

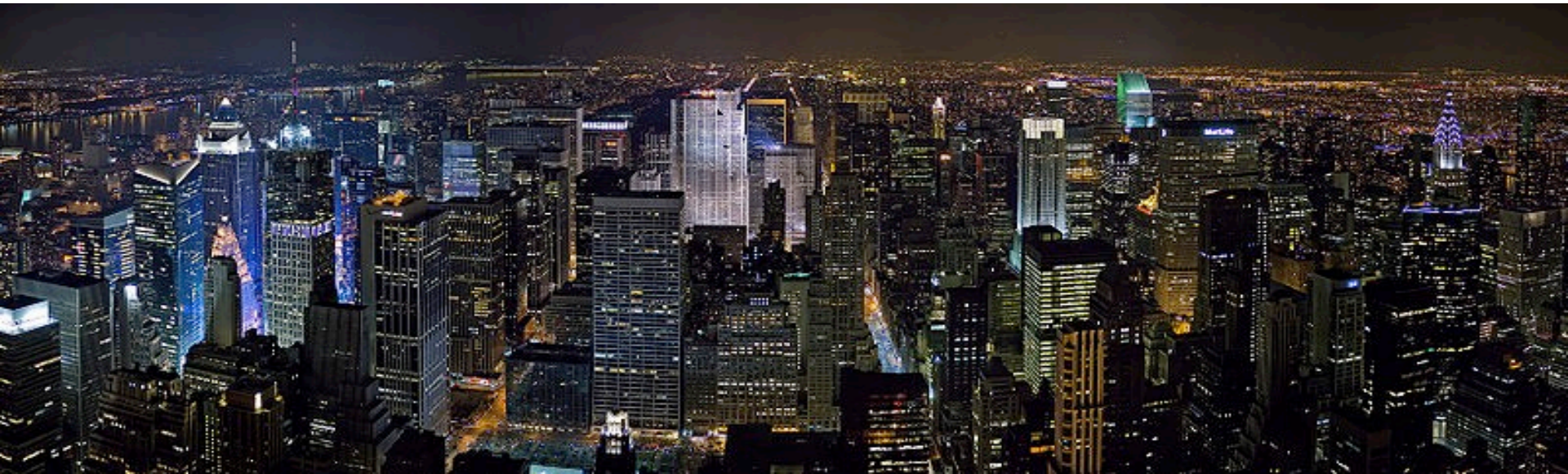


AGE-FRIENDLYNYC

The Office of the Mayor
The New York City Council
The New York Academy of Medicine

Age-friendly NYC – An Overview

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Based on the Perspectives of Older Adults Themselves

- Consulted with more than **2,000** older adults
 - **14** neighborhoods
 - **5** languages
 - **10** immigrant groups
- Expert Roundtables
- Mapping
- Literature Review



Assets of the Urban Environment

- Transportation
- Proximity to stores & services
- Access to cultural institutions
- Support of existing communities & social networks
- Access to high quality health and social services



Challenges of the Urban Environment

- Neighborhoods and families are changing in ways that increase social isolation
- Mobility, linguistic, & cultural barriers prevent many older adults from taking full advantage of all the city has to offer
- Affordability



- Government assessment across departments optimizes resources



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NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT of HEALTH and MENTAL HYGIENE



Department of Housing
Preservation & Development



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

Commission Strategy

- **Four Step Process:**
 - **Consult, Demonstrate, Evaluate, Disseminate**
- **Look for “win-win” opportunities**
- **Emphasize no and low-cost initiatives first**
- **Focus work in areas most important to older adults where short-term improvement is possible**

Transportation

Challenges shared by older adults:

- Stairs
- Few places to rest
- Insufficient time to cross the street
- Unclear communication
- Adapting to changes in service and weather



Age-friendly Transportation Solutions



- 3,000+ bus shelters with seating and signage, paid for by advertising
- School buses used for 500+ grocery store trips
- 1,000 benches installed with older adult input
- Streets and signage changed in neighborhoods with the most pedestrian accidents

Evaluation & Dissemination

In the first 5 neighborhoods with improved street design:

- **pedestrian crashes decreased between 9% and 60%**
- **non-pedestrian motor vehicle crashes decreased between 23% and 46%.**

Design changes expanded to **25** neighborhoods



- An aging population is an opportunity, not a crisis
- Older adults are experts on their own lives and needs
- All sectors – public & private – must be engaged
- An “age-in-everything” approach is key to planning
- Both “top down” and “bottom up” strategies are needed
- Addressing problems in partnership requires “win-win” solutions
- Many of the changes needed are low or no cost
- Pace matters – identify and publicize early wins to build momentum



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Information and tools are
available at:
www.agefriendlynyc.org

