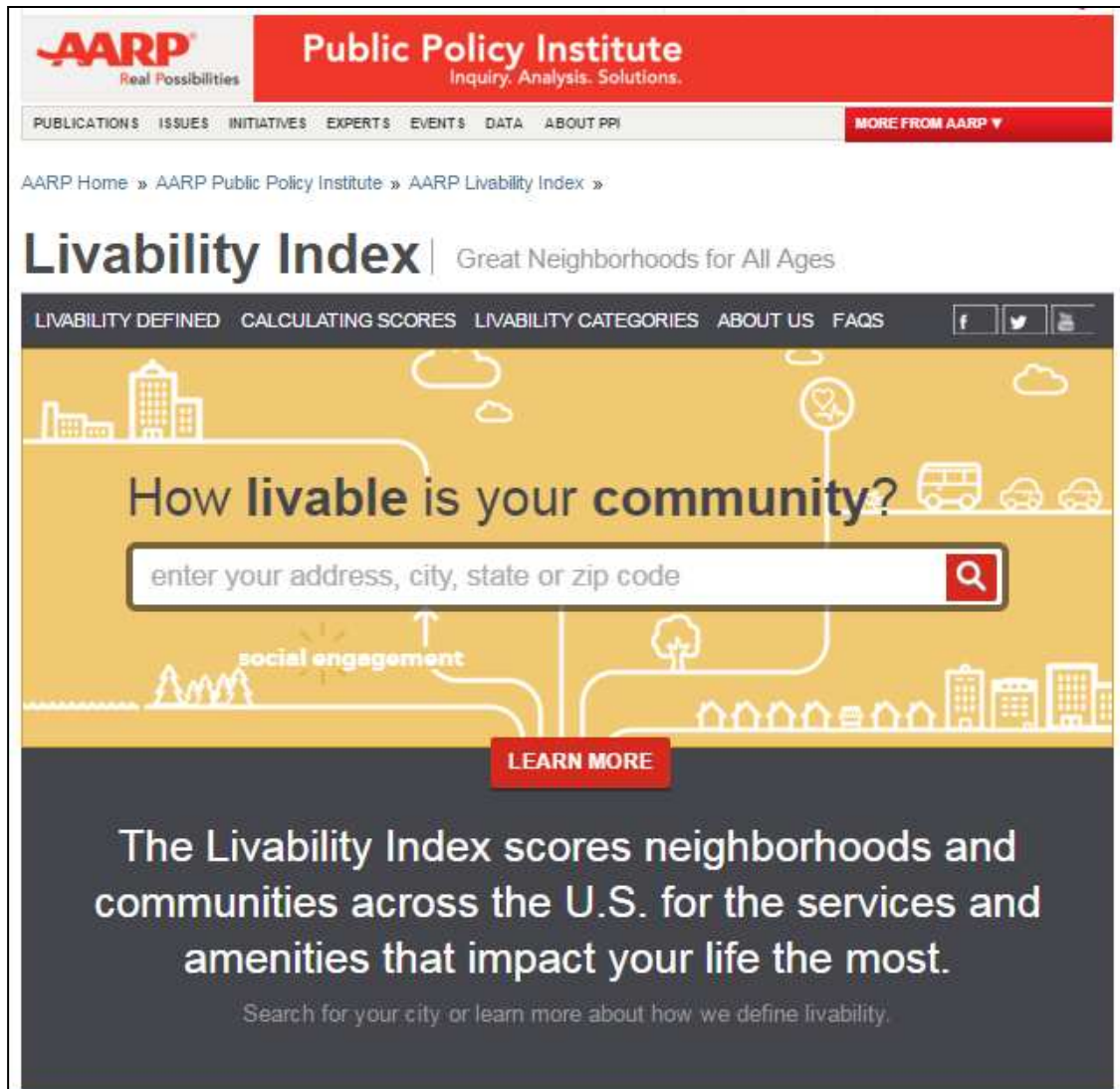
7. **Communication and Information**

8. **Community and Health Services**

Learn more at **AARP.org/agefriendly**

AARP Real Possibilities

AARP LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

AARP has tools and resources to help

HOUSING
Affordability and access

NEIGHBORHOOD
Access to life, work, and play

TRANSPORTATION
Safe and convenient options

ENVIRONMENT
Clean air and water

HEALTH
Prevention, access, and quality

ENGAGEMENT
Civic and social involvement

OPPORTUNITY
Inclusion and possibilities

aarp.org/livabilityindex

THE LIVABILITY INDEX

Categories & Attributes

Housing
- ☐ Housing Accessibility
- ☐ Housing Options
- ☐ Housing Affordability
- ☐ Commitment to Livability

Neighborhood
- ☐ Proximity to Destinations
- ☐ Mixed-use Neighborhoods
- ☐ Compact Neighborhoods
- ☐ Personal Safety
- ☐ Neighborhood Quality
- ☐ Commitment to Livability

Transportation
- ☐ Convenient Transportation Options
- ☐ Transportation Costs
- ☐ Safe Streets
- ☐ Accessible System Design
- ☐ Commitment to Livability

Environment
- ☐ Water Quality
- ☐ Air Quality
- ☐ Resilience
- ☐ Energy Efficiency
- ☐ Commitment to Livability

Health
- ☐ Healthy Behaviors
- ☐ Access to Health Care
- ☐ Quality of Health Care
- ☐ Commitment to Livability

Engagement
- ☐ Internet Access
- ☐ Civic Engagement
- ☐ Social Engagement
- ☐ Equal Rights
- ☐ Commitment to Livability

Opportunity
- ☐ Equal Opportunity
- ☐ Economic Opportunity
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Multi-generational Communities
- ☐ Local Fiscal Health
- ☐ Commitment to Livability

THE LIVABILITY INDEX OVERVIEW

Metrics & Policies

Metrics and policies are the indicators used to measure livability. They are drawn from over 50 sources of data.

Metrics

- Metrics indicate how livable communities are in the present by measuring community characteristics.

- 40 metrics are used in the Livability Index; 21 of those evaluate livability at the neighborhood scale.

- Each category contains 4-9 metrics.

- Metrics must be relevant and subject to direct/indirect influence by state and local policymakers.

Policies: *Updated Jan 26, 2017*

- Policies are actions communities can take to improve livability over time.

- 20 state and local policies are evaluated in the Livability Index.

Source:propay.com

Public Policy Institute
Inquiry. Analysis. Solutions.

3216 Cpcc Harris Campus Dr,
Charlotte, NC

Mecklenburg County, 28208

54
Total Score

Above Average 67 - 100+	**70**	**HOUSING** Affordability and access
Average 34 - 66	**63**	**ENVIRONMENT** Clean air and water
	50	**NEIGHBORHOOD** Access to life, work, and play
	50	**ENGAGEMENT** Civic and social involvement
	43	**OPPORTUNITY** Inclusion and possibilities
Below Average 0 - 33	**33**	**TRANSPORTATION** Safe and convenient options

<< Here's the Livability Score for the address we're at right now
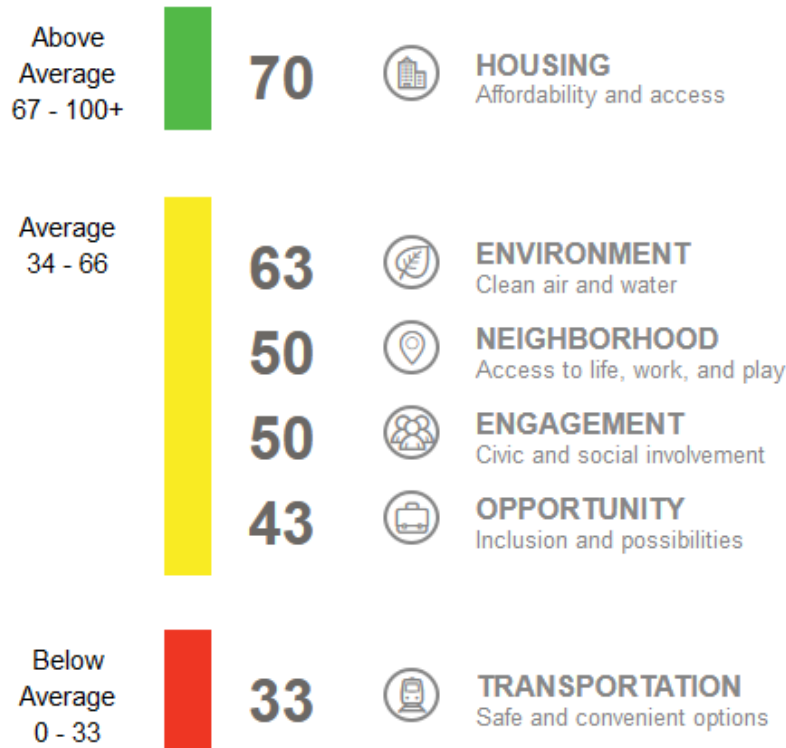
LOCATION	Mecklenburg County, North Carolina	Orange County, North Carolina	Wake County, North Carolina
TOTAL INDEX SCORE	**52**	**57**	**56**
HOUSING Affordability and access	50	55	58
NEIGHBORHOOD Access to life, work, and play	48	49	52
TRANSPORTATION Safe and convenient options	45	51	47
ENVIRONMENT Clean air and water	56	55	57
HEALTH Prevention, access, and quality	67	73	65
ENGAGEMENT Civic and social involvement	50	67	54
OPPORTUNITY Inclusion and possibilities	45	51	62

Age-Friendly and Livable Communities Resources

AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities Tool Kit
This self-service guide hosts the network's member list, explains how a community can join and provides step-by-step details about the work involved.
aarp.org/agefriendly

AARP Livable Communities
An award-winning website featuring livability resources from AARP and others. (Be sure to subscribe to the free AARP Livable Communities Monthly eNewsletter.)
aarp.org/livable

AARP Livability Index
With this online tool users can enter an address or postal code to find the livability score of any neighborhood, town, city, county or state in the United States.
aarp.org/livabilityindex

AARP International
A global resource about health and economic security information and advocacy, this website includes a channel entirely about Age-Friendly Communities.
aarpinternational.org

AARP Public Policy Institute
Livability policies address issues such as land use, housing, transportation and broadband — all of which facilitate aging in place.
aarp.org/livablepolicy

World Health Organization
The meeting place for the WHO's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities and a global platform for exchange and learning.
agefriendlyworld.org

Thank you for your time and attention!

CONTACT US

Do you have questions or suggestions? We want to hear from you. Email us at
livable@aarp.org
For questions about the AARP Livability Index, please email
livabilityindex@aarp.org.