DRCOG’s Boomer Bond

Brad Calvert, Director
Regional Planning and Development
August 17, 2016
Older Adult Population Growth

Percent of Population 60 and Older

- 2006: 1st Boomers turn 60
# 75+ Population (2014 – 2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2024</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>18,518</td>
<td>30,992</td>
<td>67.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arapahoe</td>
<td>28,915</td>
<td>48,727</td>
<td>68.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boulder</td>
<td>14,646</td>
<td>24,909</td>
<td>70.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broomfield</td>
<td>2,846</td>
<td>4,639</td>
<td>63.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear Creek</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>882</td>
<td>100.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>31,707</td>
<td>44,903</td>
<td>41.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas</td>
<td>9,138</td>
<td>20,837</td>
<td>128.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilpin</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>156.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>33,751</td>
<td>54,115</td>
<td>60.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRCOG Region</td>
<td>140,142</td>
<td>230,468</td>
<td>64.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Colorado State Demographer
How likely are you to remain in your community throughout retirement?

- Very likely: 54%
- Somewhat likely: 28%
- Somewhat unlikely: 10%
- Very unlikely: 8%

52% have lived in community for more than 20 years
A NEW FOCUS:
THE WHOLE COMMUNITY
1. Community assessment tool to facilitate local dialogue and identify age-friendly/livable community priorities

2. A readily-accessible inventory of policies, strategies and tools for local governments to consider
The Boomer Bond Resource Directory can guide you in creating age-friendly communities with guidelines and best practices from Colorado and beyond. If you work for a local government, are an elected official, or a citizen trying to learn more about what might make your community a better place to thrive for people of all ages, this resource directory can assist you. We welcome feedback on the resources curated here.
Why an Assessment Tool?

• “Conversation starter” at the local level (including partners)

• Provide structure to what can be an overwhelming conversation

• Help focus efforts to engage the general public
Boomer Bond Assessment Tool

• Initially developed by group of ~60 stakeholders
  ▪ Elected officials
  ▪ Architects
  ▪ Planners
  ▪ Human service professionals
  ▪ Citizens

• Intentionally created an instrument geared toward local government staff/operations

• “Beta-tested” by 3 communities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic Area</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mobility and Access</td>
<td>Design of public sidewalks, streets, and intersections; available transportation options; access to mixed use districts; and driver safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Availability of a variety of affordable housing options; visitability and universal design; programs to support development of housing options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Living</td>
<td>Accessible gathering spaces and parks; engagement and volunteer activities; programs to assist in remaining/reentering workforces; safety and security; emergency preparedness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Services</td>
<td>Programs to maintain independence; preventive health care; home maintenance and chore services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Boomer Bond Assessment
Communities (11)
Community Commitment Overview

- Typical organizational commitment to complete assessment: 4 – 8 months
- Lead staff person(s) can/has come from any department – key qualities:
  - Capacity to commit time and energy
  - Cat herding / effective pest
  - Willing to learn about items outside their usual purview
DRCOG Roles in Assessment

- Assessment is “locally owned”
- DRCOG roles:
  - Process design
  - Community connector
  - Resource for local staff leading initiative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXISTING Public Sidewalk Elements</th>
<th>A LOT of improvement needed</th>
<th>MODERATE improvement needed</th>
<th>A LITTLE improvement needed</th>
<th>Fully accommodated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continuous sidewalk system providing access to essential services for older adults</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum sidewalk width of five feet</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADA ramps at intersections</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual and physical cues at ramps</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level landings where driveways intersect public sidewalks to retain a level path for pedestrians</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal tripping hazards from uneven surface or protruding objects</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signage to direct pedestrians</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffer between sidewalk and street (e.g. planting strips, on-street parking, bike lanes)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Not just about services programs provided by city or county

• Important to balance the identification of needs with current successes

• The assessment is not the deliverable

• DRCOG will not review/evaluate results
Best Practice – Pair with CASOA

2015 CASOA – Older Adult Needs

- Civic engagement: 76%
- Social engagement: 41%
- Financial and Legal: 37%
- Recreation needs: 25%
- Caregiver burden: 14%

“Excellent” or “Good”

- Variety of housing options: 37% (2015), 48% (2010)
- Availability of quality affordable housing: 28% (2015), 40% (2010)

Together: Opportunity to move toward effective implementation
EARLY SUCCESS STORIES
Early Success Stories

- New Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance in community with severe housing shortage
- Additional senior housing added to housing authority portfolios
- Redesign of community website – clearer path for older adults looking for services
- Activation and increased effectiveness of local Senior Commission
Early Success Stories (cont.)

- New/revised codes: visitability and universal design
- Enhanced relationship between law enforcement and older adult community
- Increased funding for code enforcement – assistance in targeted areas
- New community resource center for older adults and caregivers
Recent Recognition

- Numerous requests for Boomer Bond information/presentations

- Co-hosted symposium with AARP on the role of COGs/MPOs in advancing age-friendly efforts

- 2016 Aging Innovations Award – n4a
Current Activities and Next Steps

• Support for Denver’s Age Matters Needs Assessment
  ▪ Joint fundraising effort
  ▪ Strategic, tactical and technical assistance

• DOLA grant to assist small communities
  ▪ Identify/recruit small communities interested in assessment
  ▪ In partnership, design and facilitate local initiative
  ▪ Assist with policy and implementation strategies

• “Status of Age-Friendly Report”
Lessons learned so far...

- Aging conversation more personal than most planning topics
  - May alienate some and be a great motivator for others

- Comprehensive assessment can be overwhelming
  - Few (if any) instances of single staff capacity
  - Small steps, incremental change and the aging “lens” are key successes

- Every community/circumstance is different

- Regional resources can advance local initiatives – but not without challenges
Interested in Learning More...

Brad Calvert
bcalvert@drcog.org
303.480.6839
DRCOG’s Boomer Bond

Brad Calvert, Director
Regional Planning and Development
August 17, 2016