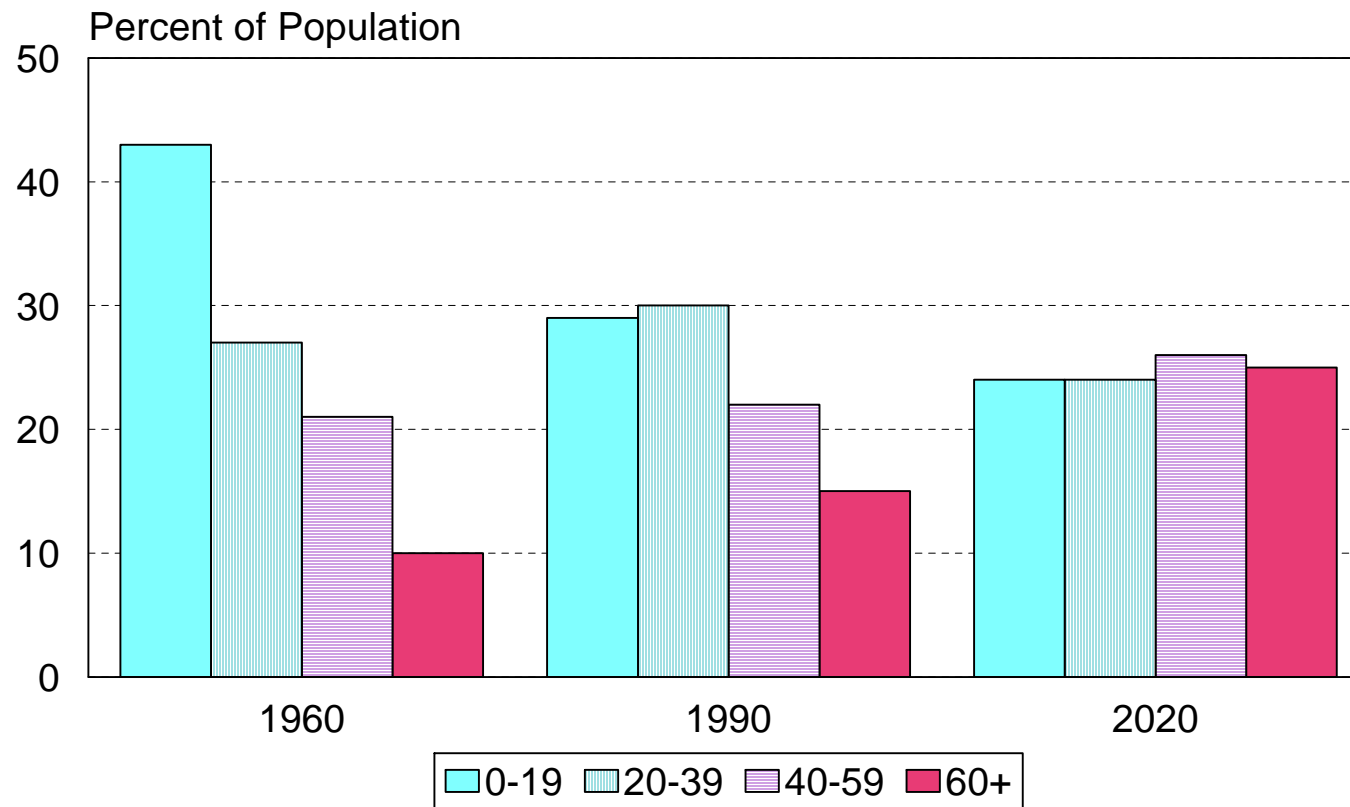




# Aging in Place Task Force Recommendations

**Mission:**  
Enhance Davidson's resources  
as a senior-friendly community

# Demographics



North Carolina population distribution



# Demographics

- By 2010, 30% of the population of North Mecklenburg will be over 50. (26,300 people)
- 11% of Davidson's population was over 65 in 2000, compared to 8% in Cornelius and 6% in Huntersville.
- North Carolina ranked 11th nationally in total population; 3rd nationally in persons sixty plus moving into the state.



# Four-step Methodology

- **Educate** the task force on aging issues and resources currently available.
- Conduct a **community survey** to discern the needs and perceptions of Davidson's older citizens.
- **Research** options for services and service delivery.
- Make **recommendations** to the Town Board for enhancement of existing services and policies for additional senior resources.



# Methodology: Educate

- David Segmiller, FreemanWhite Architects
- Gayla Woody, Centralina Council of Governments
- JoAnne Ahern, North Mecklenburg Senior Services
- Andi Carroll, owner of HomeCarolina
- Jennifer Szakaly, Caregiving Corner and Charlotte Observer
- Les Farnham, owner of Home Instead
- Nancy Waite-Kahn, Director of Wellness and Social Services at the Pines
- Beverly Cowdrick, Huntersville Oaks
- Jackie Hayward, Just 1 Call
- Brenda Overcash, CMC Healthy at Home
- Julie Fusilier, Parish Nurse



# Methodology: Educate

- A sample of the programs currently available in town for seniors:
  - Police Department's AARP Senior driving course
  - Individualized instruction in driving roundabouts
  - Park and Rec trips and classes
  - Park and Rec sponsored health screenings
  - Police Department support of Neighborhood Watch programs
  - DHC's HAMMERS program
  - Park and Rec Senior Wellness Day on the Green
  - St. Alban's neighborhood volunteer services
  - Red Cross medical transportation
  - Several private companies offering in-home health care services



# Methodology: Community Survey

- The survey showed that Davidson's senior citizens are concerned about:
  - Affordable housing
  - Healthcare availability and cost
  - The ability to do home repairs, yard work, heavy housework
  - Mobility, particularly sidewalks and walking paths to destinations they require
  - Access to a Senior Center



# Methodology: Research

- Physical Environment Committee

- ☐ Streets
- ☐ General Transportation
- ☐ Affordable Housing

- Healthcare Committee

- ☐ Access to services and information
- ☐ Skilled nursing care/Assisted living
- ☐ Medical transportation





# Recommendations

- Street Design
  - ☐ Improve Visibility
  - ☐ Driving features
  - ☐ Biking features
  - ☐ Pedestrian features
- Greenways
- Transportation
- Housing
- Programs
- Facilities

# Recommendations: Street Design

- Improve visibility
  - Overhead street name signs at signalized intersections
  - Street signs with larger fonts as signs are replaced or new signs installed



# Recommendations: Street Design

## ■ Driving features

- Increase width of lane and pavement edge markings (from 4" to 6")
- Increase use of reflective pavement markers



# Recommendations: Street Design

## ■ Driving features

- Stop, yield, and warning signs designed for 20/70 vision
- Use of warning – e.g. “stop ahead” – signs



# Recommendations: Street Design

## ■ Bike features

- Bikeways on larger roads to be physically curbed from traffic and walkers



## ■ Consider “street legal” golf carts on specific town streets



# Recommendations: Street Design

## ■ Pedestrian features

- Include task force member on steering committee for next year's Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan
- Boldly striped crosswalks



# Recommendations: Street Design

- Pedestrian features
  - Timing for slower walk speeds on some pedestrian signals
  - Budget \$'s for additional sidewalks and paths
- Walkability audits needed to determine additional options for improvement.





# Recommendations: Greenways

- Incorporate amenities for seniors (benches, etc.) on greenways and walking paths





# Recommendations: Transportation

## ■ Village Rider

- ☐ Greater publicity and training on its use for seniors, teenagers, and preteens
- ☐ Include The Pines on its route

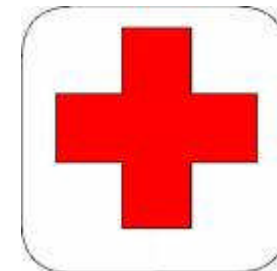


## ■ Davidson Public Transit

- ☐ Davidson Dash (local only)

## ■ Volunteer Transportation

- ☐ Work with Red Cross to expand medical transportation
- ☐ Volunteer Davidson Drivers program



# Recommendations: Housing

- Support development of “virtual” retirement communities
- Support development of affordable independent living units
- Potential for “Greenhouse”- type skilled nursing facility and assisted living units
  - Zoning for cohousing and group homes
  - Encourage senior housing in close proximity to services and transit



# Recommendations: Housing

## ■ Universal Design

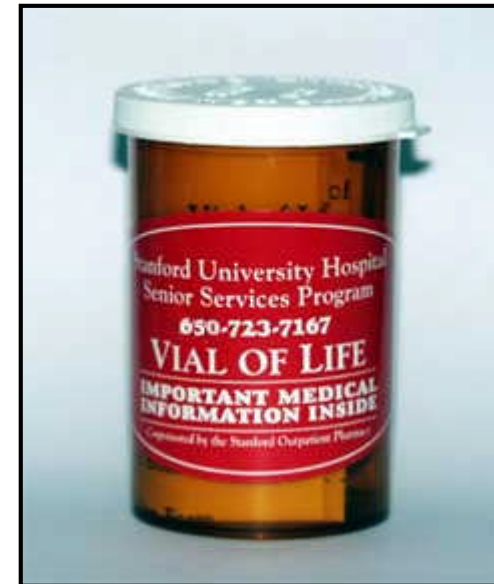
- Incentives to builders to include universal design in new homes
- Encourage contractors to become certified to retrofit homes
- Educate citizens
- Include in all town facilities

## ■ Explore Homesharing Program



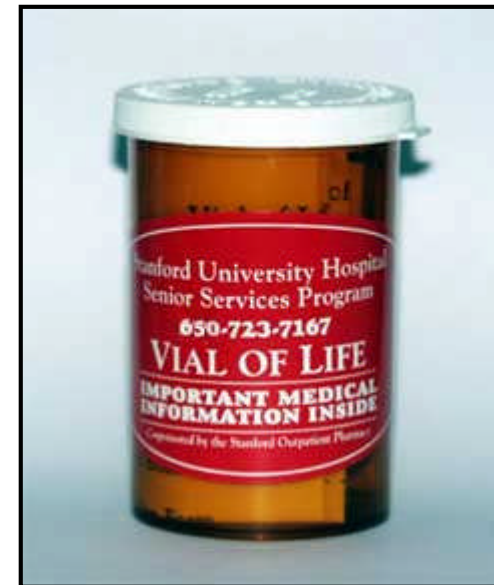
# Recommendations: Programs

- Tele-Care volunteer phone calls
- Vial of Life
- Expand/support Just-1-Call
- “Chores R Us” program
- Property tax reduction/exemption
- Seniors’ web page



# Recommendations: Programs

- Backyard trash service.
- Neighborhood plan for natural disasters. Phone tree. Knowledge of where older adults reside so service can be provided in a disaster or severe weather.
- Free smoke alarms and alarm maintenance.



# Recommendations: Facilities

- Adult Day Care
- Support Mecklenburg County and Davidson Senior Centers





# Next Steps

- Only a few recommendations can be implemented without funding:
  - Width of street and crosswalk striping
  - Larger fonts on new street signs
  - Involvement in pedestrian planning process
  - Timing of pedestrian signals
  - Davidson Drivers program
  - Vial of Life program
  - Seniors' web page