Aging in Place Tools for Municipalities
MMA Conference Session – January 18, 2019
Today’s Topics

• Who is MVPC?
• Project Overview
• Engagement Strategies
• What Did We Hear?
• Aging in Place Strategies
• Top Tips
Who is MVPC?

- Established in 1959: under Regional Planning Law
- Voluntary association of 15 towns & cities
- Funding: grants & contracts with federal, state & local governments
- Governed by Board of Commissioners
- 14 Staff members: Transportation, community & economic development, environmental, & GIS
Project Goal

Develop the first Regional Housing Plan for the Merrimack Valley that identifies strategies for developing housing in the region.
Project Overview

- $150,000 from Community Compact, DLTA & MassHousing
- 1.5 year long project
- Multi-stakeholder process
- No cost to communities

**Outcome:** local housing production plans & regional housing strategy
Project Scope

Public Engagement
- Presentations to local boards
- Community Workshops
- Regional Open Houses
- coUrbanize
- Social Media

Existing Planning Efforts
- Review local plans
- Align with current local planning efforts
- Coordinate with State agencies

Information Gathering
- Data Collection
- Interviews
- Polling
- coUrbanize
- Windshield surveys

Merrimack Valley Regional Housing Plan
Project Accomplishments

Community Workshops = 30+

People Engaged = 450+

Data Compiled

43 data sets x 15 communities. Many sources consulted

Housing Production Plans = 14
courb.co/mvhousing
coUrbanize Feedback

Kevin Hocker
Jul 5, 2017

More starter single family homes are needed. The only new construction I see around town are very large, expensive colonials or condos. We need something in between for growing young families.

Leah Zambemardi
May 4, 2017

West Newbury is creating affordable units through Inclusionary Housing. We continue to work on that, but need to also think about encouraging housing that is affordable to moderate income households (i.e. those earning 60 to 120 percent of median income).

coUrbanizer via Text
Jul 22, 2017

Groveland idea

Groveland needs elderly and "step-down" housing for older folks selling their homes.

Methuen i

homes) and more senior housing. The senior population is increasing. Thank you for seeking input.

SUPPORTED 1 SUPPORTER

SUPPORTED 2 SUPPORTERS
Housing Preference
Top Votes: Town of Andover
2nd: West Newbury
3rd: The Tiny House!!
What are the needs?
Overall Regional Housing Needs

Despite diversity of types of communities, there are common regional housing needs:

- Support for seniors to age in place and age in community
- More rental housing
- Greater diversity of housing options, including multi-family, congregate, transitional, and accessible housing
- Housing rehab for older housing stock
- Affordable homeownership options
Aging in Place Strategies
Housing Strategy Categories

**Planning and Policies:** Capacity-building strategies, zoning changes and updates municipal policies.

**Production:** How can the community produce units to achieve 10%?

**Preservation:** Tactics necessary to keep those existing and future housing units affordable.
Strategies

• Create a Region-wide Housing Educational Campaign

• Encourage adoption and broader interpretation of Accessory Dwelling Unit Bylaws

• Develop model Inclusionary Housing Bylaw specific to the MVPC region

• Become an Age-Friendly Region

• Promote zoning that accommodates the specific needs of an aging population
Strategies

• Develop Model Visitability Standards

• Ensure that new and remodeled units and infrastructure follow ADA Standards, at a minimum, but ideally incorporate Universal Design Standards

• Investigate models that address creation of homes that are “right-sized”

• Investigate resources available for housing rehabilitation
Top Tips

• Crunch the numbers
• Research your audience
• Talk to your audience
• Build on existing wins
• Connect to existing efforts
• Look at best practices outside your region/state
• Scenario planning is important