

## Chapter 4: Designing Communities to Enhance Quality of Life

Our society has become increasingly compartmentalized and segregated. People live in one place and work or shop in another place, sometimes far from home. Although there has been an expansion of health clinics in the counties, the majority of clinical services in Planning District Ten are still located in the Charlottesville urban area. Nursing homes and assisted living facilities are often far-removed from local stores and amenities. The generations are frequently separated, and old and young often go about their lives in completely different spheres.

Reliance on the car as a primary means of travel has contributed to the organization of communities, where housing, schools, resources, entertainment and commercial centers are separated by function. Automobile travel has many advantages, but when community design is based on the assumption that people will drive between places, access is denied to many. Without adequate planning, this situation will only worsen as more Virginians age and stop driving. Transportation was identified in public forums as a top priority for 2020 planners to address. Because transportation and land use planning are intimately connected, they are addressed together, with focus on increasing access and reconnecting people to their communities, their environment, and each other.



### 1. PROVIDE SAFER, MORE CONVENIENT, FLEXIBLE AND AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS.

- 1.1 Provide safety on roadways and promote incentives to reduce congestion.
- 1.2 Develop a seamless mass transit system that is available 7 days a week for the entire planning district. (Mass transit should be accessible to people with disabilities and can include such options as public or private paratransit services, ridesharing, commuter trains, bus rapid transit and light rail systems.)
- 1.3 Develop a regional statutory and regulatory environment that encourages increased mass transit throughout the region.
- 1.4 Offer high-speed transit between cities that does not require the traveler to be the operator.

### 2. IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY DESIGN.

- 2.1 Design model neighborhoods to enhance walkability, open spaces, and diversity of uses.
- 2.2 Ensure that every community has locally accessible health and social service facilities.
- 2.3 Provide greater access to resources owned by government entities.