CITY OF BRAMPTON

AGE FRIENDLY STRATEGY
BASELINE ASSESSMENT REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2018

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AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

TRANSPORTATION

HOUSING

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

OUTDOOR SPACES & BUILDINGS

COMMUNITY SUPPORT & HEALTH SERVICES

RESPECT & SOCIAL INCLUSION

COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

CIVIC PARTICIPATION & EMPLOYMENT

**CITY OF BRAMPTON
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SEPTEMBER 2018

**PREPARED FOR:
CITY OF BRAMPTON**

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1.0 Project Background

1.1 Introduction

Brampton is home to 173,550 adults over the age of 50, accounting for almost 30% of the population, and this share of the population is growing rapidly in Brampton and worldwide.[1] The City of Brampton has recognized the challenges and opportunities associated with the demographic trend towards an older population. Building on age-friendly planning initiatives and programs, in 2018 the City of Brampton retained WSP to develop an Age-Friendly Strategy.

This Baseline Assessment includes:

- Examination of policies supporting age-friendly planning in Brampton;
- Review of program and service offerings of key City departments;
- Five (5) good-practice case studies of age-friendly strategies; and an
- Assessment of age-friendly strengths and opportunities for Brampton.

The world is in the midst of a significant shift in its demographic makeup, with the proportion of individuals over 60 years of age growing faster than any other age group.[2] In Canada, as in numerous other countries, it was recently estimated that the number of

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Header image: Milan Suvajac (2017) CC-SA 4.0
[1] Statistics Canada, National Census, 2016.
[2] World Health Organization, 2002. Active Aging: A Policy Framework.

persons aged 65 years or older now exceeds the number of children aged 0 to 14 years.[3] Largely due to the aging of baby boomers and extensions in life expectancy, it is expected that Canada will have 15.5 million people age 55 or older by 2038.[4]

The overall aging of the population presents a wide array of opportunities and challenges. In part due to the World Health Organization's (WHO's) Global Age-Friendly Cities Initiative, communities increasingly understand that seniors are not all identical, but are a diverse group with diverse lifestyles, incomes, health statuses and needs.[5] Launched in 2006, the WHO's initiative has drawn attention to the needs of seniors and to what can be done at the community level to improve older adults' quality of life.

Municipal initiatives are already in progress to ensure that age-friendly structures and programs are in place. Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA) 27 (February 2017) to the Region of Peel's Official Plan directs the Region's lower-tier municipalities, including Brampton, to plan for age-friendliness. In March 2017, Brampton repositioned the Strategic Plan to incorporate age-friendly objectives for its Health Partnerships and Planning Vision focus areas. Brampton also joined the WHO's age-friendly city network, although it is not yet formally designated an age-friendly community.

Between 2011 and 2016, Brampton's proportion of the population aged 60+ increased from 14% of the total population to 16%. At the same time, Brampton's median age is 5 years younger than the Canadian average, and more Brampton residents are younger than 14 than older than 65.[6] It is critical that the Age-Friendly Strategy balances the needs of older adults with those of children and youth. Indeed, although the WHO commonly describes older adults in its publications as those 60 and over, the abilities and needs of both older and younger people can vary widely.

One of the most powerful characteristics of age-friendly design is known as "the Curb-Cut Effect": just as curb cuts make mobility easier for all people, not just wheelchair users, many age-friendly actions benefit all sectors of society, not only elderly people.

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[3] Statistics Canada, 2016.
[4] CMHC Knowledge Transfer, presentation by Arlene Etchen and Jamie Shipley to the Age-Friendly Brampton Advisory Committee on February 27, 2018.
[5] National Framework on Aging: A Policy Guide.
[6] Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

For example, reliable transit improves quality of life for older adults who no longer feel comfortable driving and also increases mobility for youth and low-income individuals. Therefore, although the impetus for the Strategy, and much of the analysis within it, may focus on older adults, there are significant opportunities to leverage these cross-cutting benefits to develop an Age-Friendly Strategy that makes Brampton better for people of all ages.

The Strategy will inform the continued development of age-friendly policies for Brampton and guide the implementation of Brampton's Age-Friendly Objectives, as expressed in the Regional Official Plan and Brampton Strategic Plan. This Baseline Assessment is the first step in the development of an Age-Friendly Strategy for Brampton. It provides insight into the City's current age-friendly practices and opportunities for improvement.

1.2   What is an Age-Friendly Community?

As the world's population grows older, the WHO has stressed the importance of building age-friendly cities and promoting active aging in communities. Active aging refers to the capacity for people to continue to participate fully in their communities at all stages of life. It is influenced by economic, social, and physical factors.

Recognizing the breadth of these issues, the WHO established the Age-Friendly Cities Initiative, which encourages municipalities to enhance their services, structures, programs and built environments for older populations. The companion Age-Friendly Cities Framework, which is discussed in more detail in Section 1.4 of this Report, has helped many municipalities to assess their own age-friendliness by examining elements such as transportation, housing and community services.

"An age-friendly community encourages active aging by optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security to enhance quality of life as people age."

The Ontario Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility (MSA) has built on the WHO's work to provide municipalities with additional resources to make community improvements through the age-friendly lens. As a framework for municipal planning, an age-friendly

perspective benefits older adults, young families with children, and persons with disabilities. The MSA Age-Friendly process is discussed in more detail in Section 1.5 of this Report.

At its core, an age-friendly community is one that ensures aging residents at all levels of ability are supported, respected and encouraged to participate in community life. For example, in an age-friendly community, public buildings have accessible entryways including push-button accesses and level surfaces. Aging residents have strong social networks and can participate in a variety of affordable and inclusive community programs. In an age-friendly community, aging residents have a range of affordable transportation options which could include a network of trusted volunteer drivers or a safe and efficient public transit system. Older residents also have access to a range of affordable health, community support and home care services. Through community attributes such as these, residents are able to "age in place," staying in their homes, neighbourhoods, and communities for as long as they wish to do so.

Considering community assets through an age-friendly lens will allow for informed decision-making regarding all aspects of the community, including land development, transportation planning, parks and open space, and social services, ensuring that community investments are implemented as needed.

1.3   Community Profile

Brampton is a diverse and rapidly growing municipality. In 2016, its population was 593,638 – an increase of 36.8% from 2006.[7]

Although Brampton's population is generally younger than the Ontario average, the rate of growth in the city's seniors' population is much greater than in any other of Canada's 10 largest cities. Between
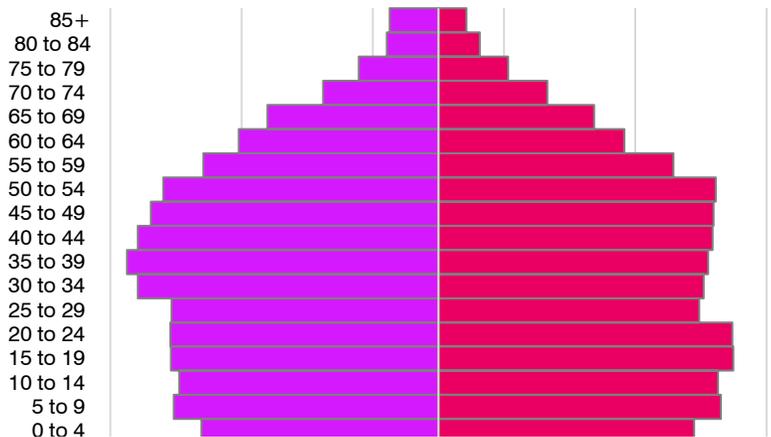
Figure 1-1: Brampton Population Pyramid

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016

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[7] Peel Region 2016 Census Bulletin Population and Dwelling Counts, Feb 2017.

2011 and 2016, Brampton's seniors' population rose by 40% to 66,270 people.[8] In raw terms, the population over 65 is expected to increase[9] by 200% by 2041, meaning that 1 in 5 people will be seniors.

Table 1-1: Brampton Age Distribution, 2016
(Statistics Canada, 2016)

Age Groups	Male	Female	Total
0-9	41,005	38,200	79,205
10-19	43,750	40,110	83,860
20-29	42,250	40,750	83,000
30-39	40,745	46,620	87,365
40-49	41,850	44,795	86,645
50-59	39,045	38,870	77,915
60-74	34,320	37,045	71,365
75+	10,560	13,710	24,270

Brampton benefits from significant cultural diversity. Over 70 percent of the City's population are people of colour, with just over half of those individuals having South Asian origin. Just over half of Brampton's population is made up of first-generation immigrants. Most of these individuals were under 65 when they immigrated, but 18.4% were over 65, creating an older adult demographic with unique needs.[10] The Sheridan Centre for Elder Research warns that immigrant seniors are more likely to be socially isolated, because they face more barriers in daily life. Some of these unique needs and challenges include:[11]

- Language barriers;
- Different housing needs (e.g. multi-generational housing);
- Discrimination; and
- Cultural differences in recreation and social activities.

Other seniors' demographics that are at greater risk for social isolation include LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer) elders, low income seniors, seniors over 80, women, and those with a disability or mental health issue.[12]

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[8] Statistics Canada, Census 2011, 2016.
[9] ROPA 27 Staff Report.
[10] Peel Region 2016 Census Bulletin on Immigration and Ethnic Diversity, Oct 2017
[11] Sheridan Centre for Elder Research, "Building Connected Communities: Reducing Loneliness and Social Isolation in Immigrants 65+ – September 2017 – Research Update" (2017). Centre Publications and Scholarship. 34. https://source.sheridancollege.ca/centres_elder_publ/34
[12] National Seniors Council – Report on the Social Isolation of Seniors, 2013-2014, publicentre.esdc.gc.ca

1.4   Age-Friendly Assessment Framework

In response to changing demographics, and to assist communities with the creation of enhanced, livable environments for residents of all ages, the World Health Organization launched its Global Age-Friendly Cities Framework. The framework is used to encourage municipalities to become more age-friendly by examining the community through the eyes of its aging residents to uncover areas of opportunity and improvement. The framework highlights eight interconnected elements that influence active aging. These elements are illustrated in Figure 1-2 and summarized in Figure 1-3.

Figure 1-2: Eight Dimensions of an Age-Friendly Community

Figure 1-3: Summary of Age-Friendly Community Dimensions

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
The condition, quality and design of the physical environment including parks, sidewalks and buildings, have a significant influence on the mobility, independence and quality of life of aging residents.

Transportation
As people age, there is a tendency to drive less and to rely more on alternative modes of transportation such as transit, for-hire rides and, in the future, autonomous vehicles. The availability of accessible transportation options aids in the ability of aging residents to participate in the community and increases access to community and health services.

Housing
Appropriate housing structure, location, design and a wide variety of available housing choices can have a significant impact on the independence of aging residents. Appropriate housing can allow people to age in place comfortably within the community.

Social Participation
The ability and opportunity to actively participate in social, cultural and recreational pursuits has a positive influence on the physical and mental well-being of aging residents.

Communication & Information
Access to and the wide distribution of clear, relevant information is essential for aging residents to be able to maintain strong social ties and community connections.

Respect & Social Inclusion
Aging residents should continue to be respected for their roles and contributions to the community. The provision of outreach to aging residents and opportunities to participate in community life can help to mitigate isolation.

Civic Participation & Employment
Aging residents offer a variety of skills, knowledge and experiences that can provide benefits to the community. Aging residents should be able to contribute to their communities through paid and unpaid employment for as long as they would like to or are able to do so.

Community Support & Health Services
In order for aging residents to successfully age in place, the community should offer sufficient good quality and accessible healthcare and community programs and services. Doing this will allow residents in the community to receive appropriate care.

1.5   Project Approach

The development of the Brampton Age-Friendly Strategy is following the process developed by the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility,[13] entitled Finding the Right Fit: Age-Friendly Community Planning. The full process involves four steps in two phases, as described below and illustrated in Figure 1-4:

PHASE 1

- Step 1 – Define Local Age-Friendly Principles

- Step 2 – Assess Community Needs

PHASE 2

- Step 3 – Develop an Action Plan

- Step 4 – Implement/Evaluate the Action Plan
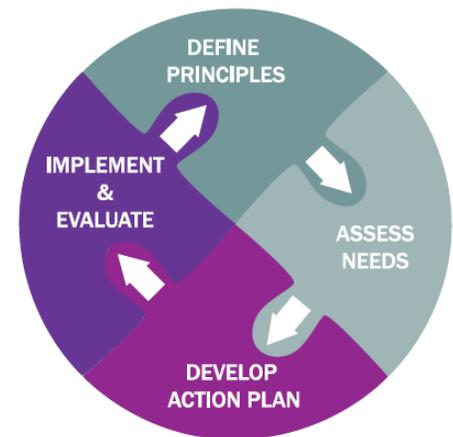
Figure 1-4: Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility Age-Friendly Planning Process

This Baseline Assessment consists of an assessment of the existing Brampton policy framework to support Age-Friendly Planning, as well as a review of existing organizations and supports for older adults in Brampton. Meeting minutes of the Age-Friendly Brampton Advisory Committee were reviewed, as were documents provided by City staff. Existing communications materials available to seniors – including the Peel 55+ Housing Options brochure, the Brampton Recreation Guide 2018, the Spring/Summer Seniors Guide 2018, and the Brampton Library Website were reviewed to assess both the availability of seniors programming and the communications approach.

This Baseline Assessment also contains five best-practice case studies of Age-Friendly Action Plans, selected for relevance to Brampton. These have been reviewed to identify key strengths of their approaches and provide benchmarks for Brampton's Age-Friendly Strategy. In total, the Baseline Assessment will inform next steps in the Age-Friendly Planning Process shown in Figure 1-4.

Header image: Allen McGregor (2010) CC BY 2.0
[13] formerly the Ontario Seniors' Secretariat

A robust community engagement plan will be executed to develop a vision, assess aspects of Brampton's built infrastructure, collect further information on Age-Friendly community dimensions, understand lived experience of Brampton residents, and connect families, adults, youth and seniors with service agencies and organizations in an Age-Friendly Forum. This substantial engagement process will shape the ultimate Age-Friendly Strategy for Brampton.

Vision

A vision statement describes an ideal state or purpose which a community can work together to achieve. It is an important element of age-friendly planning, as it identifies community priorities and helps set the overall direction for an Age-Friendly Strategy.

The Brampton 2040 Vision: Living the Mosaic (Vision 2040) sets out the 20-year vision for Brampton as a whole, forged through a year of intensive public consultation. The City's vision is presented as seven statements that form a "mosaic" of aspirations for the City's future. The AFS vision will be closely aligned with Vision 2040 since each of the seven vision statements speaks to one or more age-friendly dimensions.

Foundational principles have guided work to date on Age-Friendly Cities by the City of Brampton and the Region of Peel. Many of the documents that were reviewed for this Baseline Assessment emphasized Brampton's diversity, the importance of respecting cultural diversity in the planning process, and the need to better engage all cultural and ethnic groups in the city. The importance of accessibility and universal design was emphasized in each planning document reviewed. The principle of sustainability also underpins much of the planning framework in Brampton, and the existing planning implementation guidelines and tools, like the Sustainable Community Development Guidelines, have been constructed based on the goal of sustainability.

Goals

Goals support the vision statement by providing clear actions that will be taken to achieve the vision. The specific goals of the City-Wide Age-Friendly Strategy will be developed through the study process.

2.0 Municipal Policy Review [14]

As a component of this Baseline Assessment, existing municipal policies were reviewed to identify needs, policy tools and commitments that are relevant to age-friendly planning. This review was undertaken to identify aspects of Brampton's existing policy framework that support age-friendly planning, as well as potential areas for improvement. These are highlighted in this section with the appropriate "Age-Friendly Community Dimension" illustration.

In general, the City of Brampton and the Region of Peel's plans and policies speak to the importance of planning for age-friendly communities, and incorporate elements of the WHO's age-friendly community dimensions. One set of opportunities relates to stronger coordination of existing and future policies.

Implementing an age-friendly perspective in municipal planning requires that policies and practices from a wide range of areas, including infrastructure, transportation services, social programs, and health services, work to support each other. The

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[14] Header image: Blue Jay game at Garden Square, @GardenSQLive (2016).

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development of an Age-Friendly Strategy must work with the City's existing policy framework, objectives and tools.

2.1 Region of Peel Official Plan (December 2016 Office Consolidation)

The Region of Peel Official Plan ("the ROP") is the primary long range strategic land use policy document for the Region of Peel. It is intended, among other things, to provide for the health and safety of those living and working in Peel, and interpret and apply the intent of Provincial legislation and policies.

The ROP's themes are informed by a sustainable development framework. This framework rests on environmental, social, economic and cultural "imperatives". Together, these imperatives direct Peel to create a green, inclusive, prosperous and diverse community.

Section 2.2 Large Environmental Systems recognizes that large environmental systems are critical to the health and wellbeing of all residents. This policy is important because older adults as well as children and youth can be more sensitive to environmental health threats. This policy supports protection and enhancement of large environmental systems like the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Niagara Escarpment – these help to improve air quality, moderate climate, and keep water clean and healthy.

> **Urban System Objective 5.3.1.8:**
> To provide for the needs of Peel's changing age structure and allow opportunities for residents to live in their own communities as they age.

Chapter 5: Regional Structure of the ROP outlines the regional structure and identifies general policy directions for the Urban System. Specific policies are provided therein.

Section 5.8 Housing of the ROP addresses housing and recognizes that a diverse population, including older adults and people with special needs, require a range of housing types and tenures.

Section 5.9 addresses the transportation system. The ROP puts strong emphasis on environmental sustainability as a foundational principle, and **Section 5.6.10** addresses active transportation. This section is also guided by the principle that transportation choices must be provided to ensure increased mobility for all residents, employees and visitors. The Region has an important role in coordinating transit with lower tier municipalities such as the City of Brampton, which is addressed in **Section 5.9.5.**

Urban System Policy 5.3.2:
Prioritize compact forms of development, and pedestrian-friendly and transit- supportive development.

Section 5.9.11: Accessible Transportation
The need for specialized transit trips is expected to double between 2001 and 2021. This section promises increased support for **TransHelp** and other agencies.

Section 6.2, Regional Human Services, directs Peel's policies and actions in the realm of health service provision, distribution of affordable and supportive housing, accessibility, and promotion of human services. These broad policy directions are reflected in Brampton's Official Plan, as highlighted in Section 2.4 of this Report.

Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA) 27

Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA) 27 is the first amendment from the Peel 2041 Regional Official Plan Review (Peel 2041). It was adopted by Regional Council on February 23, 2017 and there were no appeals following Provincial approval on September 29, 2017. It explicitly addresses the link between built form and community

health, and addresses the needs of the growing seniors' population. ROPA 27 responds to the Term of Council Priority to "Promote Healthy and Age-Friendly Built Environments." It also reflects recommendations from Peel's Aging Population Steering Committee (2014) and commitments to twenty-year outcomes in Peel's Strategic Plan. These commitments envision a community that:

1) promotes mobility, walkability and various modes of transportation and

2) where the built environment promotes healthy living.

As specified in the **new section 7.4, "Healthy Communities and the Built Environment,"** ROPA 27 requires Regional and municipal planners to be consistent and integrate the Healthy Development Framework (HDF) evidence-based elements and standards into relevant planning policies and documents.

Additionally, the **new Section 6.3, "Age-Friendly Planning"** directs the Region and its municipalities to prepare for demographic changes through planning of municipal services including affordable housing, accessible transportation, recreation, physical infrastructure and community health.

> **Section 7.4: Healthy Communities and the Built Environment**
>
> **The Healthy Development Framework (HDF)**
> What aspects of the built environment most impact health and age-friendliness? The HDF addresses six Core Elements:
>
> - **Density**
> - **Service Proximity**
> - **Land Use Mix**
> - **Street Connectivity**
> - **Streetscape Characteristics**
> - **Efficient Parking**

2.2   Peel Healthy Development Assessment, 2016

The Peel Healthy Development Assessment is a user-friendly tool created by the Region of Peel to implement the policies of the **Healthy Development Framework**, as outlined in ROPA 27. For the City of Brampton, HDF policies may be incorporated into

Brampton's existing development approvals documents; specifically, the Sustainable Community Development Guidelines.

The Region of Peels' published "Healthy Development Assessment" guide outlines the six Core Elements, specific targets, and reporting requirements. Beyond the six Core Elements, the user guide instructs all members of the development team to ask, "Have the specific additional needs of vulnerable groups (i.e. the elderly, disabled and children) been considered?" The Assessment also recognizes differences between small-scale development and large-scale planning.

2.3 Home for All, the Region of Peel's Housing and Homelessness Plan, 2018-2028

The Peel Housing and Homelessness Plan (PHHP) is intended to provide direction for the Region and its partners to make affordable housing available and prevent homelessness for all Peel residents. The context for the PHHP recognizes that 70% of low-income and 29% of middle-income households in Brampton are living in housing that is not affordable, and that the existing supply of supportive housing meets only 50% of the demand.

The PHHP focuses on five strategies and associated actions and fundamental changes that describe how the Region will work with its partners to achieve housing outcomes:

- Transform service;
- Build more affordable housing;
- Provide incentives to build affordable housing;
- Optimize existing stock; and
- Increase supportive housing.

Fundamental Change 4.5:
Examine the current criteria for Peel Renovates and explore options to expand the program to fund private landlords to improve safety, accessibility, energy efficiency and creation of second units.

Fundamental Change 4.6
Work with the local municipalities to adopt Official plan policies and zoning changes to support diverse housing types (co-housing, home-sharing, etc.).

These strategies align with the Regional Official Plan to manage growth while creating connected and inclusive communities.

2.4   Peel Region Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, 2018-2025

The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, required under the Provincial Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation, outlines Peel Region's successes in the realms of General Requirements, Customer Service, Information and Communications, Employment, Accessible Transportation and Design of Public Spaces. An Accessibility Advisory Committee informs Council on programs and opportunities.

The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan summarizes goals, programs and actions by Peel Region and partners to improve accessibility until the 2025 horizon. Some of these programs and actions are included in Section 4.0 of this document as Age-Friendly strengths.

Several important plans and strategies included in the Accessibility Plan are highlighted in text boxes here.

Road Design and Construction
Peel Region and the CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind) have a partnership to identify intersections that require improvements to meet AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005) Standards.

Employment
The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan records Peel's commitment to recruiting persons of all abilities for employment and volunteer positions. The Region will work with community partners and internal support services to ensure that volunteers can engage, participate and have a meaningful experience.

Technology in Long Term Care Facilities
Peel Long-Term Care (LTC) will review technology to enable and enhance information sharing, such as videos with captions or description of text, voice dictation software, and options for people with vision loss. Broadcasting options for persons who have difficulty seeing or hearing audio information will also be explored.

2.5 Region of Peel Strategic Plan, 2015-2035

The Strategic Plan envisions Peel Region as a "**Community for Life**" over a 20-year timescale. The Plan is categorized into three values: **Living, Thriving and Leading.**

The overall objective of the **Living** category is that people's lives are improved in their time of need. The 20-year outcomes of the Plan include that residents have:

- Access to services that meet their needs at all stages of life;
- Access to culturally appropriate services and access to local, nutritious food sources; and
- A responsibility to contribute to community well-being.

The current Term of Council has taken action on a number of commitments related to age-friendliness, with notable success in the realm of affordable housing.

Action on Affordable Housing	**Action on Affordable Housing**
Received Regional Council approval for the development and purchase of 323 new affordable rental units.	Invested $24M in state of good repair and energy efficiencies in social housing to help maintain existing stock.

The Region of Peel tracks service-specific indicators related to the "Community for Life Outcomes on the Strategic Plan Dashboard.[15] Results related to Age-Friendliness are positive: 86% of Long Term Care Centre residents would recommend their centre to others, and 54% of clients and caregivers said that Adult Day Services contributes to the ability to stay home.

2.6 Brampton Strategic Plan, 2016-2018

The Strategic Action Plan 2016-2018 was developed to guide Council's actions through 2018. It is organized around four priority areas – "Move & Connect," "Smart Growth," "Strong Communities" and "Good Government" – and contains six focus areas as illustrated in Figure 2-1. The four guiding principles address the importance of ensuring mobility for all through improved local and regional transit service and the importance of efficient, compact development. Creating opportunities for citizens to participate in

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[15] Accessible at: https://www.peelregion.ca/strategicplan/dashboard/

the arts, social interaction, and civic activities, in both physical space and more broadly, are also central to the Plan.

Initiatives in the Strategic Plan that are relevant to age-friendly planning include:

- Development of an age-friendly strategy (underway);
- Official Plan Review
  - Brampton Vision 2040 – endorsed by Council and the City is currently in implementation phase of this initiative;
  - Housing Brampton – the City's affordable housing strategy; and
- Active Transportation Master Plan (underway).

Figure 2-1: The Focus Areas of Brampton's Strategic Plan

2.7   Brampton Official Plan, 2006 (September 2015 Consolidation)
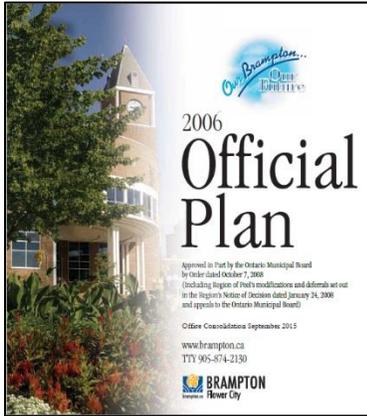
The Brampton Official Plan (OP), **Our Brampton, Our Future,** celebrates Brampton's diversity and prosperous future. It also identifies sustainability as a critical principle and action that must be pursued more aggressively. These concepts of diversity, economic prosperity, and sustainability are echoed throughout the OP.

The framework of the OP is a "Sustainable Planning Framework," recognizing an ecosystem planning approach, the importance of environmental resources and services, and a culture of conservation. This is partially expressed through the desire for complete communities, integrated land use and multi-modal transportation planning, and integration of uses within communities.

The OP is structured into three sections: The General Plan, Secondary Plans, and Block Plans. The OP contains policies applying to the City and its structures as a whole, while the Secondary Plans introduce area-specific planning. Finally, the "Community Block Plans" are specific community design plans that implement not only the policies of the General Plan and Secondary Plan, but also other policy documents called for in the Official Plan, such as the PathWays Master Plan, and the Brampton Accessibility Technical Standards. Community Block Plans are developed with reference to the Brampton Development Design Guidelines, and involve the coordination and completion of detailed environmental, servicing, transportation, urban design and growth management analysis and approvals.

The policies in the General Plan that relate to age-friendliness, and which are implemented through Secondary and Block Plans, are included herein.

Subsection 4.2.6 – Special Housing Needs
The policies in this section address the importance of siting supportive housing and retirement homes in proximity to transit, parks, shopping and community services. These considerations are also emphasised in the sections addressing **Long Term Care Centres (4.9.4)** and **Health Care Facilities (4.9.5).**

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Section 2.2 Social and Cultural Considerations emphasizes the importance of an integrated, pedestrian-oriented urban structure with accessible community services and shopping opportunities, both to meet the needs of older people and to support sustainability.

Section 3.1 Sustainable Planning Framework identifies the creation of complete communities that have a compact design, are transit- and pedestrian- oriented, and offer a mix of uses and housing options, as a foundation for developing a sustainable city.

Section 4.2 Residential reiterates the importance of accessible, mixed-use communities, as well as the importance of an appropriate proportion of affordable and supportive housing.

Section 4.5 Transportation envisages a balanced transportation system that is accessible to all members of the Brampton community, including those with disabilities, and that incorporates Complete Streets. The policies deal with directing parking management, continued maintenance and expansion of the pathway system, greater transit accessibility for those with disabilities, and improved transit station/stop design.

> **Subsection 4.5.4 – Public Transit**
> Recognizes that accessible Public Transit is critical to enabling the mobility of those with disabilities, and contains policies directed towards service accessibility.

In **Section 4.6 Natural Environment**, the OP also recognizes the importance of a healthy environment in supporting good health for people of all ages and sets out the structure for the Brampton Sustainable Community Development Guidelines. These guidelines are contained in Part 8 of the City's Development Design Guidelines, and shape all new development that happens in the city.

One Secondary Plan – the **Fletchers Meadow Secondary Plan** – and one Community Block Plan – the **Mount Pleasant Village Block Plan** and associated **Community Design Guidelines** – have been reviewed for Age-Friendliness. These Plans and Guidelines were chosen because the Mount Pleasant Village development was recognized in 2012 by the Building Industry and Land Development Association as the best low-rise "Places to Grow" community. These plans are representative examples of

the current state of age-friendly planning at a Secondary and Community Block Plan Scale in the City of Brampton.

Secondary Plan Example – Fletcher's Meadows

The Secondary Plan example reviewed implements many age-friendly principles: pedestrian-friendly environments; mixes of uses; connected open space systems; and attractive and comfortable transit stops. While the plan does not use the terminology of 'age-friendliness' or specifically address accessibility for people with disabilities the healthy development principles enshrined in the Secondary Plan support the development of a community that is walkable, healthy, and offers a range of housing options. The Secondary Plans and Block Plans help translate the policies of the Official Plan into actual development.

Block Plan Example – Mount Pleasant Village
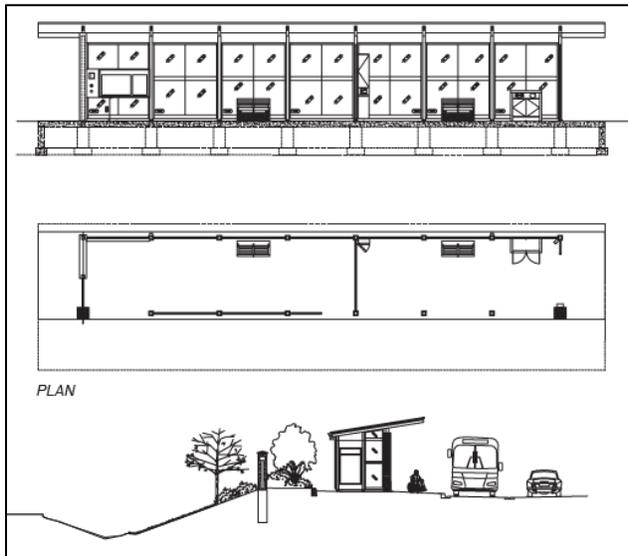
Figure 2-2: Transit bus shelter design, Mount Pleasant Village Community Design Guidelines

Block Plans are accompanied by volumes of **Community Design Guidelines (CDGs).** These CDGs outline the vision and principles for community development. The Mount Pleasant Village CDG contextualizes the community in the context of the region's transportation and transit networks and opportunities for development, with a particular focus on identifying transit oriented community development potential.

The Mount Pleasant Village CDG contains specific design guidelines – including design specifications – for nearly all aspects of the community's built form, from transit station design to public spaces and parks, to parking requirements. Figure 2-2, excerpted from the CDG shows the proposed transit shelter design – safe, comfortable

and accessible. Generally speaking, the guidelines and specifications are intended to create public space and architecture that is more accessible to people of all abilities.

2.8 Brampton 2040 Vision: Living the Mosaic, 2018

Brampton City Council has recently endorsed the Brampton 2040 Vision, a plan to guide Brampton's development to 2040. Identified as the first step in the Official Plan Review, "Living the Mosaic" is the result of intensive design work and public consultation that involved more than 11,000 residents.

The City's Council-endorsed Vision for 2040 includes:

- **Vision 1:** In 2040, Brampton will be a mosaic of **sustainable** urban places, sitting within an interconnected green park network, with its people as **environmental stewards** – targeting 'one-planet' living.
- **Vision 2:** In 2040, Brampton will be a mosaic of **vibrant centres with quality jobs**, a rich range of activities, and integrated living.
- **Vision 3:** In 2040, Brampton will be a mosaic of characterful and **complete neighbourhoods**.
- **Vision 4:** In 2040, Brampton will be a mosaic of safe, integrated **transportation** choices and new modes, contributing to civic sustainability, and emphasizing walking, cycling, and transit.
- **Vision 5:** In 2040, Brampton will be a rich mosaic of cultures and lifestyles, coexisting with **social responsibility**, respect, enjoyment, and justice.
- **Vision 6:** In 2040, Brampton will be a mosaic of healthy citizens enjoying physical and mental wellness, fitness, and sports.
- **Vision 7:** In 2040, Brampton will support a mosaic of artistic expression and production

These Vision Statements will be reviewed to determine opportunity for their implementation through the Age-Friendly Strategy.

2.9   Brampton Culture Master Plan, 2018

Research and engagement conducted for the Culture Master Plan found that much of Brampton's population – particularly its newer cultural communities – create art and culture in ways which are not necessarily reflected in the City's most visible or formal cultural institutions. Extensive community engagement found that live festivals (including ethnic-based festivals) are the preferred arts and cultural activity in the city. While a lack of variety is one of the biggest barriers to participation in cultural activities, access issues related to the location of programs must also be addressed to increase participation. The Master Plan's strategic actions supporting community art space throughout the city will increase access to and ownership of the arts by a broader demographic.

SPACE | Strategic Action 1	SPACE | Strategic Action 6
"Participate in Vision 2040 neighbourhood audits to identify areas of strength and gaps across the city where cultural space is underrepresented. Update and use the City's Culture Map as a key resource in this exercise, and for short, medium and long-term cultural asset planning."	"Work with Facility Services to establish a framework for creators and cultural groups to access and use municipal facilities for cultural purposes."

2.10   Brampton Economic Development Master Plan, 2018

The Economic Development Master Plan notes that, while Brampton is the ninth-largest and fastest-growing city in Canada, more than 60% of residents leave the city each day to go to work. It sets a goal of bringing 140,000 new jobs to Brampton over the next 20 years that suit residents' skills, talents and preferences. Aligned with the Strategic Plan, Vision 2040, and the Culture Master Plan, the focus will be on key sectors including advanced manufacturing, health and life sciences, innovation and technology, entrepreneurship and logistics. Two of the plan's key themes for growth can be supported through age-friendly initiatives: talent and workforce, and investment.

Focus Area 1: Talent and Workforce

"Attracting, developing and retaining talent is paramount to any city's economic growth. The right workforce gives a city a competitive edge. … Residents are gainfully employed in their community. At the same time, investment into local talent stimulates collaboration and partnerships—with businesses and post-secondary institutions—and ample opportunities for innovation."

Focus Area 2: Investment

"Public and private investments in public infrastructure, commercialization of new knowledge, green investments and education not only bring social and cultural benefits to cities but also foster a more sustainable, diverse and innovative local economy that offers opportunities for all citizens."

2.11 Brampton Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2017

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a document based on extensive research and consultation with over 1,200 individuals, that includes 114 recommendations to guide Brampton's parks and recreation planning to 2031. Of these, one of the most pressing actions is to construct a **seniors' centre** in east Brampton that includes traditional seniors' centre elements, as well as new programs and spaces oriented towards newcomers. Another key goal is strategic optimization of older and smaller community centres, beginning with a pilot retrofit of two older community centres to include therapeutic and rehabilitative space and programs.

One key factor to be considered in planning for seniors' centres, and more generally for parks, public space and recreational opportunities for older adults, is the demographic makeup of neighbourhoods. East

Recommendation 42

Use targeted outreach to connect with seniors' groups that informally use public spaces on a consistent basis.

of Torbram Road, the substantial East and South Asian populations mean that cultural diversity and appropriateness must be incorporated into plans. In particular, re-configurable and flexible spaces allow for adaptability to accommodate use by seniors' groups. An additional factor is the creation of recreation spaces that are fully accessible to people with physical, mental, and emotional challenges, such as the City's AODA-compliant Creditview Activity Hub, which opened in 2018.

Figure 2-3: Accessible features at the Creditview Activity Hub (Image: City of Brampton)

More broadly, **Section 5.3 Fostering Active Living** encourages active living for Brampton residents of all ages. This is critical to continued health for aging adults.

Recommendation 85
Develop an Older Adults Strategy with the support of the Brampton Seniors Council.

2.12 Brampton Transportation Master Plan Update, 2015

The Transportation Master Plan Update (TMPU) revised the City's 2009 Transportation and Transit Master Plan to ensure it reflects current policies and needs and supports a transportation network that accommodates all modes of travel. The Brampton OP requires many types of facilities, including residential facilities for the elderly or those with special needs, to be located in proximity to transit.

Consultation activities during the development of the TMPU indicated that providing a transportation system that serves youth and older populations is an important outcome for City residents. To help implement this priority, key strategies set out in the TMPU include:

- Developing the road network to implement a **Complete Streets** approach that supports all modes of travel;
- Continuing to expand the transit network;
- Identifying and addressing missing links in the active transportation network;
- Targeting significant increases in the modal shares for transit, walking, cycling and carpooling.

As a precursor study to the next TTMP update, the City is also undertaking a Complete Streets study. Complete Streets are streets that are designed for all ages, abilities, and modes of travel. On Complete Streets, safe and comfortable access for pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, and the mobility-impaired is an integral feature of the planning and design process.

2.13 Brampton Accessibility Technical Standards, 2015

This standard is referenced in higher level policy documents reviewed herein. It was first introduced in 2005 and is intended to go above and beyond the Ontario Building Code (OBC) requirements for accessibility. It was updated in November 2015 to reflect changes to the OBC and new requirements from the Design of Public Spaces legislation. It applies to all new, renovated and retrofitted facilities owned, operated or leased by the City, and is encouraged for other facilities.

These standards are based on the principles of universal design and are intended to prevent the creation of new barriers to access, and to remove existing barriers where possible.

2.14 Brampton Environmental Implementation Action Plan, 2014

The Brampton Environmental Implementation Action Plan (IAP) is Volume 3 of the City's first Environmental Master Plan. It provides a framework for the City's environmental decision-making that builds upon ongoing environmental initiatives. The IAP identifies priority actions and metrics for improving and assessing environmental performance in six categories: people, air, water, land, energy and waste.

Principles of Universal Design

1. Equitable Use
2. Flexibility in Use
3. Simple and Intuitive Use
4. Perceptible Information
5. Tolerance for Error
6. Low Physical Effort
7. Appropriate Size and Space for Approach and Use

© NC State University, The Center for Universal Design

Section 3 of the IAP sets out Brampton's Direct Actions. The fourth direct action includes implementing a True Cost Accounting approach to decision making in all City departments. This True Cost Accounting approach, which is similar to the "Triple Bottom Line" accounting approach, considers the short and long-term environmental, social and economic costs of a decision. It is a strong tool to implement true sustainability in Brampton.

Priority actions to protect and enhance air, water, land, energy and waste will have short- and long-term impacts on population health, including the most vulnerable demographics.

Priority Indicator - "People"
This indicator, outlined in Section 4.1 of the IAP, sets out goals for increased community engagement and citizen outreach programs.

2.15 Sustainable Community Development Guidelines (Brampton Development Design Guidelines), 2013

The Sustainable Community Development Guidelines were developed in 2013 in collaboration with the municipalities of Vaughan and Richmond Hill. They are intended to score the environmental sustainability performance of new Block Plans, plans of subdivision, Site Plan and OPA/ZBLA applications. All Site Plan, Draft Plan and Block Plan applications will strive to score above the City's Bronze Threshold – a scoring system similar to the Peel Healthy Development Assessment. The HDA is intended to be incorporated into the next update of these Guidelines, as per ROPA 27.

The Guidelines address each stage of the development process, and consist of 452 individual guidelines that are grouped under four broad categories: Built Environment; Mobility; Natural Environment and Open Space; and, Green Infrastructure and Building. The guidelines are general in nature but provide direction for community design.

For example, the principle to locate housing options for seniors in walkable, mixed-use communities is addressed under the Housing Mix and Diversity section, within the "Built Form Category" for each of the planning levels.

Guideline SG18 (Secondary Plans)

"Within the Secondary Plan Area consider housing options specifically designed for seniors. Place retirement and long-term care facilities closer to mixed use nodes or neighbourhood centres."

Guideline SG106 (Block Plans)

"Within the Block Plan, provide housing options specifically designed for seniors. Place retirement and long-term care facilities closer to the neighbourhood centre and incorporate multi-storey components to achieve sufficient yield on small sites."

Guideline SG267 (Draft Plan of Subdivision/Site Plan)

"Provide for housing options specifically designed for seniors. Place retirement and long-term care facilities closer to the neighbourhood centre and incorporate multi-storey dense components to achieve sufficient yield on small sites."

2.16 Brampton PathWays Master Plan, 2002

The PathWays system is central to Brampton's vision for an efficient active transportation network. The existing and envisioned network of paths knits the City's parks, natural heritage systems and communities together through active transportation pathways. Nine out of ten Brampton residents support spending to maintain and expand the pathway system. The Pathway Network Mapping was used to develop candidate pathway routes, shown in **Figure 2-4.**

Legend:
- **Potential Key Staging Area (Community/ City Wide)**
- **Potential Trail Gateway to Brampton**
- Neighbourhood/ Planning District Network (Off & On Road)
- City / Community Wide Network
- Future Highway/ Parkway
- Parkland/ Open Space
- Future Parkland
- Secondary Plan Boundary
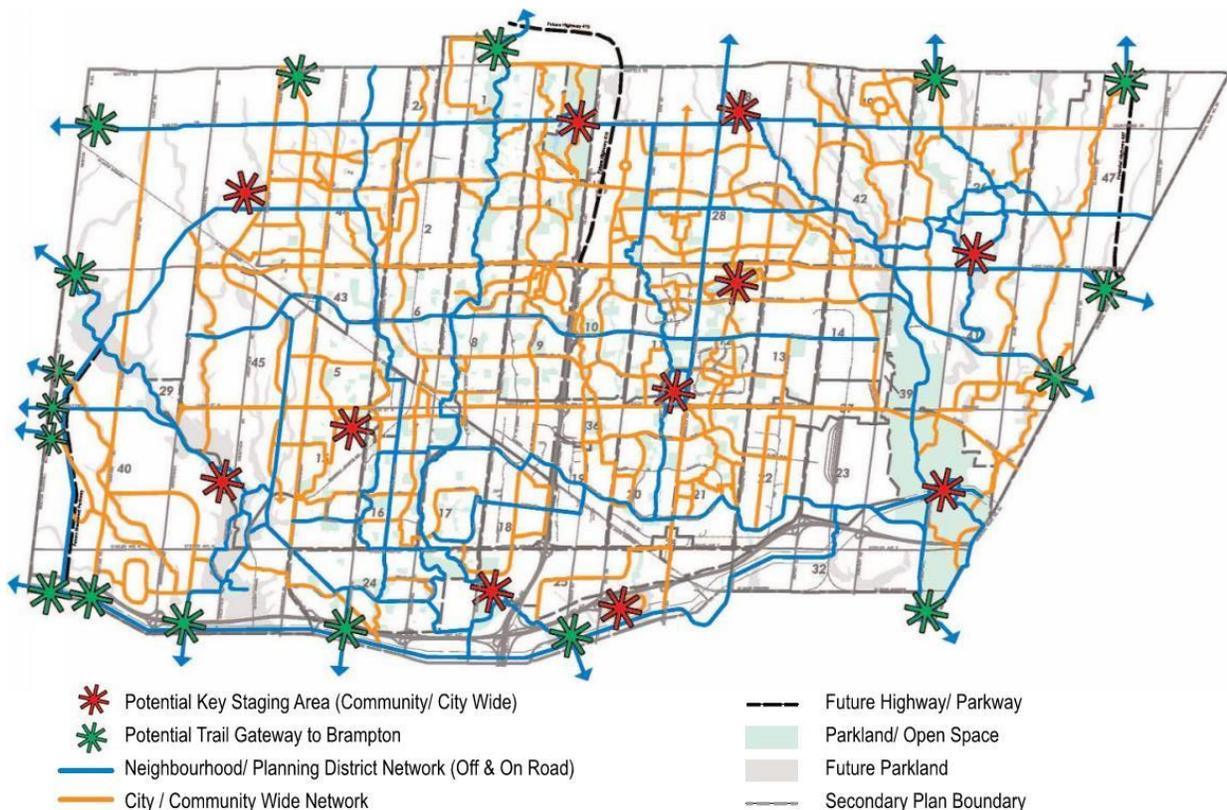
Figure 2-4: Brampton Recommended PathWays Network

A survey found that pathway use could be increased through better communication strategies, public restrooms, emergency phones, educational programs, and access to nearby venues. Respondents also indicated a desire for pathway access within 15 minutes of their home, that are accessible by transit, and that provide east-west connections.

3.0 State of Good Practice Age-Friendly Action Plans

Attention to Age-Friendly Planning has dramatically increased over the past decade. Communities all over the world have engaged in Age-Friendly Action planning. While the field is new, there are many examples of good and best practice in Canada and around the world. Five (5) examples of good Age-Friendly Strategies have been chosen for their relevance to Brampton from among the hundreds of global examples.

3.1 Case Study 1: Guelph, ON

The City of Guelph is a member of the WHO network of Age-Friendly Cities. In 2014, the City completed an "Older Adult Strategy," which identified key actions to implement Age-Friendliness. These were integrated into Guelph's Official Plan in 2014. Guelph was recognized for its work in 2018 with the "Ontario Age-Friendly Community Recognition Award" by the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility, formerly the Ministry of Seniors Affairs. Guelph was selected as a case study because of its location within the Greater Golden Horseshoe, and its similar scale to Brampton.

The City of Guelph partnered with the University of Guelph Institute for Community Engaged Scholarship to develop an Older Adult Community Profile for Guelph. This

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[16] Header image: AARP International Age-Friendly Communities Reception, San Francisco. http://www.aarpinternational.org/resources/age-friendly-communities

Community Profile informed evidence-based decisions in the Older Adult Strategy. The City also formed a cross-departmental action team, to ensure that the policies, programs and services that were developed as part of the project were integrated.

One strength of the Older Adult Strategy was its implementation in Guelph's Official Plan (OP). Some of these age-friendly OP policies are summarized in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1: Guelph Official Plan policies supporting Age-Friendly community dimensions

Action Plan Goal	Official Plan Policy
Outdoor Spaces and Buildings	
Promote the use of Universal Design Principles in all construction.	• Design and provide municipal infrastructure and set development standards that will promote a universally accessible environment (Section 3.7.6).
Promote the use and expansion of accessible public spaces.	• Design space that is accessible to all, regardless of personal limitations (Section 3.6, objective l)
Housing	
Ensure zoning and planning regulations do not create unintended barriers to development of housing choices for older adults.	• Plan for a range and mix of housing, taking into account affordable housing needs and encouraging the creation of secondary suites throughout the built-up area (Section 2.4.5.1, policy e). • Promote the development of diverse neighbourhoods in Downtown with a variety of housing choices (Section 11.1.7, objective d).
Expand the supply of affordable housing.	• Establish and implementing minimum affordable housing targets (Section 2.4.11, policy a). • Promote affordable housing located near transit, shopping, parks and other community facilities, to meet the needs of lower income and senior citizen households (Section 7.2.2, policy g).
Expand the availability, appropriateness and accessibility of supports to allow older adults to stay in their homes.	• Permit and facilitate all forms of housing required to meet social, health and well-being requirements, including special needs requirements (Section 2.4.11, policy b).

3.2   Case Study 2: Langley, BC

The Township of Langley, British Columbia, approved its first Age-Friendly Strategy in 2014. While it is not formally recognized by the WHO Age-Friendly City Network, it has been recognized under the Provincial Ministry of Health, Seniors' Healthy Living Secretariat, Age-Friendly BC recognition program. The Strategy, which was followed up by an Implementation Plan in 2015, and a Progress Report in 2017, is based on the 8 WHO Age-Friendly City Dimensions.

Langley's Age-Friendly Strategy is contextually relevant to Brampton. Like Brampton, Langley is located within a larger metropolitan area. Langley's development patterns are largely suburban.

One key action that was successfully implemented in Langley was to involve the public in planning for new parks and public spaces both early in the community planning process, and at the design stage. A public engagement strategy was endorsed in 2016, and the public continues to be engaged at an early phase. Another completed strategic action was the Adaptable Housing Policy, 2016. This requires adaptable housing in a proportion of all new housing developments across the Township. The current requirement is set at 5% of all new ground-oriented housing units, and 10% of all apartment units.

3.3   Case Study 3: St.-Charles, ON

St.-Charles is a community of approximately 1,300, located west of Lake Nipissing in Northern Ontario. St.-Charles' small population and relatively compact urban centre means that age-friendly planning lessons are transferrable to Brampton at a neighbourhood level. St.-Charles' Age Friendly action plan capitalized on strong social networks, informal support/information sharing, and low-cost high-impact actions. For example, one recommended action was to explore the feasibility of community carpool and ride-share programs – approaches to mobility that require little formalized infrastructure but have the potential to deliver benefits within several age-friendly dimensions. In 2017, St.-Charles received $500,000 from the Ministry of Transportation to support this action and explore community transportation.

In 2018, St.-Charles was recognized by the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility for its work in Age-Friendly Action Planning.

3.4 Case Study 4: Manchester, UK

Manchester is one of the world leaders in Age-Friendly Planning. It was the first UK City to be designated by the WHO as an age-friendly city. Manchester has specific transferrable lessons for Brampton. Like Brampton, Manchester has a generally young population as compared to the national average. Unfortunately, initial indicators showed that the elderly suffered worse health outcomes as compared to the UK as a whole.[17]

The success of the Manchester Ageing Strategy has been attributed to strong political leadership, the development of a local narrative that resonated strongly with Manchester residents, and the development of a strong strategy and program to enable effective partnerships, especially from the grassroots.

Two aspects of the Manchester Ageing Strategy have particularly strong resonance with Brampton.

> **Lifetime Neighbourhoods:** to respond to the WHO's "Outdoor Spaces and Buildings" dimension of Age-Friendly Cities, Manchester created a Lifetime neighbourhoods concept to encourage well-designed and age-inclusive living environments. Manchester also engaged older people as key partners in their journey towards becoming and environmentally friendly Green City.

> **Focus on visible minority elders:** One of the critical lessons for Brampton from the Manchester case study is the importance of recognizing racial inequality and the specific needs of elders from various cultural demographics. Leveraging partnerships with the University of Manchester, the Age Friendly Work Plan includes a research project led by the Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Aging that investigates age-friendly communities for ethnic minorities.

> As part of its Communication and Information strategy, Manchester focused on reaching minority elders and those from disadvantaged areas. Overall,

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[17] Tine Buffel, et al., "Developing Age-Friendly Cities: Case Studies from Brussels and Manchester and Implications for Policy and Practice," Journal of Aging & Social Policy, 2014 (26): 57. DOI: 10.1080/08959420.2014.855043

Manchester centred and celebrated its high proportion of visible minority elders in crafting its local narrative.

3.5   Case Study 5: Montgomery County, Maryland, USA

Montgomery County, MD, enrolled in the WHO Network of Age-Friendly Communities in 2015, but some of its most successful age-friendly practices and programs date farther back. In 2012, the County Council adopted the Senior Agenda, which has served as a framework for achieving the County's goal of transforming into a "Community for a Lifetime."

Montgomery County is a valuable example for Brampton because, like Brampton, over 50% of its population are people of colour. Also like Brampton, the county is one municipality in a larger metropolitan region.

Some of the successes achieved under this Senior Agenda are reviewed herein:

Villages Movement: Montgomery County supports the national Villages movement. A "Village" is an intentional community started by residents within a general geographic area that aims to offer social support to its members. A Village generally involves volunteer support to help older adults stay in their homes and form social connections, but there are many village models, for example:

- Paid membership, but volunteer-run, like Bradley Hills Village
- Entirely free and volunteer-run, like Olney Home for Life
- Based around an existing community centre, like the Muslim Community Centre (20905), which offers culturally-appropriate medical and social programs that are nevertheless open to people of all ethnicities and religious backgrounds.

InterAges: A joint initiative between the County and the Jewish Council for the Ageing of Greater Washington (JCA) provides a number of programs, including three senior-specific employment programs. One of these, the JCA Career Gateways Program, has helped 61% of participants find a job within three weeks of graduation.

This joint initiative began with the ongoing **InterAges** program, which provides an environment for youth and older adults to interact. For example, Grandreaders is a program that pairs children who need ESL (English as a Second Language) support with older adult volunteers for weekly reading and language activities.

Transportation to Recreation: The Montgomery County Department of Recreation and the Jewish Council on Aging provide transportation to senior centres and some community centres, for residents in their service areas who are aged 55 or older. They use a combination of curb-to-curb and fixed route transportation.[18]

Seniors also ride free on the County's bus transit system ("Ride On") from 9:30 to 3:30 on weekdays, and transit training is available to help seniors learn how to use the system.

Table 3-2: Summary of Age-Friendly Best Practices from Case Studies

	Age-Friendly OP Policies	Age-Friendly Parks and Recreation Planning	Strategies to leverage social networks	Strategies to engage diversity	Age-Friendly Community Design Requirements
Guelph, ON	X				X
Langley, BC		X			
St.-Charles, ON			X		
Manchester, UK				X	X
Montgomery County, MD, USA			X	X	
Brampton	X	X	X	X	X

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[18] https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/senior/transportation.html

4.0 Brampton Age-Friendly Strengths & Opportunities

The Brampton Baseline Assessment of Age-Friendly Community Dimensions has been prepared based on best practices in age-friendly planning and the review of documents contained herein. This Baseline Assessment is not exhaustive, and it is intended that this review will form a starting point for subsequent work on the Age-Friendly Brampton strategy, including the public engagement process.

The Assessment is structured according to the WHO's eight dimensions of age-friendly communities: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings; Transportation; Housing; Social Participation; Respect and Social Inclusion; Communication and Information; Civic Participation and Employment; and Community Support and Health Services. Each dimension is presented in the following format:

Summary: A short introduction to the dimension, its importance, as well as aspects of this dimension that were assessed during the age-friendly planning process.

Existing Age-Friendly Assets: A summary of the age-friendly features, programs and services that were identified through the document review.

Header image: Raysonho @ Open Grid Scheduler/Grid Engine (2011) CCO 1.0

Opportunities for Improvement: Where common issues and concerns were identified based on existing Brampton documents; comments by the Age-Friendly City Advisory Committee; and age-friendly best practices, they are listed here.

4.1   Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

The design, quality and condition of the outdoor environment and public buildings can have a significant impact on the mobility, independence and quality of life of older residents.

Safe, accessible and well-maintained streets, parks, buildings and other

Figure 4-1: Gage Park (Randy Landicho, 2016, CC)

public spaces have a positive influence on residents' health and quality of life, by making it easier to move freely around the City to access services and take part in community activities. A community audit in a selection of indicator neighbourhoods will be conducted to identify the accessibility and attractiveness of the existing built form. The review included herein identifies programs and policies that are leveraged to support age-friendly Outdoor Spaces and Buildings.

Existing Age-Friendly Assets

- The City employs an accessibility coordinator who reviews site plan applications for new developments, following the Urban Design Guidelines which support age-friendly principles.

- The City of Brampton's Healthy Development Guidelines offer a strong policy framework for ensuring that new development is accessible and attractive to older adults.

- Peel's Art Gallery Museum and Archives (PAMA) has recently committed to capital projects to replace elevators and install accessible sinks and counters in the PAMA studios.

4.2   Transportation

The availability and accessibility of transportation has a major impact on older residents' social participation and access to health and community services.

Affordable, accessible and safe transportation permits residents of all ages and abilities to take part in community life. To ensure age-friendly transportation, all areas of the City should be served by a public or community transportation system that is accessible for all users; transportation pick-up/drop-off points should be safe and clearly marked; and transportation services must be affordable and available at convenient times. The Baseline Assessment considered programs and strategies that are helping Brampton move toward this ideal.

Figure 4-2: Chinguacousy Trail (Milan Suvajac, 2017, CC 4.0)

Existing Age-Friendly Assets

- Older adults feel that public transportation is available close to their homes, and that they have good access to shopping and restaurants.[20]

- All Brampton Transit buses (including both Züm and regular buses) have lowering capabilities, and seniors pay a reduced transit fee ($1) to ride.

- TransHelp (Peel Region) offers door to door transit service for those with physical disabilities.

- The "Ride to Rose" program offers rides for people with disabilities to the Rose Theatre, and discounted tickets for seniors.

- The Region of Peel, Public Works, currently operates a red-light camera program throughout Brampton and the Region to improve intersection safety for pedestrians.

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[20] ERIN Research, "Housing Plans, Needs and Insights of Older Adults in Peel Region," 2017.

- Newcomer Bus Tours are delivered by a partnership between Transit, Recreation and the Brampton Library.

- Snow Removal Financial Assistance Program helps senior citizens and physically challenged homeowners with the costs of hiring a service provider to remove snow from their sidewalks and driveways.

Opportunities for Improvement

- A survey by the Sheridan Centre for Elder Research identified schedule (42%), cost (26%) and knowledge about public transit services (25%) as major barriers to use.

4.3   Housing

The Region of Peel is the social and affordable housing manager for Brampton.

The availability of appropriate housing has a major impact on the quality of life of older residents and the opportunity for them to age in place within their communities.

Access to safe, affordable and accessible housing is critical to the well-being of all residents. As residents' housing needs can change over time, it is important that a range of housing choices and support

Figure 4-3: Conceptual rendering of the Peel Manor Health and Wellness Village

services be available throughout the City to allow people to live independently for as long as possible and remain part of their communities as they age. This Baseline Assessment identifies the programs and initiatives undertaken by Brampton to support availability, affordability and accessibility of housing for seniors.

Existing Age-Friendly Assets

- A Seniors Housing Study is underway to identify sites close to amenities for seniors housing in Brampton.

- Peel Region has published a 55+ Housing Guide to help seniors identify options and supports, whether they wish to remain in their home, find new independent housing, find shelter or transitional housing, or find long term care.

- Peel has grant programs to improve accessibility and affordability for low-income families.

- Peel Manor is a longstanding institution offering long-term care in Brampton. As it has reached the end of its useful life, a plan has been approved for redevelopment into a Seniors Health and Wellness Village. This will include minimum 177 long-term care beds, Adult Day Service, and companion health services in the form of a seniors' hub.

- Around 40% of older adults in Brampton live higher-density typologies, including semi-detached houses, rowhouses and apartments.[21] This can make service delivery and community walkability easier.

Opportunities for Improvement

- The Housing Plans, Needs and Insights of Older Adults in Peel Region collected responses from 696 Brampton adults aged 55+. The study found that:

  - 30% of respondents received a rent subsidy,

  - 35% of respondents found housing costs "difficult" or "very difficult" to afford.

  - 39% of respondents reported the need to make physical modifications to their homes, and of these, 81% felt cost was a barrier to doing so.

4.4   Social Participation

Opportunities for social participation and support are crucial for health and well-being at all stages of life. Social participation includes getting involved in social, recreational, cultural and spiritual pursuits.

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[21] ERIN Research, "Housing Plans, Needs and Insights of Older Adults in Peel Region," 2017.

It benefits both individuals and the community at large, by allowing older people to exercise competence and enjoy respect and supportive relationships.

Both Brampton and the Region of Peel are responsible for social assistance and employment programs, community programs funding. Currently, 380 seniors volunteer across all recreation services. In 2016, there were 6,682 55+ memberships, resulting in 361,499 scans (unique visits). City-wide, there were 1,706 55+ registered program users.

Listed herein are some of the programs and initiatives that support seniors to be socially engaged.

Existing Age-Friendly Assets

Figure 4-4: Advertisement for the Flower City Seniors Recreation Centre published in the 2018 Recreation Guide

- The Cultural Services unit of the Economic Development and Culture Division hosts free events throughout the City with designated accessible areas.

- The Seniors' Council encourages the inclusion of seniors across the City.

- Brampton offers a 25% discount to seniors on all recreation programs. Swim/skate and walking track memberships are free for those age 70+.

- Active Assist is a subsidy program to help low-income people of all ages to participate in recreation programs. Once approved, individuals qualify for a credit of $275/year for two years.

- Flower City Seniors Centre is operated by the City, and provides programming in arts, cards, dance, drama, music, education, fitness, sports and special events. Membership was 2,753 in 2016, and there were 53,206 scans (unique visits) in 2016.

- Knightsbridge Community & Seniors Centre is operated by the community with support from the City and offers a similar range of programming.

- Riverstone Recreation Centre, with an emphasis on seniors' programming, is scheduled to open in Spring 2019.

- Brampton Library provides a variety of collections-related materials for seniors.

- Brampton Library provides a Seniors Series, a Seniors Fair (June), book clubs, computer classes, Memoirs Writing Group, Sit n' Stitch, and volunteer opportunities.

4.5 Respect and Social Inclusion

Respect for the roles and community contributions of aging residents can help reduce isolation and improve older adults' well-being. Fostering awareness of the needs and contributions of older people throughout the community can help them be treated with greater respect and in turn help them participate more fully in community life.

Brampton has undertaken several initiatives to foster respect of older adults and to encourage opportunities for social inclusion.

Existing Age-Friendly Assets

- The Brampton Inclusion and Equity Committee was established in 2015, and is a 2016-2018 Strategic Plan, Strong Communities priority initiative. It provides advice to Council on promoting equity and inclusion, and works to ensure that City programs and services align with the needs of Brampton's diverse communities.

- Accessibility training is mandated for all municipal staff, contractors and service providers.

- Mandatory training for Recreation, Fire, Transit and Brampton Library staff on facilitating communication with different cultural groups (Inclusion and Equity Committee – Inventory of Programs, Initiatives and Services).

4.6   Civic Participation and Employment

Older residents offer a variety of skills, experience, and knowledge, and should have the opportunity to use them in paid or voluntary work for as long as they would like to do so.

As individuals and the community can benefit from the continued active participation of older residents, barriers to civic participation and employment should be minimized.

Figure 4-5: Peel Manor Barbecue - redevelopment engagement event

The City of Brampton and community partners have undertaken a number of programs to encourage Civic Participation and Employment for older adults, listed herein.

Existing Age-Friendly Assets

- The Brampton Seniors Council is composed of representatives from senior citizens organizations. The council works with government agencies to meet needs of senior citizens, evaluates existing programs, coordinates between community groups, and cooperatively plans special events.

- Seniors groups affiliated with the City of Brampton get in kind space to meet during the day at all community centres. There are currently 76 Affiliated Groups.

- Theatre volunteer programs at the Rose Theatre and Lester B. Pearson Theatre rely heavily on seniors.

- Many seniors-specific recreation programs are led by seniors.

- Brampton Library's "Through Our Eyes" project filmed interviews between volunteer seniors/youth and local senior citizens to capture first-hand accounts of Brampton life over the years.

- Romance then and Now is an intergenerational program by the Brampton Library, funded by a New Horizons Grant. Programmes are run and filmed in retirement homes, unlocking and recording long-forgotten memories. The materials will be shared with the community.

Opportunities for Improvement

- Older adults in Brampton did not generally agree that there were good opportunities to work or volunteer in their communities in ways that suited their age.[22]

- In the HOAP study, only 35% of Brampton residents would choose to remain in their current community if they were to move.[23]

4.7   Communication and Information

Access to clear, relevant information is vital in helping older residents maintain their health, quality of life and community connections.

Through proper communication of programs, services and opportunities, older residents can maintain their independence and participate fully in community life. Brampton has undertaken a number of steps to ensure that its communication strategies are accessible, and there are community partnerships and organizations that offer potential outreach pipelines, some of which are listed herein.

Existing Age-Friendly Assets

- The Brampton Senior Citizens' Council meeting offers a potential dissemination pipeline to local seniors' clubs.

- The Planning Vision engagement included a seniors' charrette and presentation to the Seniors Council.

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[22] ERIN Research, "Housing Plans, Needs and Insights of Older Adults in Peel Region," 2017.
[23] ERIN Research, "Housing Plans, Needs and Insights of Older Adults in Peel Region," 2017.

- Online information, including media releases, Matte stories, online Council newsletters, and other important information are available in English, Punjabi, Urdu, Portuguese and French. Many of these materials are available in print in up to 8 additional languages.

- All staff, volunteers and persons who provide goods and services on behalf of the Region of Peel are trained on accessible communication; staff in nursing and social work has enhanced accessibility training.

- Brampton Library branches provide adjustable workstations, BrowseAloud Plus, Expert Trackball Mouse, Large Screen Monitors, Large Print Keyboards, Magnifying Sheets, and ZoomText.

- A current initiative is to offer all City webpages in 103 different languages, and to design website in accordance with W3C guidelines for Accessible Design (Inclusion and Equity Committee – Inventory of Programs, Initiatives and Services).

Opportunities for Improvement

- Only 12% of older adult respondents in Brampton were aware of the "Peel Renovates" program, and 7% had heard of the "Home in Peel: Affordable Ownership Program." Respondents felt that Regional mail-outs and the Region of Peel website were the best ways to share information on housing programs.[24]

4.8   Community Support and Health Services

To maintain their health and independence, aging residents need access to a full range of medical and support services in their communities.

Appropriate community services permit residents to remain in their communities longer, benefiting individuals and the City as a whole. Programs and initiatives identified in this Baseline Assessment that support older adults in their community are listed herein.

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[24] ERIN Research, "Housing Plans, Needs and Insights of Older Adults in Peel Region," 2017.

Existing Age-Friendly Assets

- Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network is an umbrella organization with a direct membership of 40 service providers, seniors' organizations and businesses, serving an indirect membership of 25,000 older adults.

- Catholic Family Services Peel-Dufferin – owner and operator of the Honourable William G. Davis Centre for Families in Brampton.

- The City of Brampton and Central West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) offer fall-prevention classes

- Peel Region Services offer a range of public health programs, including a free travelling dental clinic and adult day programs.

- The Brampton Civic Hospital and Peel Memorial Centre offer medical services.

- The Peel Memorial Centre – Centre for Seniors and Rehabilitation.

- Sheridan College Centre for Elder Research is an important resource for Brampton. A current research program is "Building Connected Communities: Improving community supports to reduce loneliness and social isolation in immigrants 65+".

- Peel Region is responsible for emergency services and responds to 110,000 emergencies a year.

Opportunities for Improvement

- Older adults in Brampton did not feel that there were good health supports in their communities suited to their needs.[25]

- Only 53% of respondents to a 2017 survey did not report a condition or disability that limited their quality of life.[26]

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[25] ERIN Research, "Housing Plans, Needs and Insights of Older Adults in Peel Region," 2017.
[26] ERIN Research, "Housing Plans, Needs and Insights of Older Adults in Peel Region," 2017.

5.0 Conclusion

The City of Brampton Baseline Assessment aimed to assess how well the City currently meets the needs of older adults in the eight dimensions identified by the WHO, and to identify opportunities for improvement. [27]

Key Issues

The review of existing policies and programs conducted for this report reveals that Brampton already has a strong policy framework to ensure that new development and redevelopment results in an accessible, age-friendly built form. Mount Pleasant Village is a strong case study showing how Brampton's land-use planning and community design approach can be leveraged to create a community that offers walkability, accessible transit, diverse housing options, and a mix of amenities and community facilities, all within one neighbourhood.

Significant areas of Brampton have already been built up. The Brampton 2040 Vision envisions the redevelopment and redesign of local streets throughout Brampton. City-led and community projects have the potential to retrofit Brampton's existing built form so that is easy for older adults, people with disabilities and youth to access all the

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[27] Header image: Jak Phreak (2007) CC BY SA 3.0

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services, facilities and amenities they need with dignity. This will be a significant challenge.

The City of Brampton has also shown strong commitment to accessibility in communications and customer service, as has the Brampton Library, among other important community facilities. Programs led by community partners offer opportunities for civic engagement and social participation. These strengths should form the cornerstone of Brampton's Age-Friendly Strategy with respect to the Age-Friendly Dimensions of Social Participation: Respect and Social Inclusion; Civic Participation and Employment; and Communication and Information.

The most major opportunity for improvement identified by this Baseline Assessment is engagement of Brampton's diverse ethnic communities. Brampton's population is 44% South Asian and 14% Black, but the needs of these and other cultural groups have not necessarily been reflected in municipal planning, programs and services. For example, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan notes that new Seniors' Centres will need to incorporate greater cultural nuance into their design, planning and programming to ensure that seniors of all ethnic backgrounds feel welcomed and included in their community facilities. It will be critical, throughout the development of Brampton's Age-Friendly Strategy, to maintain this culturally aware approach to planning for older adults.

Balancing the needs of Brampton's large youth population with the needs of its growing seniors' population will be a critical challenge over the lifetime of the Age-Friendly Strategy. The inclusion of youth representatives on the Age-Friendly Brampton Advisory Committee means that the issues, interests and strengths of Brampton's young people will be incorporated into the Age-Friendly Strategy. Continuing to value the involvement of youth, particularly those of underrepresented ethnic communities, will ensure the success of the Strategy in making Brampton better for people of all ages.

Next Steps

The structure and content of this Report are designed to comprise Phase 1 of the Ontario Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility's Age-Friendly Planning process (described in Section 3.0) and feed seamlessly into the preparation of an Age-Friendly Community Action Plan in accordance with Phase 2.

More broadly, this Report invites residents to view Brampton and its potential through an age-friendly lens. It offers an opportunity for municipal departments, community organizations, businesses and individuals within the City to assess how their activities might address the areas for improvement that were identified, or to advocate for age-friendly improvements to services and facilities at all levels of government. Every member of the Brampton community can play an active role in making the city a welcoming and accessible place to live, work and play at every stage of life.

AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

TRANSPORTATION

HOUSING

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

OUTDOOR SPACES & BUILDINGS

COMMUNITY SUPPORT & HEALTH SERVICES

COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

CIVIC PARTICIPATION & EMPLOYMENT

RESPECT & SOCIAL INCLUSION

**CITY OF BRAMPTON
AGE FRIENDLY STRATEGY**

BASELINE ASSESSMENT REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2018

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