

Age-Friendly Policy Accomplishments

The Miami-Dade Age Friendly Initiative is proud to announce its success in having age-friendly modifications and consideration of older adults incorporated into the Comprehensive Development Master Plan and the Long Range Transportation Plan.

These changes are paramount as they are focused on shifting the aging in place paradigm by enabling safe, attractive, and comfortable open space access and travel for commuters of all ages and abilities, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and wheel chair and public transport users. Language that asks our community leaders, designers, and planners to consider older adults as they design the communities of our future ensure that we creating communities that are livable for all ages.

Need for Age-Friendly Policies

Data suggests that if an individual reaches 65 years of age, it's likely the person will live until 85. Americans are having fewer children, people are living longer, and the percentage of older adults in Miami-Dade is continuing to grow. In Miami-Dade, the number of adults age 60+ 476,233 (19%) and that number is expected to grow to 755,233 (25%) by 2030 reflecting an increase of nearly 60%. This means that by 2030 there will be more people 60+ than children under the age of 15 in Miami-Dade County.

How well Miami-Dade responds to the aging phenomenon will depend on how well we prepare our communities to do so. The Health Foundation of South Florida (HFSF), in partnership with Grantmakers In Aging's (GIA) Community Agenda: Improving America for All Ages, with funds from the Pfizer Foundation collaborated with local partners to create the Miami-Dade Age-Friendly Initiative. The Initiative is based on the successes, assets, needs and gaps multiple sectors face in creating a metropolitan area that fosters a physical and social environment for older adults of all ages to stay active and healthy with dignity and enjoyment.

In order to build a community that is livable for older adults and for all ages, wide public support and a strong commitment in the County budget to pursue these measures is needed. These modifications to the CDMP and LRTP are first steps towards garnering support and understanding of the needs of older adults and towards setting a plan to meet these needs.

Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP) Accomplishments:

The CDMP expresses Miami-Dade County's Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources' (RER) general objectives and policies addressing where and how it intends to develop or conserve land and natural resources during the next 10-20 years, and how the County will deliver services to accomplish the Plan's objectives. The recommendations provided to RER on the CDMP objectives and policies aimed at enhancing the focus on older adults. The draft-recommendations for the CDMP have focused on the Community Health and Design Element, Transportation Element, Land Use Element, and Housing Element. RER did not accepted the recommendations for the Housing Element, but has suggested focusing on enhancing housing protocols. All other elements have been reviewed, and more than 25 policies are being incorporated in to the application to the Board of County Commissioners.

To see the final amendment application, visit: <http://www.miamidade.gov/planning/library/reports/planning-documents/2014-05-app6.pdf>



Accomplishments: On November 19, 2014, the Board of County Commissioners reviewed the application and **unanimously** approved the proposed amendments as is for transmittal to the state of Florida for review. The AFI Steering Committee worked to garner local political support for the policies in anticipation of its review. Due to this, the amendment application is also being sponsored by Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman of the County Commission and co-sponsored by Commissioners Daniela Levine Cava and Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. On February 4, 2015, the amendments were officially adopted, and the motion to adopt passed unanimously. A complete overview is available at: <http://www.miamidade.gov/govaction/matter.asp?matter=142496&file=true&yearFolder=Y2014>

Sample Amendments: (*additions are underlined removals are striked-through*)

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DESIGN ELEMENT

Objective CHD-1

Miami-Dade County shall apply design standards to the public domain to encourage physical activity across generations.

CHD-1D. Design communities to support children's the daily routines of its residents, particularly children and older adults, by establishing proximity among uses (e.g. schools, daycare, senior and/or community centers, recreation facilities, open space, etc.).

Monitoring Program

Objective CHD-1: Miami-Dade County shall apply design standards to the public domain to encourage physical activity across generations.

Mode split between car trips and other forms of transportation.

Florida Environmental Public Health Tracking: Percent of the population that live within a ten-minute walk (½ mile) of an off-street trail system"

Florida Environmental Public Health Tracking – Community Access Data – "Percent of population who live within ½ mile of a park"

American Community Survey: "Means of Transportation to Work: Walking"

American Community Survey: "Means of Transportation to Work: Bicycling"

Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Accomplishments:

The update to the Miami-Dade County 2040 LRTP is a primary activity in Miami-Dade County's transportation planning process, in order for the County to meet federal and state requirements for the update of the Transportation Plan, which occurs every five years. The need to incorporate age-friendly planning into the LRTP was conveyed to MPO over the past 18-months, and essential goals and objectives, as well as metrics to measure the successfulness of age-friendly modifications over time were recognized as important for potential incorporation. By attending public meetings, providing the MPO with narratives and data related to age-friendly needs and establishing an ongoing rapport with the MPO regarding age-friendly best practices, the AFI Initiative has secured the incorporation of age-friendly language within two of the 2040 LRTP objectives. It is important to note, prior to this version Miami-Dade LRTPs did not include goals and objectives specific to the aging population. To see the final full 2040 LRTP, visit: http://www.miamidade2040lrtp.com/wp-content/uploads/2040Plan_FinalDraft.pdf



Accomplishments: The Miami-Dade MPO Governing Board adopted the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) during their October 23, 2014 meeting which included age-friendly considerations, language and objectives.

Sample Language: *(Page 173, Sustainability Pillar 3: Socially Responsible)*

Aging Population

Miami-Dade County has the largest population of persons 60 and over in Florida. According to the U.S. Census, almost 15% of Miami-Dade's population in 2013 was 65 and over. Reliable and safe transportation through transit and safe walkable communities for the elderly population is essential to maintain independent living. As more seniors continue to drive highway features such as clear signing and lighting become especially important.

The 2040 Plan considers the aging population, changing demographics and population growth....

The 2040 Plan includes specific goals and objectives related to the transportation and mobility needs of the increasing elderly population. These Goals and Objectives are also part of a measurement tool used to prioritize projects. The Goals and Objectives that incorporate age friendly considerations are as follows:

Goal 1 – Improve Transportation System and Travel (Objective 11 – Promote transportation improvements that provide for the needs of the elderly and disabled.)

Goal 2 – Increase the Safety of the Transportation System for all Users (Objective 5 – Promote the safe mobility of aging vulnerable road users.)

Goal 3 – Increase the Security of the Transportation system for All Users (Objective 3 – Ensure transportation options are available during emergency evacuations for the elderly and persons with disabilities.)