OLDER ADULT TASK FORCE – OCTOBER 25, 2021

COMMUNICATIONS

Distributed October 25, 2021		Item
C1.	Presentation material entitled: "*Vaughan Transportation Plan*""	1
C2.	Presentation material entitled: "*City of Vaughan Age-Friendly Community Action Plan: Older Adult Task Force (OATF) October 25, 2021*"	3

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Communication : C 1
Older Adult Task Force
October 25, 2021
Agenda Item # 1

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Virtual Stakeholder Workshop

Older Adult Task Force

10/25/2021

Vaughan Transportation Plan (VTP)

- A strategic policy document that provides a framework and recommendations to guide future transportation-related studies, projects, initiatives and decisions for the next 20 years.
- The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2022

The City of Vaughan is one of the fastest-growing municipalities in Canada.

What does the VTP do?

Establishes a Vision

What will the future look like?

Assesses Existing and Future Conditions

Identify transportation needs and opportunities

Defines Actions & Policy Direction

Recommend improvements and policy directions

Objectives for Today

- Share information of the key findings and our directions for the VTP
- Highlight **key insights** from an older adult perspective that align with City goals
- Collectively **discuss policy gaps and actions** to consider in the City's Transportation Plan

City Goals

Encourage the use of public transit

Encourage the use of active transportation

Develop programs and policies to reduce barriers to accessing transportation services

Creating a More Age-Friendly Vaughan

- The City of Vaughan is taking steps to create a more age-friendly community, where all residents can be active and engaged members of society at every stage of life.
- It is projected that older adults (55 years and older) will make up the largest portion of the population of Vaughan, representing more than 30 per cent of the total population by 2031.

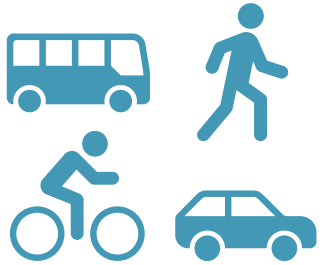
Source: City of Vaughan Age-Friendly Community Action Plan

City of Vaughan Age-Friendly Community Action Plan

Transportation Themes Highlighted

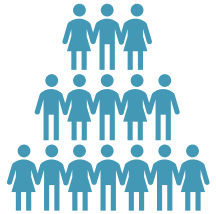
- Create greater awareness of how to access public transportation options.
- Create volunteer network (of drivers)
- Provide transportation to libraries.
- Provide transportation options for low-income seniors.
- Establish transportation options to recreation activities, appointments grocery shopping.
- Improve lighting and signage in transit areas
- Increase transportation options for people with disabilities.
- Identify transportation needs of people living alone.
- Integrate transit systems

Vaughan Transportation Plan | Vision



Provide choice

Let people decide how they will travel by providing equally attractive options – instead of having to drive



Move more people and goods

Improve sustainability by moving more people and goods with the same infrastructure

Equitable

Create a transportation system that serves everyone regardless of age, ability, background, and income level

Promote Good Health

Minimize air pollution by reducing greenhouse gases from vehicles, and build safe infrastructure for vulnerable users

What We Learned So Far

Outreach activities were completed to learn about travel behaviours and ideas for improving travel choices in Vaughan.

Consultation activities included:

- Community Survey
- Pop-up Workshops including attending City of Vaughan Winterfest 2020
- Vaughan Business Expo 2020
- Stakeholder Workshops Engagement with the following groups:
  - Development Industry
  - Major Employers and Businesses
  - Goods Movement Businesses, Major Chains and Retailers

What We Learned So Far

More direct and good quality walking conditions are needed

More focus on creating pedestrian-friendly streets

Poor walking conditions discourage the use of transit

Protected bike lanes are a priority

Improve cycling connections between destinations and subdivisions

Education on bike use, routes and safety

What We Learned So Far

Bus reliability needs to be improved

Time is a factor for choosing transit over car travel

First and last mile options are important in how employees make travel choices

Traffic calming measures should be explored

Traffic congestion is a top concern for many residents

Left turning movements need to be better addressed

How Can We Get There?

Source: seattle.gov

Design for all ages and abilities

Source: VIVA

Identify corridors for transit service improvement

Source: City of Peterborough

Identify areas for sidewalk improvements, provide connected sidewalk network and improve safety and comfort for pedestrians

Source: VIVA

Coordinate and build on recommendations from the Community Action plan

Identify action plans related to emerging technologies and ways to minimize digital barriers

> The VTP may provide transportation-related recommendations for specific actions and initiatives that build on existing work, available research, community consultations, and proven best practices.

What are the opportunities and what are the barriers/hurdles to creating a transportation system that is designed for all ages and abilities?

Thank you

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Communication : C 2
Older Adult Task Force
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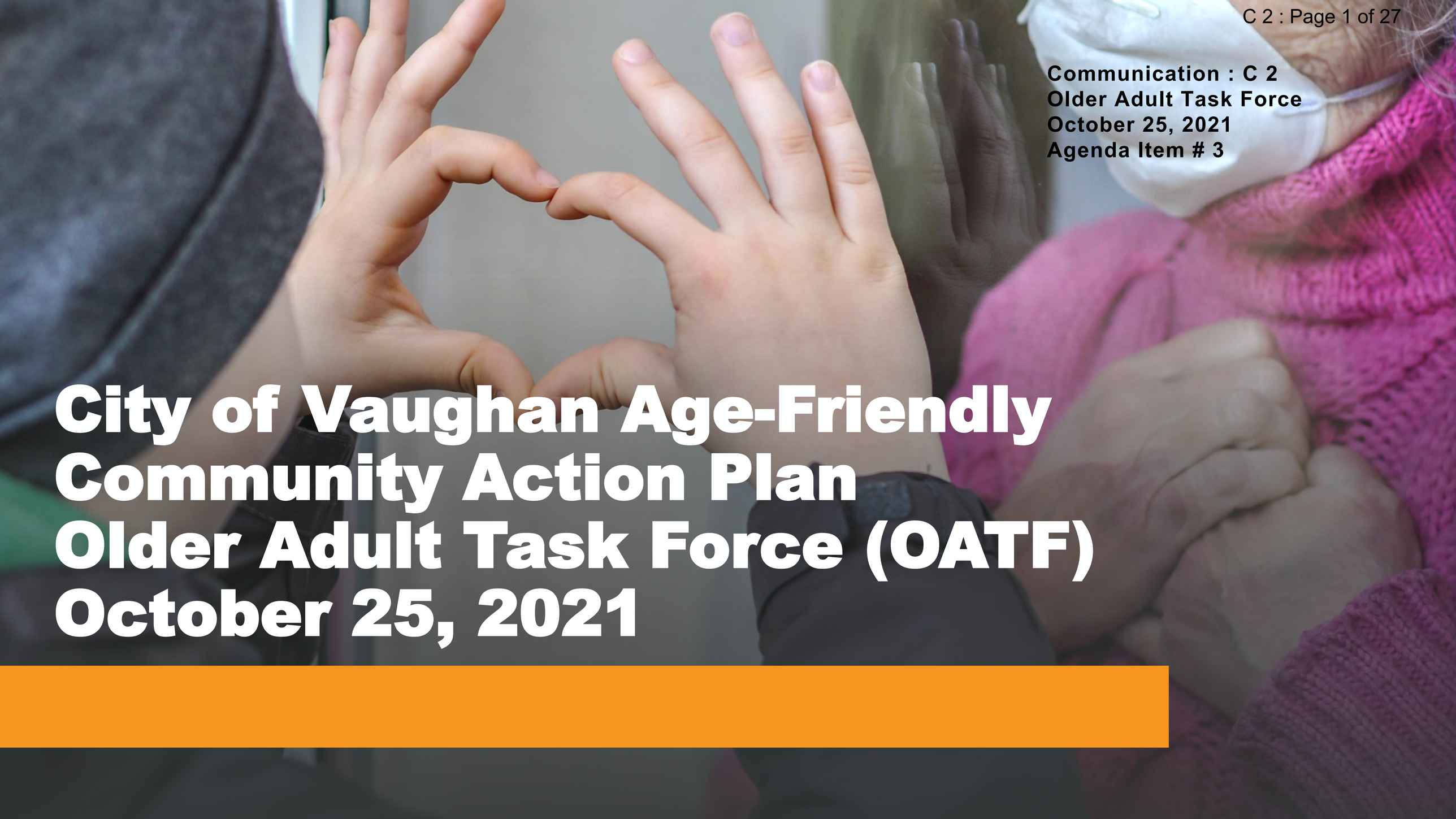


City of Vaughan Age-Friendly Community Action Plan
Older Adult Task Force (OATF)
October 25, 2021

Today's Objectives

1. Project Update
2. Share Key Findings
3. Present Direction for Age-Friendly Community Plan
4. Discussion of 'Ideas for Action'

Project Status

Community Engagement Activities

- Visioning workshop (25)
- Telephone and online surveys (641)
- Interviews (31)
- Focus groups (9)(88)
- Online questionnaire (8)
- Community workshop 2 (25)
- Community Pop-Ups (30+)
- Community workshop 3 (40)

Community Outreach

1. Website (571 visits)
2. Public Service Announcements (2,400 subscribers)
3. Media coverage (Vaughan Citizen, thestar.com, yorkregion.com, Toronto.com)
4. Social media (492 likes, comments, shares)
5. Digital signs (10)
6. Mobile signs (5 – one in each ward)
7. Radio ads in top 5 languages spoken in Vaughan (236)
8. Engagement newsletter (769 recipients)
9. Vaughan Public Library Handouts (9,000)

Age-Friendly Communities

An Age-Friendly community is one that responds to both the opportunities and challenges of an aging population by creating physical and social environments that support independent active living and enable older people to continue contributing to all aspects of community life. (Ontario Age-Friendly Community Planning Guide)

Picture Source: Centre for Age-Friendly Excellence

What We Heard

Building on Strengths

- Access to greenspace and parks
- Great trail system
- Good transit system
- Accessible transportation is available
- Programs to help people in their home
- Diverse and welcoming city
- Commitment to age-friendly planning
- Strong civic engagement
- Library is a key resource
- “Blessed to have this focus group to voice our suggestions”
- Many places are accessible
- Strong health system, many service locations
- Wide range of programs and activities
- Strong community partnerships
- Strong municipal support for local clubs

Identifying Challenges

- Car-dependent communities
- Not all trails, outdoor spaces are accessible
- Crosswalk timing not long enough
- Accessing transportation
- Lack of affordable housing, housing choice
- Many seniors do not speak English
- Ageism
- Seniors not as valued as they should be
- Unaware of volunteer and employment opportunities
- Varying levels of comfort and access to tech
- Some not aware of what services, programs are available
- “Everyone should be able to get the information they need”
- Caregiver burnout
- Isolation
- Ability to access programs and services

Developing Opportunities

- Enhance outdoor spaces
- Create more walkable communities
- Increase crosswalk timing
- Align City policies with age-friendly principles
- Create greater awareness of transit options
- Provide transit subsidy for residents in need
- Provide information in multiple languages
- Increase affordable housing options
- Engage seniors more in planning
- “Need equity not just equality”
- Create greater awareness of volunteering opportunities
- “I want to feel comfortable as a senior”
- Create a community hub
- Increase awareness of services and programs
- Include caregivers in planning

Emerging Priorities

- **Ensuring accessibility** in all areas of community life.
- Increasing the **range of housing choices** available to meet people's diverse needs.
- Creating greater **awareness and connection to services**.
- Ensuring all residents feel **safe, respected, and included** in the community.
- Planning our communities and spaces through the **lens of age-friendliness**.
- Providing opportunities for all residents, including older adults, to **engage** in community planning.

Age-Friendly Framework

Developing the Plan

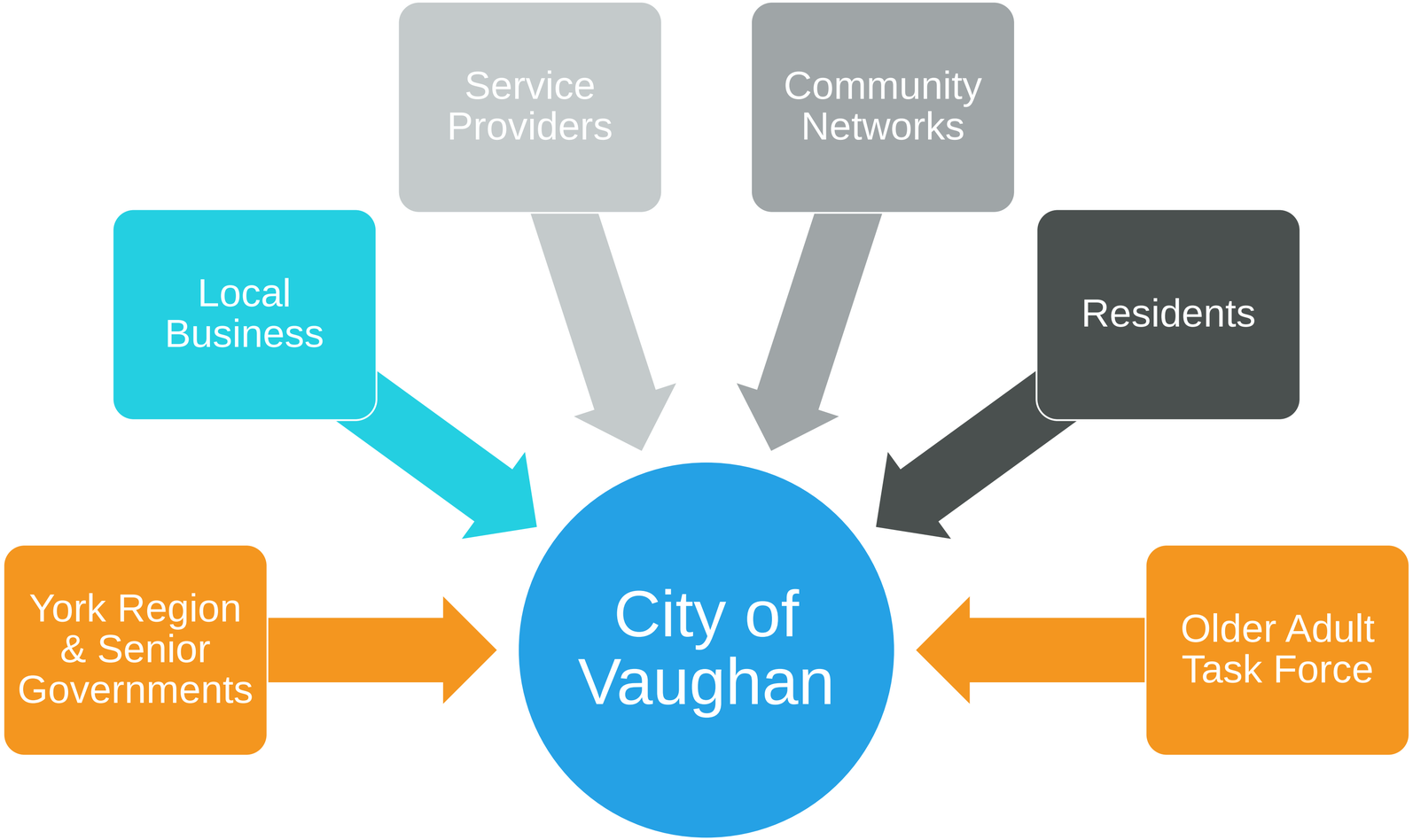
Age-Friendly Community Action Plan: Draft Vision

The City of Vaughan is a diverse community that is supportive, accessible, and equitable where everyone can live, work, and age well and feel a sense of belonging.

Objectives

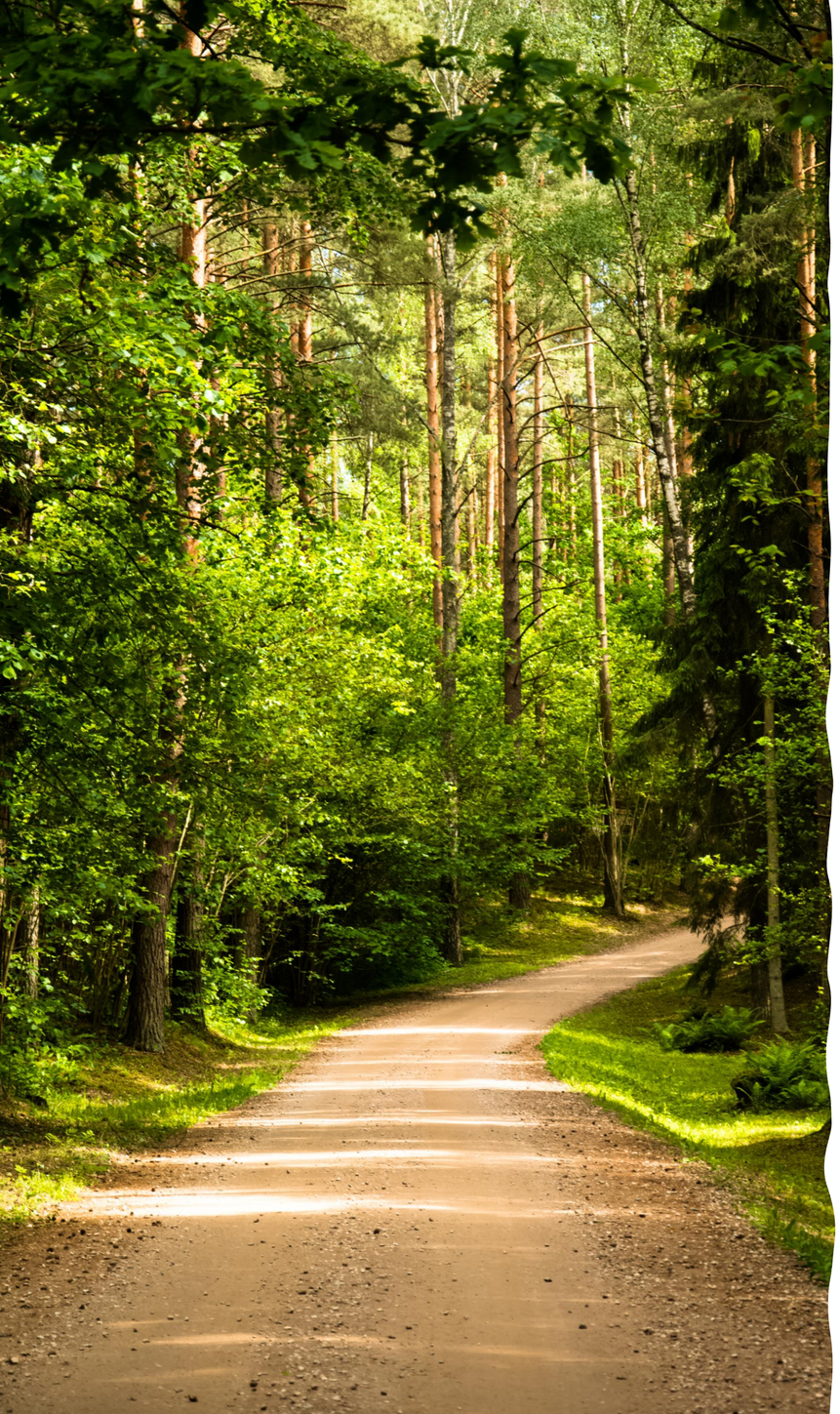
1. To recognize the diversity of Vaughan's aging population not only in terms of age but also ability, gender, sexual orientation, culture, support needs, and income.
2. To support policies that create complete, accessible, and welcoming neighbourhoods.
3. To support independent, active, and healthy aging for all residents.
4. To realize a shared responsibility among community members and partners to fulfil the vision of this Plan.
5. To achieve recognition of the City of Vaughan as an Age-Friendly Community through the Ontario Age-Friendly Communities Program, Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility.

Collective Accountability



Age-Friendly Ideas for Action

- Outdoor Spaces & Buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Respect & Social Inclusion
- Civic Engagement & Employment
- Community Supports & Health Services
- Communication & Information
- Social Participation



Outdoor Spaces & Buildings

1. Expand winter snow removal program
2. Continue to ensure park and open space design incorporate accessibility, safety, and recreational opportunities
3. Continue work to improve age-friendly street design
4. Create accessible community gardens
5. Explore opportunities for more walkable communities

Transportation

1. Enhance bus stop accessibility, comfort and safety
2. Increase alternative transportation options
3. Increase awareness of transit options
4. Explore transit subsidy

Housing

1. Establish policies to support a range of affordable and accessible housing options
2. Explore Home Share program options
3. Increase awareness of home adaptation, repair, and modification programs
4. Increase in-home support options

Respect & Social Inclusion

1. Celebrate seniors and youth
2. Combat ageism and elder abuse
3. Explore integration of some local club events/programs
4. Increase awareness and promotion of friendly visiting programs
5. Engage and partner with community organizations to identify unique and diverse needs of older adults

Civic Engagement & Employment

1. Share volunteer and employment opportunities
2. Expand age-friendly awareness among local businesses
3. Engage with older adults and youth in community planning

Communication & Information

1. Expand digital access and literacy
2. Establish online community service hu
3. Create positive and inclusive messagin and promotional material
4. Develop wayfinding materials

Community & Health Supports

1. Explore development of a community hub
2. Encourage partnerships with local health care agencies

Social Participation

1. Expand diversity of recreational programs and inter-generational programs
2. Expand support to community clubs through provision of community space

Thoughts?

1. Do you support these actions? Is anything missing? What other ideas do you have?
2. What is your top priority? If we were to tackle one action, which would you choose?

Stay informed:
vaughan.ca/agefriendly

Contact us:
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j consulting group