2005 RAILVOLUTION CONFERENCE SESSION W09: ACESS BY DESIGN



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Designing TODs for Diversity

You know that old trees just grow stronger, and old rivers grow wilder every day, but old people just grow lonesome, waiting for someone to say hello in there . . . hello."

"Hello in there" John Prine

Designing TODs for Diversity



- AARP and Livable Communities
- Aging Demographics
- Mobility and Community Engagement
- TOD Design
- The Prospects for Inclusive Design

AARP and Livable Communities

- AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50+ have independence, choice, and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole.
- AARP—rebranding a notable brand

AARP and Livable Communities

- Social Impact Agenda
 - Ten-year strategic plan
 - Economic Security (e.g., Social Security Reform)
 - Health and Supportive Services (e.g., Medicare, part D)
 - Livable Communities (e.g., housing and transportation)

Moving Beyond "Living Behind the Geraniums"

Livable Community-a place that has affordable and appropriate housing, supportive community services, and adequate mobility options, which together facilitate personal independence and engagement of residents in civic and social life.

Aging Demographics

- 65+ population
 - 35 million in 2000 (actual)
 - 71 million in 2030 (projected)
- 50+ population
 - 87 million in 2005 (estimated)
 - 155 million in 2050 (projected)

Aging Demographics

- Baby Boomers (1946-64)
 - @ 78 million
 - Leading Edge (1946-1955 [june 30])
 - Following Edge (1955-1964 [july 1])

Important Regional Variations-In 1990s, all but 11 of 318 metropolitan areas saw increase in 65+ population

Aging Demographics

- Challenges to Successful Aging
 - Individual
 - Declining health, eyesight, physical and mental abilities
 - Concern over driving safety—27.3 million 65+ in 2000
 65.4 million 65+ in 2030
 - Ceasing driving (more than 1 in 5 Americans over 65 do not drive)
 - Built Environment
 - Auto-centered landscape
 - Geographically expansive
 - Lack of alternate modes-facilities and services
 - Segregated Land Uses-Regulation that encourages separation

Most Persons 50+ Are Drivers, but Driving Decreases After 75

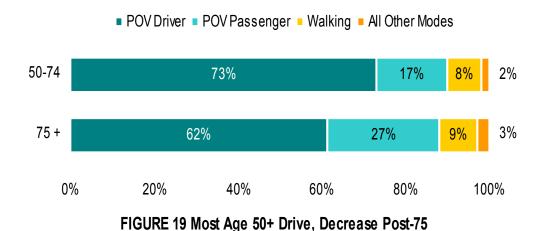
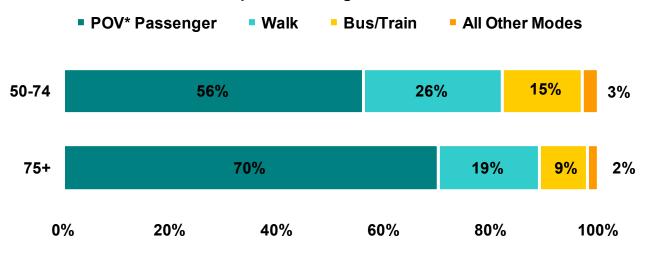


FIGURE 21; Nondrivers, Especially those 75 and Older, Make Most of Their Trips as Passengers in Automobiles



Nondrivers Miss Doing Something They Wanted to Do Much More Often Than Drivers

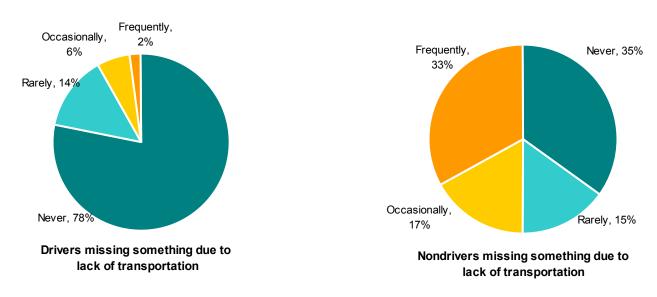
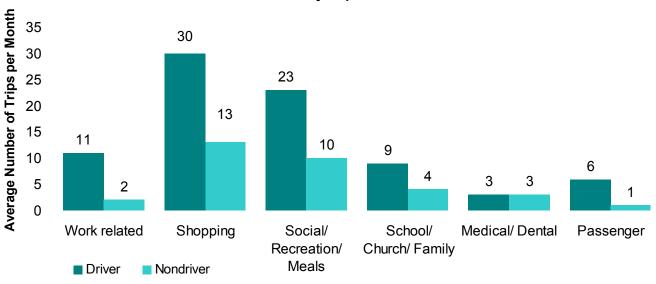


FIGURE 23: Only for Medical and Dental Visits Do Nondrivers Age 50 and Older Make as Many Trips as Drivers



- Livable Communities: Creating Environments for Successful Aging Recommendations
 - Expand housing affordability, types, and designs
 - Strengthen safety and security
 - Improve Travel Environment
 - Enhance Mobility Options

 TODs are a strategy for achieving these Livable Community goals

TOD Variables

Distance

Density

Diversity

Design

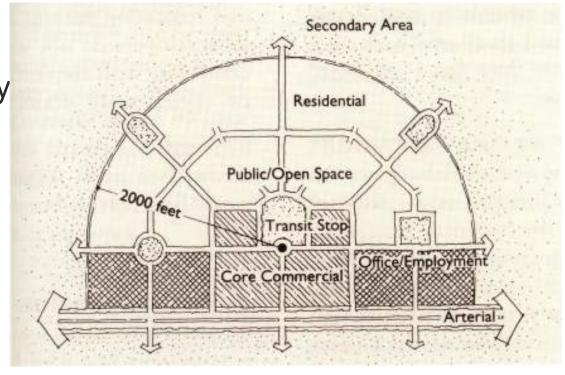


Diagram by Calthrope Associatres Source: Developing Around Transit, ULI

- TODs represent a significant alternative to the land use patterns recommended by many planners for much of the 20th century
- Focus on mixed uses and density provides "eyes on the streets" and reduces need for auto-travel in an era of increasing congestion

Build AroundTransit



Mix Uses



CreatePlaceIdentity



Accommodate Pedestrians and Bicycles





Build Pedestrian Facilities





Make Transit Attractive





Respond to Market Opportunities





Blend Parking Facilities



 Design for Pedestrian Scale and Construct Soft Spaces



Provide family of transportation services



- Employ Universal Design principles
 - Equitable Use
 - Flexibility in Use
 - Simple and Intuitive
 - Perceptible
 - Tolerance for error
 - Low Physical Effort
 - Size and Space for Approach and Use

EnhanceWay-finding



Accommodate
 Wide Range of
 Abilities and
 Preferences



Construct No-step entrances





Manage Elevations





Develop Context-Sensitive Solutions





Make people comfortable



Provide opportunities for recreation



- Key fact-Land uses generate trips!
- Key Community Design Principles
 - Mix Land uses
 - Mix Housing types
 - Provide a family of transportation services and appropriate facilities
 - Consider all consumer segments/market niches
 - Employ Universal Design principles
 - Create Places-Architectural Scale and Design
 - Provide public uses and services

- Managing the TOD impulse
 - Urban Core (e.g., downtown, urban county)
 - Urban Fringe (e.g., edge city)
 - Suburban Realm (e.g., edgeless city)
 - Rural (e.g., town, rural)

The approach/plan/investment decision is based on local/regional decision-making

Challenges

- Market management
- Open spaces
- Mixing Creative Class and Older Americans
- Teaching Drivers to Use Transit
- Automobile means Independence?
- Modifying the regulatory environment
- How much density is too much?

- At the appropriate scale, TODs concentrate community assets
 - Retail goods and services
 - Housing
 - Civic, religious institutions
 - Knit together with physical infrastructure to accommodate all persons
 - Transportation services connect to other places (local and regional)

- Aging is a global phenomenon
 - In U.S., there is a growing recognition of problems in American metropolitan form
 - Boomers confronting isolation of their parents-How to age in place?
 - Boomers confronting their own aging-Are there places to age in?
 - Do boomers want to confront the same isolation that their parents confront?

- Enhancing mobility for all Americans, particularly as we cease driving (a natural stage in our life cycle)
- Coordinating and concentrating public/private resources
- Alleviating pressures on current transportation facilities
- Allowing housing options to "age in place"
- Strengthening social capital development
- Providing opportunities for increased engagement in civic life--in both the TOD and the broader community, linked through a family of transportation facilities and services



- Longevity Paradox "Having invested so much to get people to live longer, we've barely given any thought to how we can help them to live better."
 - Joe Coughlin, MIT AgeLab