

Navigation and Transportation Work Group
Draft of Objectives and Strategies
February 9, 2012

- **Objective 1: Orange County and relevant planning organizations will secure both short-term and long-term funding for navigation and transportation services (e.g. the Hillsborough Circulator, EZ Rider Senior Shuttle, etc.).**
 - Strategy 1: The Orange County Department on Aging and other agencies will apply for available state funds (e.g. Section 5310, Section 5317, and Section 5316) and other grants (e.g. from the National Center for Senior Transportation).
 - Strategy 2: Determine the feasibility of innovative funding mechanisms and enact them accordingly (e.g. allocate funding from an Orange County ½ cent sales tax to transportation services, create zones of cost with vouchers and/or a sliding scale for public transportation rider fees, etc.).

- **Objective 2: Coordinate the navigation and transportation plans between the various county, town, and other regional departments.**
 - Strategy 3: Hire an Orange County Department on Aging Mobility Manager and/or coordinate with the county's existing mobility managers to account for older adults, especially those in rural areas.
 - Strategy 4: Advocate for the needs of older adults by involving the Orange County Department on Aging in the Orange County Unified Transportation Board.
 - Strategy 5: Regularly conduct needs assessments (e.g. Transportation Health Impact Assessments) to create coordinated planning recommendations that consider multiple modes of transportation, and communicate the results to the public.

- **Objective 3: Orange County and relevant planning organizations will cultivate a more seamless transportation system by increasing the breadth of public transportation options in the county, particularly in rural areas.**
 - Strategy 6: Create and/or support services that result in cost savings and cost sharing for individual rides (e.g. a matching service that uses the rider's vehicle, Share-a-Ride programs, etc.).
 - Strategy 7: Create and/or support services that provide group travel between the rural and urban parts of Orange County (e.g. expand group travel destinations beyond the senior centers, provide once-a-week bus transportation to rural areas, support establishment of centralized park and ride lots with shuttle services in rural areas, create a recreational vanpool service, etc.).
 - Strategy 8: Relocate nearby bus stops to be closer to the senior centers to improve connections between the senior centers and other businesses at midday.
 - Strategy 9: Support the expansion of existing transit routes to improve options for travel to other counties.
 - Strategy 10: Support the expansion of existing transit schedules to improve weekend transportation options.

- **Objective 4: The Orange County Department on Aging will encourage a physical and social environment that enables older adults to drive safely for as long as possible.**
 - Strategy 11: Establish and support senior driving wellness programs that address the driving task, the driver, and the social environment (e.g. a travel training program through the Easter Seals Project ACTION, etc.).
 - Strategy 12: Partner with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to pursue changes to the physical environment and infrastructure that will benefit older adults and others (e.g. way-finding and other signage, maintained lane markings, increased crosswalk timing, traffic patterns allowing pedestrian crossing, pedestrian islands, EMS access to rural areas, etc.).

- **Objective 5: Provide non-driving older adults with additional transportation options beyond the public transportation system.**
 - Strategy 13: Support existing volunteer driver programs, such as Friend-to-Friend, A Helping Hand, and American Red Cross, by increasing volunteer membership, guiding funding sources, and providing technical assistance (e.g. using the Beverly Foundation as a resource to provide trainings).
 - Strategy 14: Encourage and establish partnerships with private transportation providers to offer midday transportation to shopping areas for both urban and rural residents.

- **Objective 6: Orange County and relevant planning organizations will connect the existing infrastructure in both urban and rural parts of the county.**
 - Strategy 15: Promote the development and implementation of community connectivity plans in Orange County municipalities, modeled after that of Hillsborough.
 - Strategy 16: Organize older adults to support the widening of sidewalks, completion of incomplete sidewalks, and update of existing sidewalks all according to ADA standards, particularly in urban areas.
 - Strategy 17: Develop a sidewalk infrastructure, potentially using alternative materials, within rural neighborhoods and around the UNC Hillsborough Hospital and Durham Tech campuses.
 - Strategy 18: Increase the number of bike lanes in Orange County, especially in the northern region.

- **Objective 7: Increase the culturally relevant support programs available to assist older adults and others with identifying the best routes or transportation services for them at a given time.**
 - Strategy 19: Create a map with all Orange County navigation and transportation routes.
 - Strategy 20: Partner with organizations such as AARP and NCGO.org to collect and disseminate information about local resources and roadway users for seniors whose driving options are changing.
 - Strategy 21: Partner with local health service organizations to share information on navigation and transportation.

- **Objective 8: The Orange County Department on Aging will advocate for policy changes at the national, state, and local levels that support the navigation and transportation needs of older adults.**
 - Strategy 22: Encourage and support the establishment of Complete Streets policies at the state, county, and local levels that account for the needs of older adults.
 - Strategy 23: Support increasing the number of handicapped parking spaces required in public developments.
 - Strategy 24: Research the ADA and municipal ordinances; advocate accordingly for new developments to be responsible for connecting the surrounding properties with sidewalks, perhaps with an incentive.
 - Strategy 25: Partner with the UNC Highway Safety Research Center and AARP to advocate for increasing the national standard for crosswalk time.

- **Objective 9: Orange County and relevant planning organizations will pursue innovative solutions to the county’s navigation and transportation needs while accounting for older adults at all levels of ability and income.**
 - Strategy 26: Conduct research on and take appropriate actions towards creative solutions to transportation issues (e.g. a centralized transit hub, an on-demand pick-up service, skywalks, parking structures, golf cart accessibility, etc.).

Note: Will attempt to combine ideas to bring market to the people (like a book mobile), to have an EMS buddy system, and to have generators at the senior centers with strategies from other work groups.

The 8 MAP Goals

- 1. Empower older adults, their families, and other consumers to make informed decisions and to easily access health and long-term care options.**
- 2. Enable older adults to age in their place of choice with appropriate services and supports.**
3. Empower older adults to enjoy optimal health status and to have a healthy lifestyle.
- 4. Promote the safety and rights of older and vulnerable adults and prevent their abuse, neglect, and exploitation.**
5. Empower older adults to engage in the community through volunteerism, lifelong learning, and civic activities.
- 6. Prepare Orange County for an aging population.**
7. Promote an adequate direct care workforce for an aging population and opportunities for older workers.
8. Maintain good stewardship of publicly funded services.