



Accessible City Project  
Louisville  
April 24, 2014



**MetLife Foundation** **Partners for Livable Communities**

# City Leaders Institute

on AGING IN PLACE

# Accessible City Project

## **City Leaders Institute Team:**

### **The Project Team:**

**Louisville Metro Community Services & Revitalization  
Office for Aging and Disabled Citizens**  
Cindy Venable, Team Leader

**Louisville Metro Council**  
8<sup>th</sup> District Councilman Tom Owen

**Louisville Metro Public Health & Wellness  
Center for Health Equity**  
Angela Hollingsworth, Community Outreach Coordinator

**Louisville Metro Public Works**  
Vanessa Burns, Director  
Dirk Gowin, Engineering Projects Coordinator

# Accessible City Project

## **Issue and Goal Statement**

To develop strategies that will bring the “Complete Streets” policy from concept to action.

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Specifically, in the next 12 months, the team will engage in a 3 pronged strategy to engage, raise awareness, and celebrate successes:

- Through Photo Voice initiative with older adults, ID and document barriers to access.
- Identify and execute at least 2 (urban and suburban) publically visible demonstration projects that respond to those barriers
- Share the results and celebrate/ publicize demonstration projects through in person/TV, media, and other outlets

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## **Develop Community Team**

The Project Team brought in Community Partners to assist with the development and implementation of the Accessible City Project (ACP). The new partners are:

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## **Community Partners**

### **AARP-KY, the Kentucky State Office of AARP**

Ron Bridges, State Director

Cathy Allgood-Murphy

### **Center for Neighborhoods**

Lisa Dettlinger Associate Director

Don Keller, Board Member

### **Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency**

Barbara Gordon, Director, Division of Social Services

Vesselina Romanov, Social Services Planner

### **Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission**

Carolyn Miller-Cooper, Director

Nick Valenzuela, Compliance Officer

### **Transit Authority of River City**

Nancy Snow, Mobility Manager

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## Phase 1:

### ... Photo-Voice Initiative

- Photovoice is a method used to engage marginalized communities. Using photographs and personal experiences, the goals of photovoice are:
  - to enable people to record and reflect their community's strengths and concerns
  - to engage communities in dialogue
  - to reach policymakers



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## **Photo-Voice Initiative**

- Representatives of four Louisville neighborhoods that had completed Walkability Studies through the Center for Neighborhoods were invited to attend workshops and participate in an initiative that would focus specifically on their needs in regards to the built environment.
- Three workshops were held; two were held on site and one online.

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## **Photo-Voice Initiative**

The project produced 5 photo-voice panels that effectively convey messages from the participants.

They were presented at the RMC's annual Transportation Summit on January 29, 2014.

The presentation was recorded and is currently being looped on Louisville Metro TV's schedule.

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## Photo-Braille

- A new process called “Photo-Braille” was developed to encourage individuals with visual disabilities to participate and to have a voice in this and future initiatives.
- This community engagement method was submitted to the American Public Health Association to be recognized as a promising practice within public health.

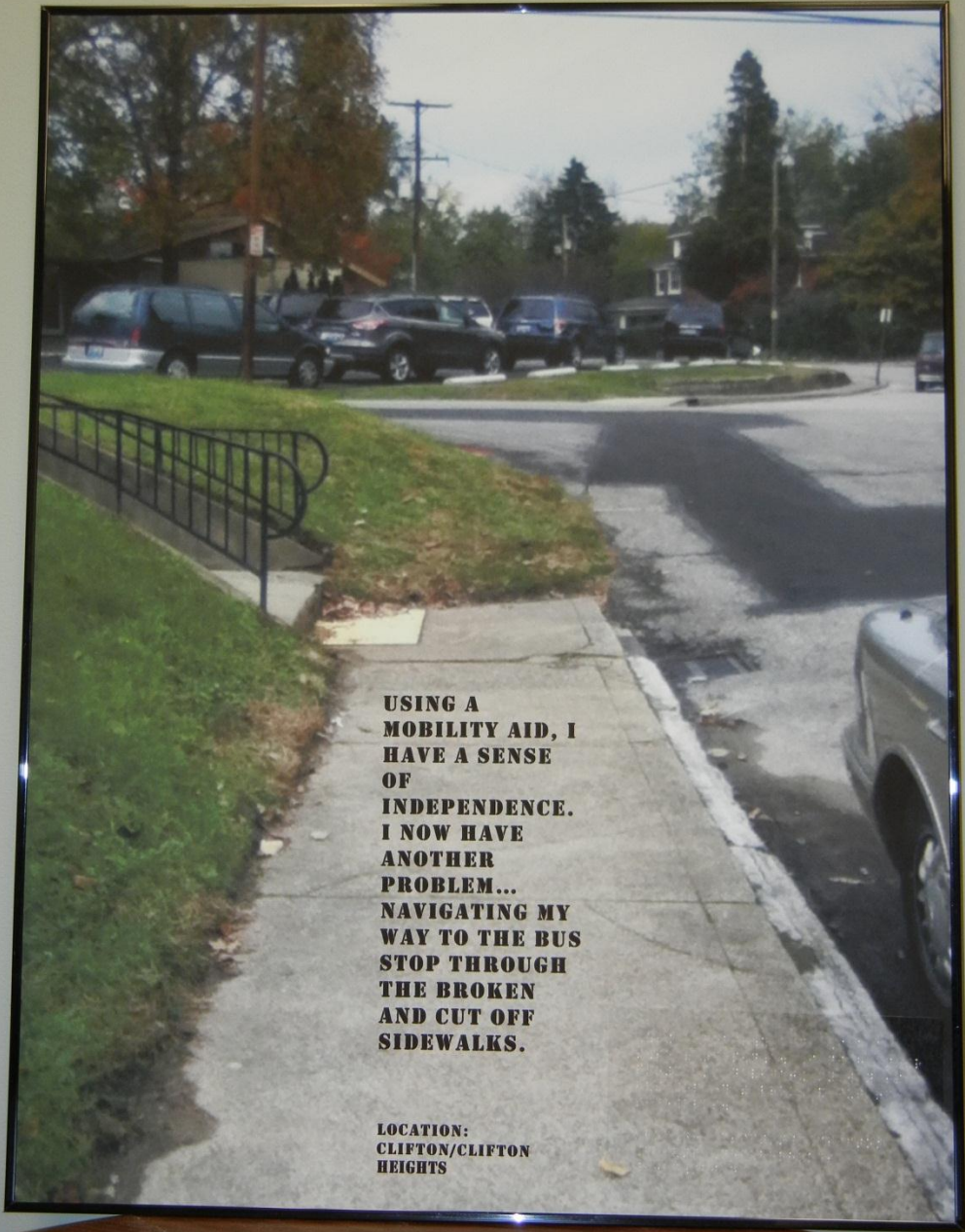


I'm over a  
certain age  
and I'm  
visually  
impaired.

Imagine what  
it's like ...



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**USING A  
MOBILITY AID, I  
HAVE A SENSE  
OF  
INDEPENDENCE.  
I NOW HAVE  
ANOTHER  
PROBLEM...  
NAVIGATING MY  
WAY TO THE BUS  
STOP THROUGH  
THE BROKEN  
AND CUT OFF  
SIDEWALKS.**

**LOCATION:  
CLIFTON/CLIFTON  
HEIGHTS**





Ornamental grass brings striking linear form, texture and motion to the garden.

For the visually impaired, ornamental grass brings fear caused by the striking linear form, texture, and motion, when it extends beyond the front yard.

Location:  
Clifton/Clifton Heights  
Neighborhoods

Ornamental grass brings striking linear form, texture and motion to the garden. For the visually impaired, ornamental grass brings fear caused by the striking linear form, texture, and motion, when it extends beyond the front yard.



I notice people looking at me strange when I ride my wheelchair in the street. I know my wheelchair is not a car...My options are limited.

Location: Shawnee Neighborhood





**BICYCLE LAWS**

Kentucky law states that cyclists shall: "Be granted all the rights and be subject to all the duties" applicable to drivers of any vehicle. A bicycle is a vehicle, not a toy, and, as such, must obey the traffic rules and regulations pertaining to all highway users. You cannot ride a bicycle the opposite direction on a one way street. A violation could impose a \$250.00 fine.

Solution: Counter Flow bicycle lanes throughout the city.

Location: Clifton/Clifton Heights Neighborhoods

...the city of Louisville, Kentucky, to provide for the safety and convenience of its citizens by establishing counter flow bicycle lanes on one-way streets in the Clifton and Clifton Heights neighborhoods. The city council has determined that such lanes are necessary to address the increasing number of cyclists using these streets and to reduce the risk of accidents. The council has also determined that such lanes are in the best interests of the city and its citizens. The council has therefore passed this resolution to provide for the safety and convenience of its citizens by establishing counter flow bicycle lanes on one-way streets in the Clifton and Clifton Heights neighborhoods.



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## Phase 2

**...to identify and complete two Louisville Metro Public Works projects that address the goals of Complete Streets.**

Two projects were initially identified, Hill Street between 6<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street, as well as Fern Valley Road between Preston Highway and Jefferson Boulevard.

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West Hill Street looking toward South 7<sup>th</sup> Street

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same site following initial phase of work

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Fern Valley Road (Looking West)

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- With the delays in funding, Phase 2 was modified to focus on streetscapes on West Market Street and West Oak Street utilizing local funding.
- The pilot section of West Market Street is the 3800 block. West Oak Street is from 3rd Street to Garvin Place.



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The pilot section of West Market Street is the 3800 block

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West Oak Street is from South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to Garvin Place

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## Phase 3

**... Publicity through:  
public education and community  
presentations**



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## Regional Mobility Council Transportation Summit

- The ACP was presented as a segment of the Regional Mobility Council's Annual Transportation Summit on January 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The summit theme was "Emerging Trends: New Ideas for Complete Streets."
- Metro TV taped the ACP segment and it is showing on Metro TV.
- Attendees included a wide range of elected officials, community planners and transportation planners from KIPDA and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

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## **Planned presentations:**

- Mayor's ADA Roundtable**
- Regional Mobility Council Monthly Meeting**
- Metro Council**
- KIPDA Transportation Technical Coordinating Committee (TTCC)**

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**City Leaders Institute**  
on AGING IN PLACE

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**AARP**  
Real Possibilities