

COMMUNITIES FOR A LIFETIME CITY PROFILE

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, MINNESOTA

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This City Profile was prepared by Dakota County's Communities for a Lifetime (CFL) Initiative—an initiative engaging community members and leaders in the private and public sectors to create accessible, supportive Communities for a Lifetime that enable people to lead active vital lives. Dakota County and individual cities work together in many areas to make communities more age-friendly. We work together on housing, public safety, transportation, workforce issues, and many other areas.

The population is aging. This is true across the nation, across the state, and in most communities in Minnesota. The shape and way of life in our communities needs to reflect this changing demographic landscape. Fortunately, people of any age desire similar things. They want to live in a community that is safe, affordable, and convenient, and that offers services and amenities that meet their needs, and opportunities that enrich their lives. But as people age, certain community characteristics are essential to a vital life. This profile reviews some of these features at the community level using reliable and accessible data from reputable sources.

WHAT MAKES A COMMUNITY FOR A LIFETIME?

- **Transportation options** to help keep people mobile and independent
- **Walkable neighborhoods** for transport and exercise
- **A full range of affordable housing** options as needs change
- Accessible and quality **services that support older adults and caregivers** in home and community settings
- Flexible and supportive **employment and volunteer opportunities**, including intergenerational activities
- **Effective technology** to connect people and help with life's activities

IS YOUR CITY BUILDING A COMMUNITY FOR A LIFETIME?

- Does your **Comprehensive Plan** present a plan and a vision for residents of all ages?
- Do your **land use, housing, and transportation policies** take the needs of an aging population into account?
- Are you **realizing the competitive advantage** of healthy, vital, and engaged older residents?

Population – page 3

| Boomers in 2014 | Age 65+ in 2014 | AARP Livability Index Score (0-100) |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 33.6% | 19.2% | 60 |

Overall Livability – page 4

Housing – page 5

| Home Owners 65+ Spending 30% or More in 2014 | Renters 65+ Spending 30% or More in 2014 | Subsidized Rentals per 100 People Age 75-84 | Housing Performance Score in 2006 – 2015 (0-100) |
|--|--|---|--|
| 28% | 66% | 14 | 33 |

| Assisted Living Units per 100 People Age 85+ | Memory Care Units per 100 People Age 85+ | Non-Single Family Homes in 2015 | Homes with Single Level Living Option in 2014 |
|--|--|---------------------------------|---|
| 0 | 0 | 29% | 37% |

Mobility – page 12

| Annual Household Transportation Costs in 2008-2012 | City-Wide Walk Score in 2016 (0-100) | Mixed-Use Area Walk Score in 2016 (0-100) | Percent of Streets with Sidewalks or Trails in 2015 |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| \$14,018 | 11 | 52 | 23% |

| Daily Fixed Route Public Transit | Door-to-Door Transit | Volunteer Driver Program | Traffic Crashes per 1,000 Persons 65+ in 2014 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Yes | Yes | Yes | 17.2 |

Land Use – page 17

| Mixed-Use Land in 2010 | Number of Parks in ½ Mile Radius | Number of Grocery Stores in ½ Mile Radius |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 0.31% | 2.7 | 0.1 |

Community Life – page 20

| Age 65+ in Labor Force in 2014 | Age 65+ Volunteer Hrs. in 2014 | Age 65+ Living Alone in 2014 | Change in Crime 2010 to 2015 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 30.3% | 49,696 | 20% | +2.3% |

Age-Friendly Policies – page 24

| Accessory Dwelling Policy | Complete Streets Policy | Mixed Use Land Development Policy | Bike Walk Policy |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| No | No | Yes | No |

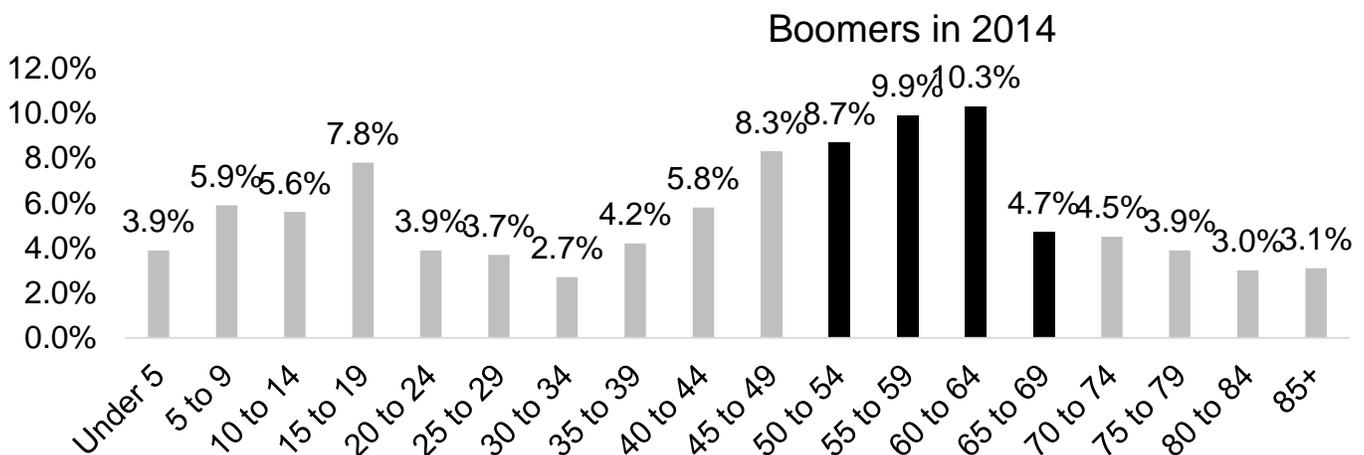
(All data presented in this one page overview is from 2013 unless otherwise noted.)

POPULATION

AGING OF THE POPULATION

The Baby Boom generation, born between 1946 and 1964, now age 50 to 68, represents a large percentage of the population. As they age, many Boomers will want to remain in the community where they currently live. Cities that recognize and respond positively to the aging population can gain a competitive advantage by meeting the needs and desires of their older population, and in doing so, will attract younger age groups that want an age-friendly community.

POPULATION BY AGE FOR MENDOTA HEIGHTS IN 2014



* Age groupings corresponding to the Boomer generation are presented in black.
 Source: 2011-2014 American Community Survey (Table S0101)

In 2014, **19.2%** of Mendota Heights residents were 65 and older. This age group will grow substantially over the next 20 years, as members of the much larger boomer cohort age. The boomer age group (in 2014) represents about a third of the Mendota Heights population (**33.6%**). According to AARP, since 1990, roughly 90% of older Americans have stayed in the county they've been living in, if not the very same home. **Is Mendota Heights prepared for Boomers to age in place in the community?**

In a 2014 National Council on Aging Survey, 54% of older adults (age 60+) said their community is doing enough to prepare for the needs of the growing aging population. [1]

¹ *The United States of Aging Survey 2014*, National Council on Aging. Retrieved on September 21, 2015 from: <https://www.ncoa.org/wp-content/uploads/USA14-National-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

OVERALL LIVABILITY

THE AARP LIVABILITY INDEX

The AARP Livability Index is a web-based tool that allows users to measure the overall livability of US neighborhoods, cities, counties, or states based on 40 quantitative metrics and 20 public policies defined by the AARP's Public Policy Institute. The 40 measures of livability and 20 public policy are divided into seven major categories: housing, neighborhood, transportation, environment, health, engagement, and opportunity. The tool allows users to compare the results for their community with other communities, including national leaders in livability. 100 is the highest possible score in each category. Scores above 50 should be considered above-average, and scores below 50, below-average.

AARP INDEX SCORES FOR APPLE VALLEY AND SELECT PEER CITIES, 0 TO 100

| Category | Mendota Heights | South St. Paul | West St. Paul | Dakota County | Minnesota |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| Total Score | 60 | 63 | 65 | 59 | 60 |
| Housing | 48 | 52 | 55 | 47 | 58 |
| Neighborhood | 60 | 65 | 66 | 57 | 52 |
| Transportation | 60 | 71 | 72 | 53 | 59 |
| Environment | 59 | 61 | 65 | 61 | 62 |
| Health | 70 | 70 | 70 | 66 | 60 |
| Engagement | 58 | 57 | 57 | 58 | 67 |
| Opportunity | 68 | 68 | 72 | 71 | 62 |

Source: AARP Livability Index, Retrieved on November 30, 2016 from: <https://livabilityindex.aarp.org>

The Total Score for Mendota Heights of 60, which is an average of the seven sub-categories, is just slightly lower than two select peer cities in Dakota County. Mendota Heights' Total Score is the same as the state of Minnesota as a whole, and just one point higher than the score for all of Dakota County. By the measures and policies that make up this Index, Mendota Heights, its peers, and the whole state are above-average in terms of livability. Apple Valley scored highest in the Health category, but the two peer cities had identical scores on this measure. Mendota Heights' lowest score was in Housing with a 48, its only below-average rating; this category includes measures on housing options, affordability, and the physical accessibility of homes. **Are there other cities within Dakota County and around the country, with similarities to Mendota Heights, scoring higher on the AARP Index that could push Mendota Heights forward in planning for an older population?**

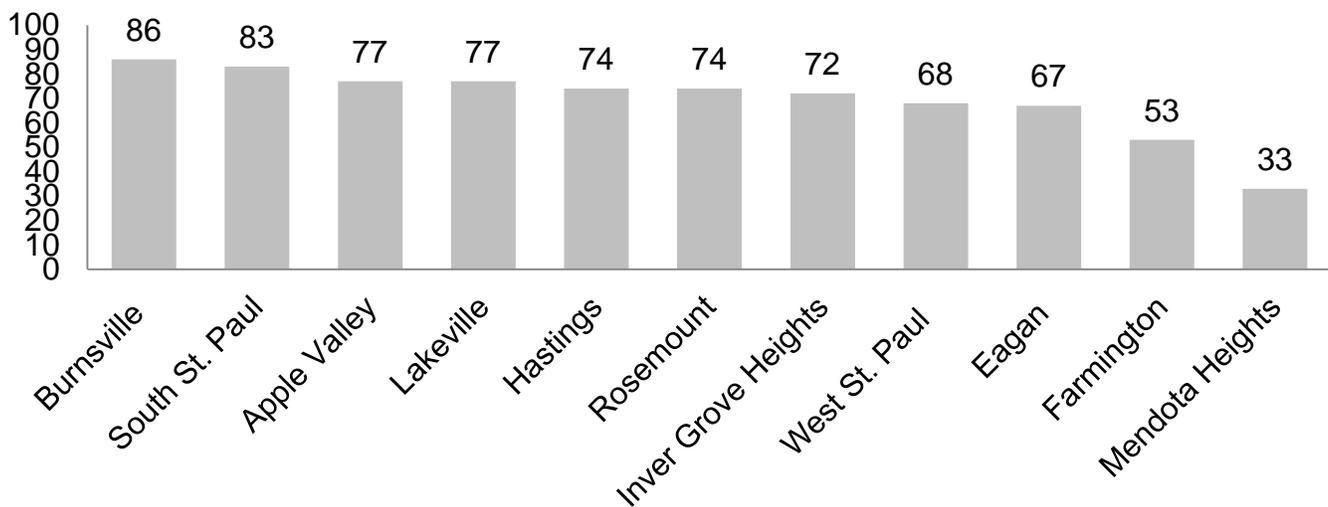
HOUSING

OVERALL HOUSING PERFORMANCE

INDICATOR: HIGH OR INCREASING ANNUAL HOUSING PERFORMANCE SCORE

The Metropolitan Council rates Twin Cities' area communities to promote effective housing development and to make funding decisions for local housing projects. Each community's score is based on the following broad criteria: (a) Increased housing variety, (b) Housing cost, (c) Mixed land uses, (d) Increased transportation choices, and (e) Leverage of private investment. [2]

2006 – 2015 Average HOUSING PERFORMANCE SCORES OF SELECT DAKOTA COUNTY CITIES, 0 TO 100



For the specific scoring criteria, please see: [Guidelines for Priority Funding for Housing Performance](#)

Source: Metropolitan Council Housing Performance Scores, 2006 - 2015.

From 2006-2015, Mendota Height's average Housing Performance Score was **33**, with a high score of 45 in 2006 and a low score of 26 in 2015. The average score for the eleven major cities of Dakota County from 2006 to 2015 was 69, which marks Mendota Height's average score well below average. Mendota Heights received the lowest Housing Performance Score among its peers in Dakota County. The city's low score suggests that Mendota Heights compares very unfavorably to its peers in one or more of the scoring criteria: housing variety, affordability, mixed-use development, transportation choices, and leverage of private investment. **What criteria can Mendota Heights work on to improve its Housing Performance Score? Could Mendota Heights improve its approach to housing as it makes plans to develop or redevelop land?**

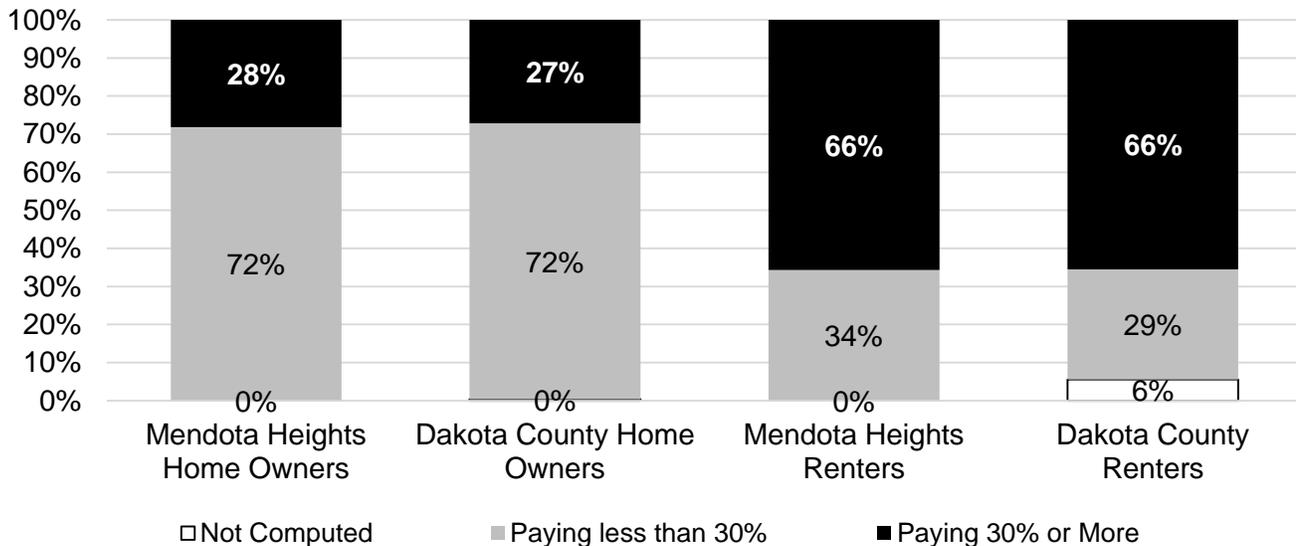
² *Guidelines for Priority Funding for Housing Performance*, Metropolitan Council, July 2015. Retrieved on Sep. 30, 2015 from: <https://metro council.org/Housing/Publications-And-Resources/HOUSING-POLICY-PLANS-REPORTS/Guidelines-for-Priority-Funding-for-Housing-Perfor.aspx>

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

INDICATOR: SPENDING 30% OR LESS OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME ON HOUSING

This measure has long been a standard for defining housing as affordable. It is a good measure of affordability whether a household is above or below the Median Household Income in a community. In most communities, the cost of rental housing is of greater concern than owner-occupied homes—many more renters pay more for their housing as a percentage of their income.

Housing Costs as Percent of Gross Income for Homeowners and Renters 65+ in 2014



Source: 2010-2014 American Community Survey (Table B25093 and B25072)

Twenty-eight percent of Mendota Heights’ home owners pay more than 30% of their gross income for housing. This is nearly identical to the situation of homeowners in Dakota County as a whole. Well more than half (**66%**) of Mendota Heights renters pay more than 30% on their housing, while rental housing costs in Mendota Heights are identical to the county as a whole. **Could Mendota Heights, Dakota County, and other public and private partners invest more in subsidized rental housing to help bring down housing costs for lower-income renters, including older adults?**

20% of Minnesota Baby Boomers were considering a move in 2010 due to the cost of housing. [3]
49% of older adults (age 60+) are concerned they will have too little money to last the rest of their lives. [4]

³ Transform 2010 Data Report: Baby Boomer Survey, Minnesota Department of Human Services, 2010. Retrieved on September 30, 2015 from: http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/aging/documents/pub/dhs16_156199.pdf

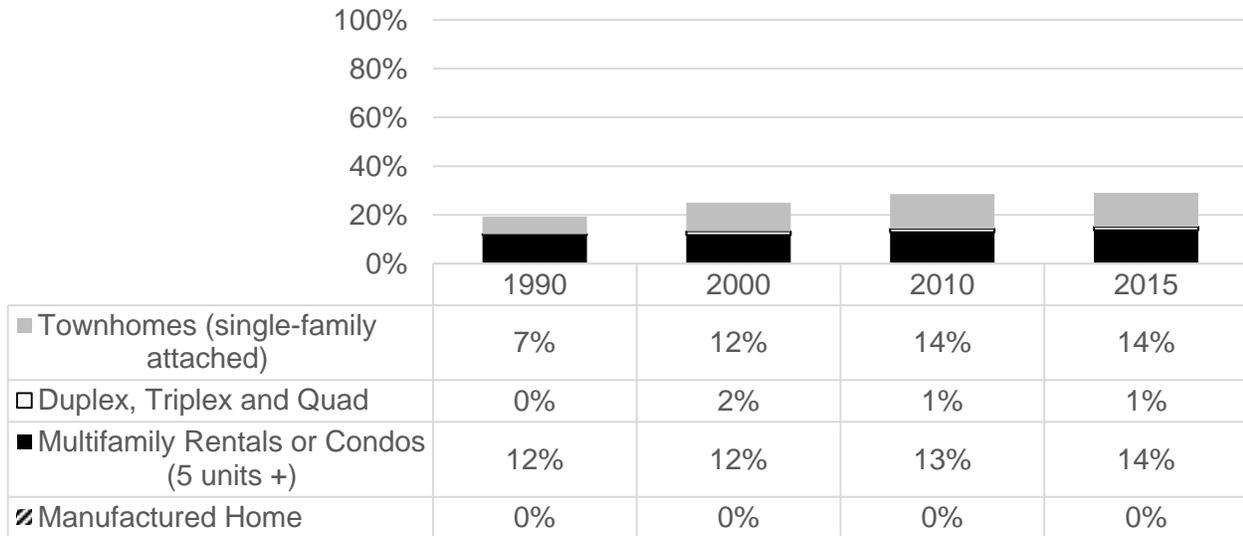
⁴ The United States of Aging Survey 2014, National Council on Aging. Retrieved on September 30, 2015 from: <https://www.ncoa.org/wp-content/uploads/USA14-National-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

HOUSING CHOICE

INDICATOR: INCREASED VARIETY OF HOUSING BEYOND SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

A person’s housing needs and preferences evolve throughout their life. Housing variety, including the cost and features of homes, allow people to grow-up and age in the same community. Communities that lack housing variety that is desirable to older residents may lose those residents to other communities within the county or elsewhere.

PERCENTAGE OF **Non-Single Family Home** HOUSING BY TYPE IN MENDOTA HEIGHTS, 1990-2015



Source: U.S. Census 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2015; Metropolitan Council Housing Stock Estimates, 2015.

Among major non-single family home housing types, between 1990 to 2015 Mendota Heights saw an increase in Townhomes from 7% to 14%, and a very slight increase in Multifamily Rentals or Condos, from 12% to 14%. Duplex, Triplex and Quad properties remained roughly the same. Corresponding to this growth, Single-Family Detached homes saw a decline in percentage from 80% in 1990 to 71% in 2015. Even so, Single-Family Detached homes remain the dominant housing type in Mendota Heights. **Could Mendota Heights further increase its housing variety in the coming years to appeal to older residents who may want to down-size, or younger residents who need or prefer a non-single family home?**

28% of Minnesota Boomers planning to move by 2020 reported they are considering a townhome or condominium. [5]
40% of older adults (age 60+) anticipate home maintenance will be a concern as they age. [6]

⁵ Transform 2010 Data Report: Baby Boomer Survey

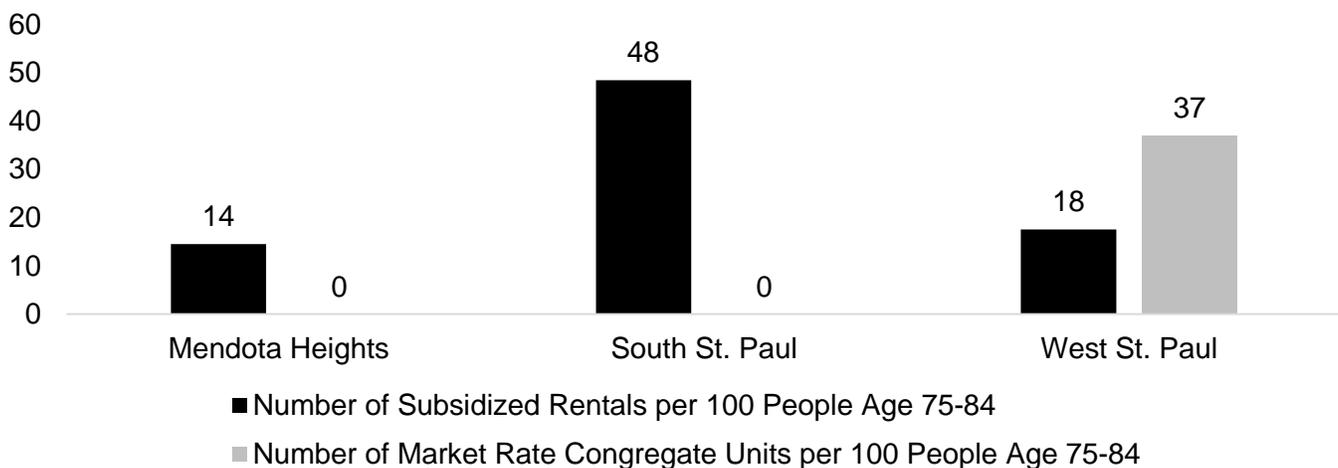
⁶ The United States of Aging Survey 2014, National Council on Aging. Retrieved on September 21, 2015 from: <https://www.ncoa.org/wp-content/uploads/USA14-National-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

HOUSING CHOICES IN LATER LIFE

INDICATOR: VARIETY AND QUANTITY OF “SENIOR HOUSING” OPTIONS

Most people prefer to stay in a single family home, condominium, townhome, or all ages apartment as they age. However, whether due to preference or a need for support that cannot be met well in their conventionally designed home, some make a move to “senior housing” – housing planned for older adults. Senior housing is generally restricted to people age 55 or older; but persons age 75 to 84, and 85 and older are more likely to live in “senior housing.”

UNITS OF SUBSIDIZED SENIOR RENTALS AND MARKET RATE CONGREGATE HOUSING IN 2013, PER 100 PERSONS AGE 75-84



Source: *Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment for Dakota County, MN*, Maxfield Research, September 2013
2011-2013 American Community Survey (Table S0101)

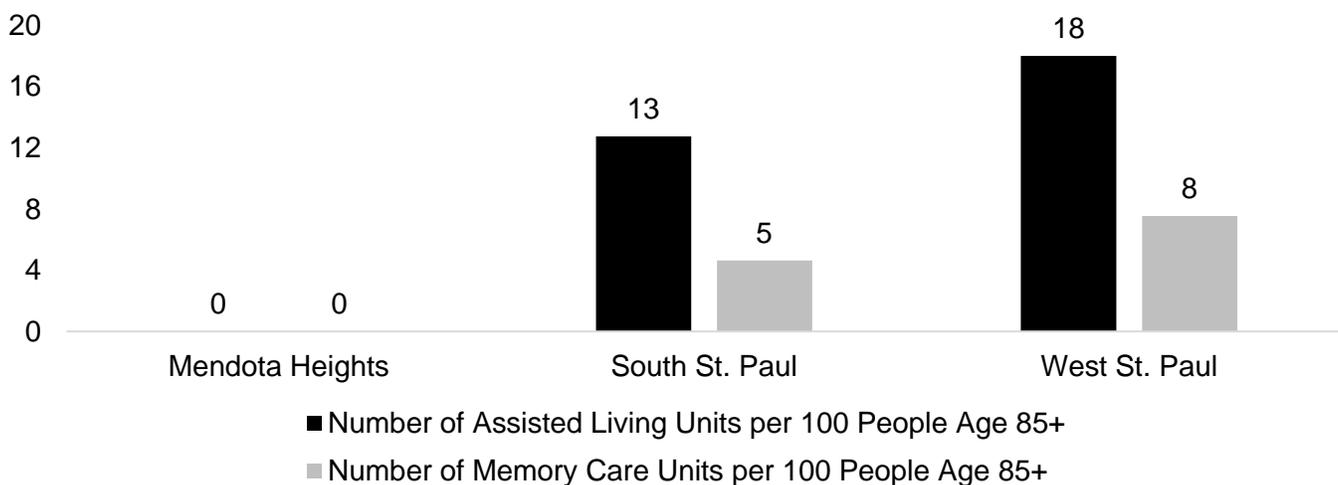
| Housing Type / Age | Mendota Heights | South St Paul | West St Paul |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Rental (Shallow-Subsidy)* | 100 | 156 | 101 |
| Rental (Deep-Subsidy)* | 0 | 208 | 140 |
| Independent Living (Few Services)+ | 0 | 0 | 202 |
| Congregate (Moderate Services)^ | 0 | 0 | 306 |
| People Age 75-84 | 690 | 752 | 1,375 |

* Subsidized Rentals refers to age-restricted independent living apartments where rents are adjusted to increase affordability for low-income seniors.
 + “Independent Living” refers to age-restricted independent single-family, townhomes, apartments, condominiums, and cooperatives with few, if any, supportive services.
 ^ “Congregate” refers to multi-unit housing, such as townhomes, apartments, condominiums, and cooperatives with increasing, moderate supportive services. “Congregate” does not include Assisted Living or Memory Care Facilities (see below).

The graph and table above present data on varieties of “senior housing” with few or very limited built-in services. Two of the housing options offer subsidies to support affordability. According to this data source, in 2013, Mendota Heights had 14 subsidized senior rental units for every 100 people age 75 to 84. This is a comparable ratio to West St Paul, which has 18 subsidized senior rental units for every 100 people age 75 to 84. However, South St Paul has a much higher ratio, with 48 units per 100 people. Mendota Heights did not have any Market Rate Congregate Housing according to this data, whereas West St Paul had 37 units for every 100 people age 75 to 84. **With the cost of rental housing being such a concern, could Mendota Heights distinguish itself even further by increasing the ratio of subsidized units for older residents? Are there aging-friendly features inside the units? Could new policies or educational campaigns encourage builders to construct universally designed buildings to meet the needs of aging adults—and by doing so better meet the needs of all age groups?**

77% of older adults (age 60+) plan to stay in their current home for the rest of their life. [7]

UNITS OF ASSISTED LIVING AND MEMORY CARE IN 2013 PER 100 PEOPLE AGE 85+



Source: *Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment for Dakota County, MN*, Maxfield Research, September 2013
2011-2013 American Community Survey (Table S0101)

| Housing Type / Age | Mendota Heights | South St Paul | West St Paul |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Assisted Living Units* | 0 | 44 | 124 |
| Memory Care Units^ | 0 | 16 | 52 |
| People Age 85+ | 378 | 345 | 688 |

* “Assisted Living” refers to multi-unit housing with more intensive supportive services than the “Congregate” category referred to above.
^ “Memory Care” is multi-unit housing that, as the name suggests, provides intensive services for persons with declining memory.

⁷ *The United States of Aging Survey 2014*, National Council on Aging. Retrieved on September 21, 2015 from: <https://www.ncoa.org/wp-content/uploads/USA14-National-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

The second graph and table above look at two senior housing options that offer more built-in services for residents, such as meals, housekeeping, and transportation, and increasing levels of personal care. Adult Foster Care programs, licensed residential homes for 4 to 5 residents age 55+, and Skilled Nursing Facilities (i.e. nursing homes), are not included here. These types of housing options were not included in the report by Maxfield Research, the source of this data.

According to this data source in 2013, Mendota Heights did not have assisted living or memory care units. **(However, White Pine Senior Living opened in 2013—likely after the Maxfield report—offering 46 assisted living and memory care units.)** Mendota Heights, like other cities, should continue to evaluate if it has the appropriate number of “senior housing” units and affordable housing options for older adults based on its current population and projections for the future.

By contrast, the city of South St Paul, which has a similar number of adults 85 and older, had 13 Assisted Living Units for every 100 adults 85 and older, and 5 Memory Care units. Some observers worry that certain communities have over-built assisted living units, but this is not the case in Mendota Heights. **How can Mendota Heights continue to plan for and invest in housing with services to support older residents who may want to remain in this community as they age? What if Boomers avoid moving into Assisted Living facilities all together or wait until the very end of their life? Have some communities over-built the number of Assisted Living units they may need?**

68% of Minnesota Boomers who plan to move by 2020 will be looking for homes where they could live on one level. [8]

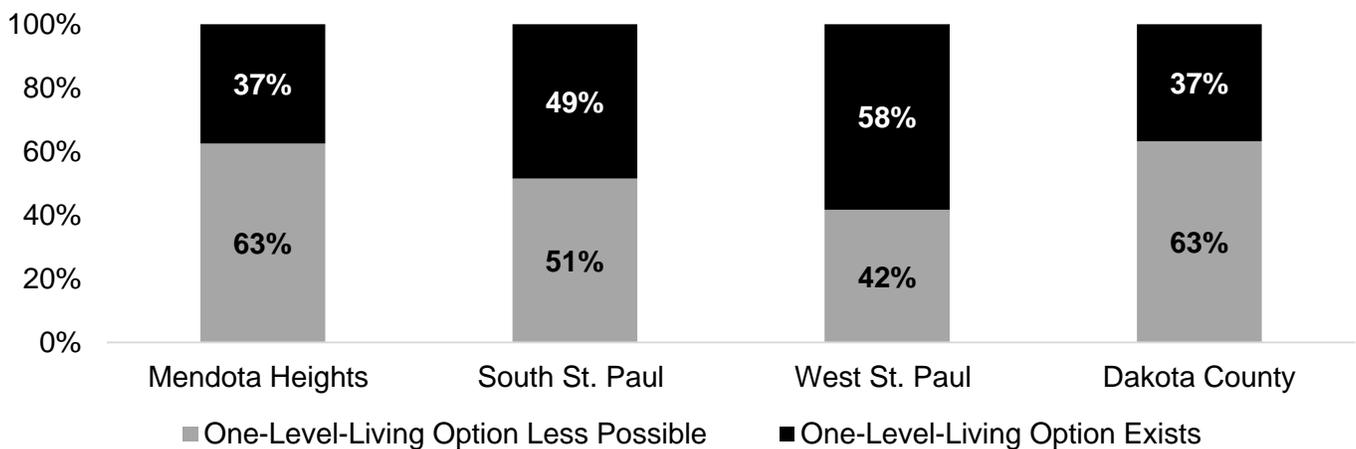
⁸ Transform 2010 Data Report: Baby Boomer Survey

ACCESSIBILITY AND VISITABILITY

INDICATOR: AVAILABILITY OF HOUSING WHERE RESIDENTS CAN LIVE ON ONE LEVEL

The most basic home characteristic that supports accessibility and visitability is housing that allows a person to live on one level, with few or no stair systems. Stairs pose a barrier for many people if their physical functions are limited. In many cities, the best option for one level living is recently constructed multi-unit apartments or condominiums. These buildings frequently have zero-grade, accessible entries, elevators, and wide hallways and doorways leading to one-level units. While much less common, some single family homes, detached condominiums, townhomes, and multiplexes also provide residents with options for living on one level.

PERCENT OF HOUSING WITH ONE-LEVEL-LIVING OPTION IN MENDOTA HEIGHTS AND OTHER CITIES, 2014⁹



Source: Dakota County Assessor's Office, 2014

Slightly more than a third of Mendota Heights' housing would allow a resident to live on one level of a home (37%). This is identical to the county as a whole. However, by comparison, South St Paul and West St Paul have many more homes with one-level-living options, 49% and 58% respectively. However, even homes that offer a good one-level-living option may need to be modified in one or more ways to make them truly accessible and visitable. Common home modifications include adding ramps to main entries, widening doorways, improving the living-level bathroom and shower, and moving laundry machines to the living-level. **How could cities, the county, and organizations support more practical home modifications and repairs to help residents age in place? Could an Aging in Place partnership/fund be set up to help homeowners stay in their homes—at less cost than other housing alternatives? As new housing of all types is constructed, how could cities encourage builders to include more accessible and visitable features in their design plans?**

⁹ The Dakota County Assessor's Office organizes residential housing into as many as 24 categories; the categories encompass all major housing types: single family homes; townhomes; duplex, triplex and quads; condominiums; and multifamily buildings. The percent of "one story" living units is based on the number of one story units across all housing types. Two story homes may allow for single-level living, but this cannot be assumed.

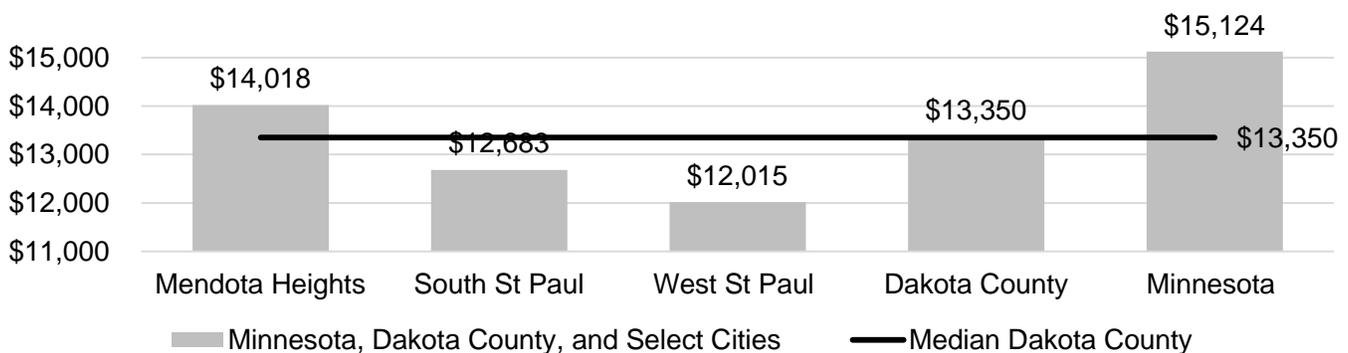
MOBILITY

TRANSPORTATION COSTS

INDICATOR: ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD TRANSPORTATION COSTS

Housing is generally the largest expense in a household budget, but transportation costs typically rank second, and so are very significant, especially for households with a low or fixed income. Some residents seek out affordable housing, which can often be found in suburban and exurban communities with lower land prices, but then inadvertently end up with higher transportation costs, especially if their housing is a long distance from their work or the many basic services we all need. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development is now promoting a combined measure of housing and transportation affordability it calls “Location Affordability,” which considers the cost of housing and transportation together.¹⁰

2008-2012 Annual Transportation Costs in Select Cities, Dakota County, MN, and the US



Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Location Affordability Index, 2008-2012, <http://www.locationaffordability.info/lai.aspx>

The estimated annual household transportation costs for Mendota Heights’ residents is above the Dakota County median and less than the costs experienced by Minnesotans as a whole. Additionally, residents of South St Paul and West St Paul experience relatively lower costs, with West St Paul residents spending nearly \$2,000 less on transportation each year. **How can Mendota Heights, and other Dakota County cities, attract more employers to reduce daily commutes for its residents? How can cities adjust land use policies to shorten distances and improve access to shopping, services, and other amenities? Further, might the city explore more public and alternative transportation services to decrease residents’ reliance on cars for transportation?**

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Location Affordability Index, Retrieved on October 31, 2016 from: <http://www.locationaffordability.info/>

WALKABILITY

INDICATOR: WALK SCORE, 0 TO 100

Walking, or rolling using an assistive device, is the most basic and affordable mode of transportation. However, since many streetscapes are designed primarily for cars, walkers may find the distances to their destination too great and the routes unsafe. Walk Scores measure the walkability of an area using digital maps and data about distances to common amenities and pedestrian friendliness.

| | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| City-Wide Walk Score | The Village of Mendota Heights Walk Score | <i>0–100 Walker’s Paradise: Daily errands do not require a car</i> <i>70–89 Very Walkable: Most errands can be accomplished on foot</i> <i>50–69 Somewhat Walkable: Some errands can be accomplished on foot</i> <i>25–49 Car-Dependent: Most errands require a car</i> <i>0–24 Car-Dependent: Almost all errands require a car</i> |
| 11 | 52 | |

Source: <http://www.walkscore.com/score/mendota-heights-mn>, October 31, 2016

Overall, Mendota Heights is a Car-Dependent city; across the city, most errands require a car. However, throughout this small city there are locations that are more walkable. A Mixed-Use or Suburban-Intensity area of the city at 750 Main Street achieved a Walk Score of 52. (Research shows that when people walk or bike to do their shopping they take more trips and spend more money each month than drivers.)

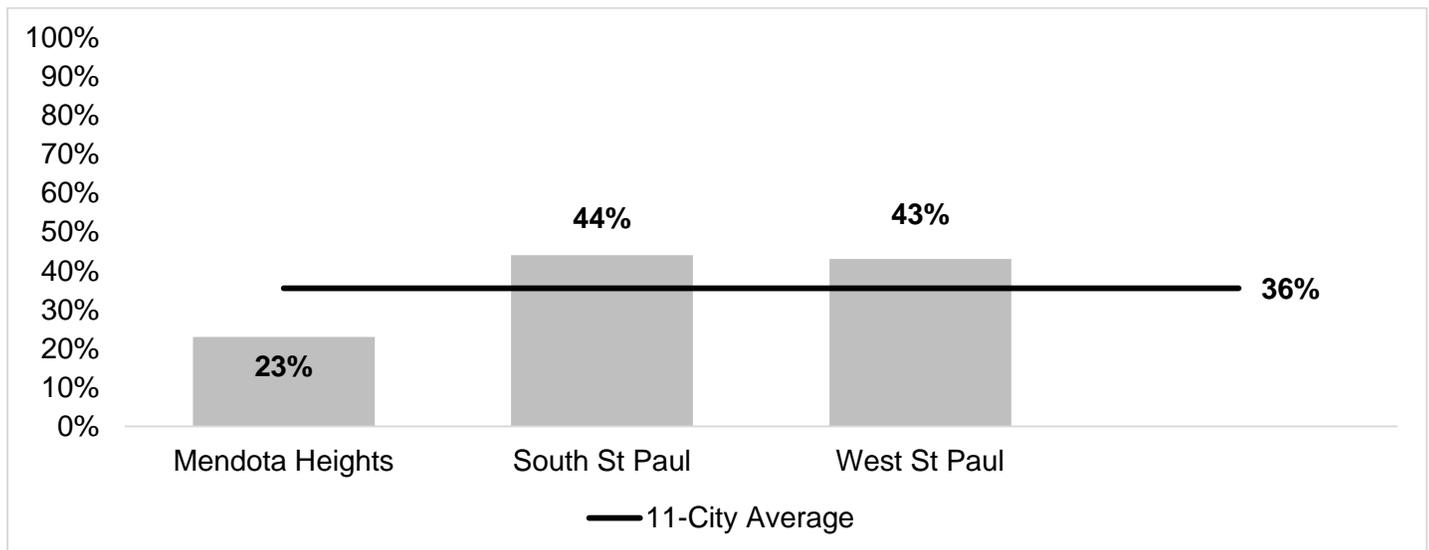
While not all residents value walkability, a growing number do. Strategically investing in Suburban-Intensity developments or otherwise improving the proximity of residences and essential amenities will serve older residents and others who value walkability. **How can Mendota Heights strategically invest in greater walkability, more sidewalks, and more mixed-use or Suburban-Intense developments? What policies need to be updated or changed to increase walkability?**

WALKABILITY

INDICATOR: PRESENCE OF SIDEWALKS

Sidewalks are the building blocks of an effective pedestrian network. When sidewalks are not available, pedestrians are forced to share the street with motorists, access to public transportation is restricted, and children have fewer play areas that are safe. Streets without safe places to walk, cross, catch a bus, or bicycle put people at risk. Over 5,600 pedestrians and bicyclists died on U.S. roads and there were 115,000 reported injuries in 2014.¹¹ Pedestrian crashes are more than twice as likely to occur in places without sidewalks; streets with sidewalks on both sides have the fewest crashes.¹² Walkability is enhanced even further by three core characteristics: the continuity and connectivity of pedestrian ways (i.e. sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, street crossings, crosswalks); the safety of the pedestrian ways; and the proximity of essential services to residences. The data of this measure speak to the first core characteristic.

PERCENT OF STREETS WITH SIDEWALKS OR TRAILS IN 2015



Note: "Streets" are defined here as local roads, county roads, and county-state aid highways.
Source: Dakota County Physical Development Division, 2015

Mendota Heights has nearly half as much sidewalk infrastructure than its two peer cities, and considerably less than the average for eleven major cities in Dakota County. **As Mendota Heights develops and redevelops land, how might the city improve its pedestrian infrastructure?**

¹¹ Source: http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/data/factsheet_crash.cfm

¹² Source: http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/tools_solve/walkways_brochure

PUBLIC TRANSIT AND ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

INDICATOR: PRESENCE OF PUBLIC AND ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

Many people who are able to drive express interest in transportation alternatives such as buses, trains, walking, or biking. But for older adults who do not drive, transportation alternatives become critically important. Without transportation, residents find it difficult to access basic services, remain independent, and stay involved in the life of the community. Alternative transportation options available to residents of Mendota Heights are described in the table below. (Some information in this table may have evolved as routes are modified and providers change.)

| Category | Provider(s) – Scope of Service | Description |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Fixed-route | Metro Transit – Very limited local Coverage; Limited commuter coverage | Is a fixed transportation route with scheduled designated stops. Riders are responsible for getting to the designated stops. Local Routes: 75; Commuter Routes: 415, 417, and 452. |
| Fixed-route | Minnesota Valley Transit Authority – Very limited local Coverage; Limited commuter coverage | Is a fixed transportation route with scheduled designated stops. Local/Commuter Route: 446; Commuter Route: 436 |
| Curb-to-Curb | A-Tran -- South Metro, Mpls/St Paul GAPP Services -- Dakota County MNET -- Metro Area Neighbors, Inc – Select Dakota County Transit Link -- Metro Area | Requires the rider be able to meet the vehicle at the curb. Drivers do not help individuals into homes, apartment buildings or businesses. Drivers pick-up and drop-off passengers at the curb only. |
| Door-to-Door | A-Tran -- South Metro, Mpls/St Paul Metro Mobility -- Metro Area MNET -- Metro Area Neighbors, Inc – Select Dakota County Transit Link -- Metro Area | Driver provides some assistance to rider to ensure they make it safely from their main door onto the vehicle. The driver provides the same service on the return trip. |
| Door-through-Door | A-Tran -- South Metro, Mpls/St Paul MNET -- Metro Area Neighbors, Inc – Select Dakota County | Driver enters the home/building to provide assistance to the rider to ensure they make it safely through their front door and onto the vehicle. The driver provides the same service on the return trip. |
| Volunteer Driver Program | GAPP Services – Dakota County Neighbors, Inc – Select Dakota County | Individuals who volunteer their time and vehicle to provide transportation services to a community. Most often vehicle is a sedan and space is limited to riders with only canes and folding walkers. |

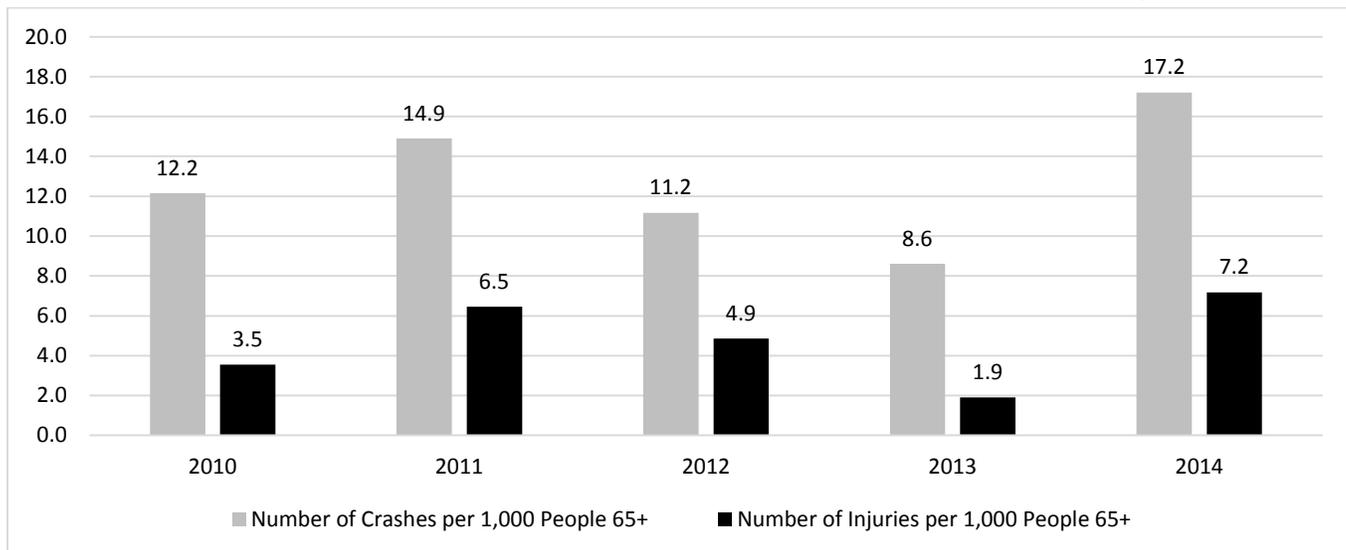
Source: Metropolitan Council; <http://www.minnesotahelp.info>; "Transportation Options Resource Guide: Dakota County retrieved on July 3, 2015 from: <http://www.darts1.org/transportation-options-resource-guide>

DRIVER SAFETY

INDICATOR: DECREASED TRAFFIC CRASHES AND TRAFFIC RELATED INJURIES.

Driving a car is the most common mode of transportation for most people. This is especially true in suburban and rural communities where mass transit options are often limited. Sidewalks and trails are also frequently underdeveloped. For these reasons, driving conditions become increasingly important. Some cities are making design improvements, including: better, larger signage for older drivers; more designated left-hand turn lanes; rumble strips on lane markers or shoulders; and improved safety at crosswalks.

NUMBER OF TRAFFIC CRASHES AND INJURIES IN MENDOTA HEIGHTS FOR DRIVERS 65+, 2010-2014



Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety Crash Facts, 2010-2014; American Community Survey, 2010-2014

In Mendota Heights, the number of traffic crashes and injuries involving drivers 65+ increased slightly in 2011, declined in 2012 – 2013, and increased again in 2014. Only one fatality was recorded for drivers 65+ over this same period, occurring in 2013. Across the US, more than 4,500 pedestrians are killed by motor vehicles every year. However, this does not have to be the case—more can be done to save lives. These deaths are preventable. Speed does kill. Two studies, one in the US and a second in the UK, revealed that pedestrians are killed 5% of the time when struck by a car going 20 mph; 37-45% of the time when struck by a car going 30 mph; 83-85% of the time when struck by a car going 40 mph. Traffic on most American streets travel closer to 40 mph instead of 20 mph. If we reduce car speeds to 20 mph through traffic-calming road redesign, education, and enforcement strategies, we could reduce pedestrian fatalities by 90%. **How can the state, county, and cities work together to prioritize dangerous streets for redesign and speed reduction to save more lives?**

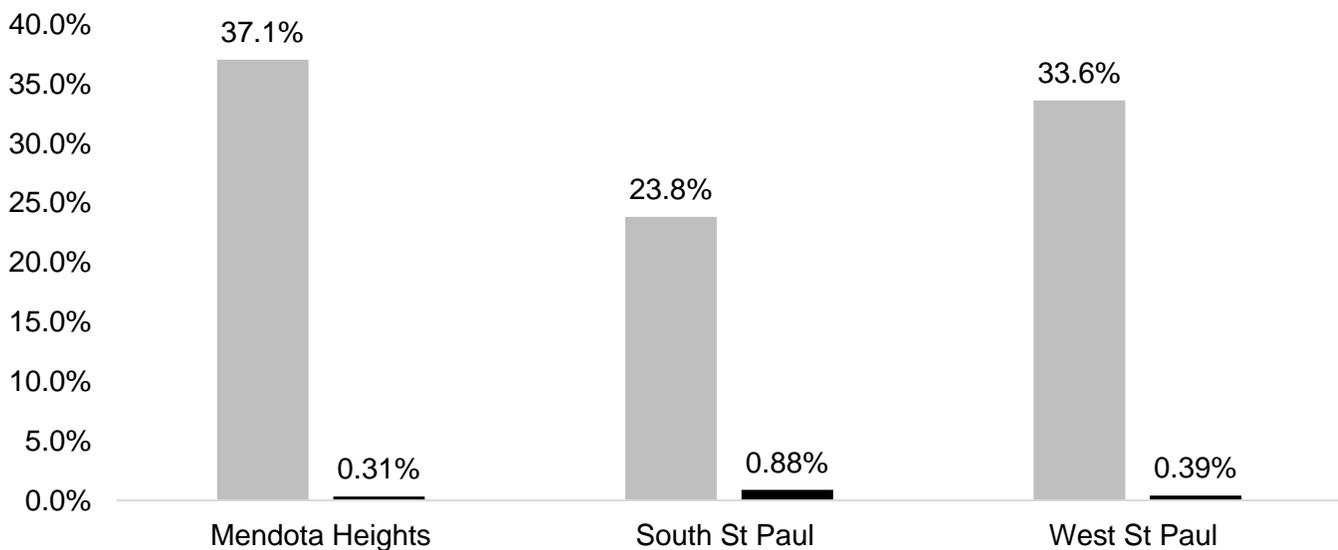
LAND USE

MIXED-USE LAND

INDICATOR: PROPORTION OF LAND DEVELOPED AS MIXED-USE

Mixed-use developments (also known as Suburban-Intensity) have received increasing attention among city planners and administrators, and the general public. Well-executed mixed-use developments can address many livable community characteristics at once, including: housing-type variety, convenience to shopping and services, walkability, and public safety.

PERCENT OF RESIDENTIAL LAND USE COMPARED TO MIXED-USE FOR SELECT CITIES, 2010*



Source: Metropolitan Council Generalized Land Use Data, 2010 (*New 2016 land use data not available until spring 2017)

Note: For more source information see: <http://metro council.org/METC/files/6d/6db8637a-fe3f-4f06-954b-581b680de527.html>

Mendota Heights, like other Dakota County cities, has a very low percentage of mixed-use development. Suburban-intensity is not something that needs to be feared as increased “density,” something often fought by residents of suburban communities. Suburban-intensity can be targeted to a city’s core downtown area where walkability and density can be achieved more easily. The Village of Mendota Heights near the intersection of Highway 110 and Dodd Road is the prime example within Mendota Heights. Some cities are creating age-friendly areas or districts that are benefiting from this approach. Currently, Minneapolis and St. Paul are seeing record levels of construction of mixed-use developments of rental apartments with commercial space at the street level. Millennials and Boomers are competing to live in or near these walkable neighborhoods. **Can suburban communities replicate and benefit from this trend that is likely to continue into the future, or will some suburban communities be left out?**

PARK SPACE

INDICATOR: PROXIMITY TO PARK SPACE

Public parks and trails are a great common space for people of nearly any circumstance to get out and interact in the community and stay healthy. To better support older residents and people with limiting health conditions, park spaces should increasingly offer shade, shelter, a place to sit and rest, and accessible bathrooms, all of which benefit the entire community.

NUMBER OF PARKS WITHIN A HALF-MILE IN 2013

| Mendota Heights | South St Paul | West St Paul | Median US Neighborhood |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 2.7 | 2.1 | 3.0 | 0.0 |

Source: AARP Livability Index, retrieved on October 31, 2016 from: <https://livabilityindex.aarp.org/>

Mendota Heights is similar to its peer cities in the availability and even distribution of its park space. South St Paul has a slightly lower concentration of parks than Mendota Heights or West St Paul. Some of Mendota Heights' parks and recreational amenities are described in the table below.

How can Mendota Heights and other cities continue to make parks both good places for children and older adults—more benches and more equipment for both age groups? And how can cities continue to improve non-motorized access to parks through sidewalk and trail enhancements, so that people of all ages can walk, bike, or roll (i.e. using an assistive device) to their nearest park?

| Select Amenities | Number and Land Area | Description |
|------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Public Parks | 13 parks on 242 acres | Common elements include: playground equipment, skating rink, field and court games, tennis, hockey and a shelter building. |
| Trails | 21 miles | Mendota Heights offers 21 miles of trails for walking, cycling, and hiking. Most are along the scenic bluffs of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers. |
| Golf Courses | 1 golf course on 308 acres | Mendota Heights Par 3, 9-hole (public) |

Source: City of Mendota Heights website, <http://www.mendota-heights.com>

FOOD ACCESS

INDICATOR: ACCESS TO HEALTHY AND AFFORDABLE FOOD

It is difficult to make healthy food choices when grocery stores and farmers' markets are not near where you live. People who do not drive or lack transit options and those that are low-income are forced in many instances to rely on food options that are less healthy from nearby convenience stores, and it may cost them more money.

NUMBER OF GROCERY STORES AND FARMERS' MARKETS WITHIN A HALF-MILE IN 2013

| Mendota Heights | South St Paul | West St Paul | Median US Neighborhood |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 0.1 | 0.6 | 1.4 | 0.0 |

Source: AARP Livability Index, retrieved on October 31, 2016 from: <https://livabilityindex.aarp.org/>

The AARP Livability Index rates a community's food access by measuring how many grocery stores or farmer's markets exist in each half-mile radius within the city, a reasonable walking distance for most people. According to the data source, Mendota Heights has almost no grocery shopping options within each half-mile area. However, a new grocery store, Fresh Natural Foods (752 Highway 110), opened in Oct. 2015, providing Mendota Heights residents with a local option. By comparison, South St Paul roughly .5 stores or markets per half-mile radius, and West St Paul has nearly 1.5. (Note: Most US neighborhoods, including vast rural areas, score a zero for grocery stores or farmer's markets within a half-mile. However, by contrast, the score for the city of Minneapolis is 5.3).

Sometimes residents face financial or transportation barriers in gaining access to food. **What can communities do to promote their farmers' markets to all residents, and ensure that those in need have access to grocery stores and home delivered meals or food?**

Service agencies can help close the food access gap. Dakota County has an excellent listing of Food Shelves & Community Meals on its website.¹³ Ensuring that all are fed, of whatever age and circumstance, is a basic need that all communities need to address together.

¹³ Dakota County, Minnesota, Community Food Resources: <https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/HealthFamily/PersonalFinance/FinancialCrisis/Pages/food-shelves.aspx>

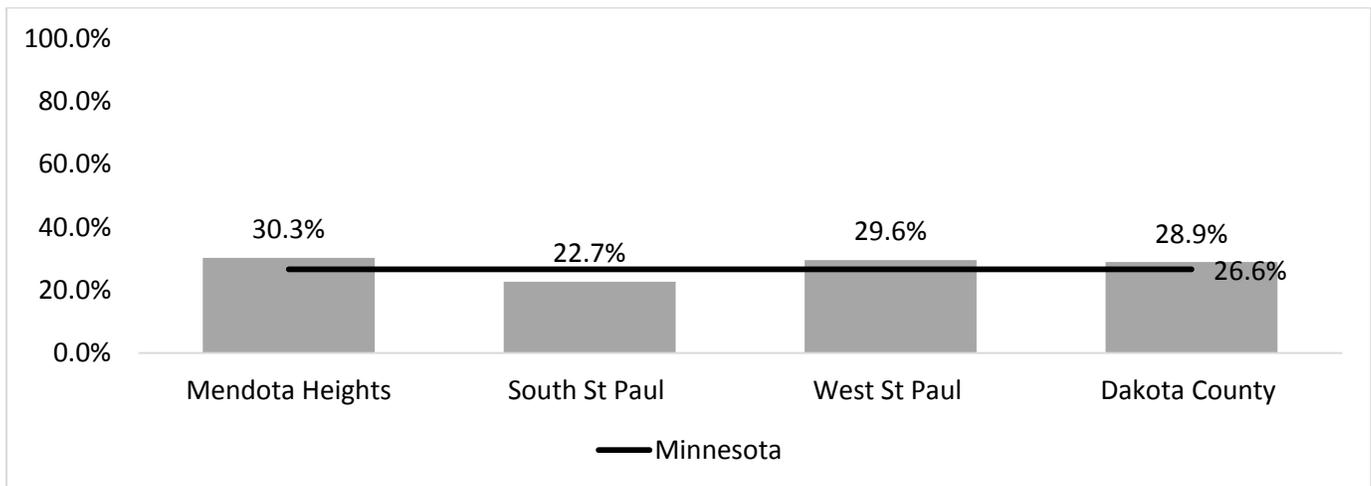
COMMUNITY LIFE

EMPLOYMENT

INDICATOR: PERCENT OF PEOPLE AGE 65 TO 74 IN THE LABOR FORCE

Complete retirement from paid work at 65 is slowly being revised in our culture, through public policy, but also through the needs, plans, and preferences of aging workers and employers. A healthy labor force participation rate should closely reflect the percent of people in any age group who express a desire to work.

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION AGE 65 TO 74 IN MENDOTA HEIGHTS WITH SELECT COMPARISONS IN 2014



Source: 2009-2014 American Community Survey (Table S2301)

At 30.3%, Mendota Heights has a higher rate of labor force participation for workers age 65 to 74 than select, neighboring cities, Dakota County, and Minnesota (26.6%) as a whole. This is a favorable result for Mendota Heights. While not all older adults desire to work for pay beyond traditional retirement age, a significant portion do and will. And others will need to because of their personal financial circumstances. Older adults should be able to work with various accommodations and incentives to participate in the shrinking workforce. **How are local businesses helping older workers to remain in the workforce?**

23% of Minnesota Boomers have no plans to stop paid work at any age. [14]

32% of older adults (age 60+) are concerned they will not be able to work as long as they would like. [15]

¹⁴ Transform 2010 Data Report: Baby Boomer Survey

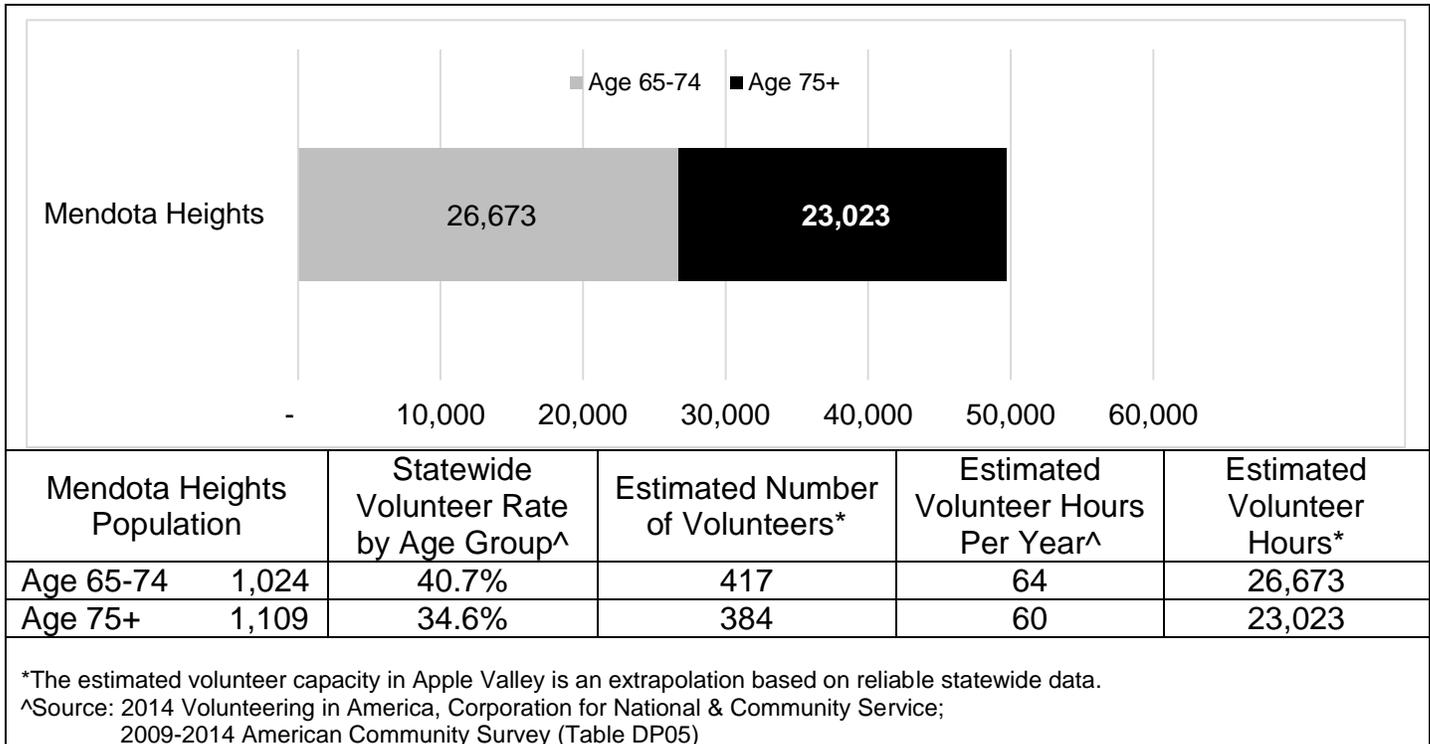
¹⁵ The United States of Aging Survey 2014, National Council on Aging. Retrieved on September 21, 2015 from: <https://www.ncoa.org/wp-content/uploads/USA14-National-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

VOLUNTEER CAPACITY

INDICATOR: INCREASED VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR PEOPLE 65+

A growing number of people will remain in the workforce past the age of 65, but whether working or retired from paid work, older residents will volunteer in great numbers. Volunteering is not only a vital form of enrichment for older adults, but it is also a valuable community asset that should be utilized fully.

ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR POPULATION 65-74 AND 75+ IN MENDOTA HEIGHTS IN 2014



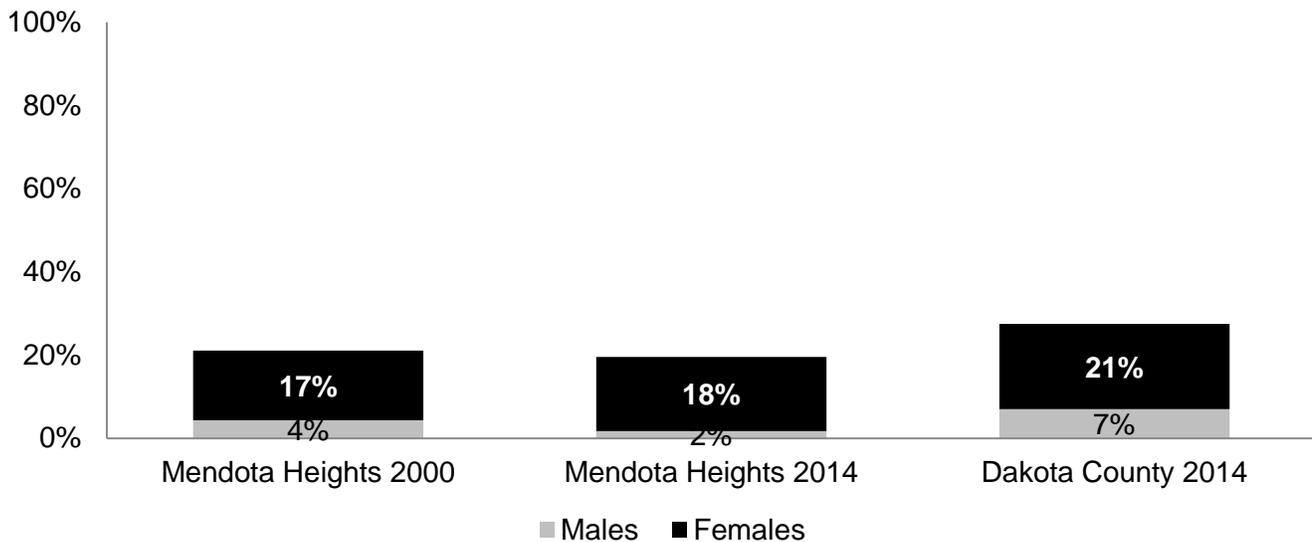
Older adults in Mendota Heights provided an estimated 49,696 hours of volunteer service in 2014, the most recent data available. This is the equivalent of 23.8 full time equivalent employees, and at a rate of \$24.00 per hour, this amounts to a wage-labor value of \$1,192,704. Older adults and aging Boomers are assets to the community; they spend more money locally, and they value their communities and most want to give back. Communities that provide meaningful opportunities for older adults to volunteer will capitalize on this vital source of talent and energy. Four Dakota County cities (Apple Valley, Inver Grove Heights, West St. Paul, and Rosemount) have partnered to fund a volunteer coordinator position to try to take advantage of residents desire to volunteer. **How can Mendota Heights further capitalize on older adult volunteers as an asset to the community? Could a local entity better coordinate and advertise the opportunities that do exist?**

LIVING ALONE

INDICATOR: PERCENT OF PEOPLE 65+ LIVING ALONE

Some people live alone and are content with their circumstances. However, people who live alone tend to have less income, and as they age, find it more difficult to remain mobile, access services, and stay involved in the life of the community. Communities need to be aware of this segment of the population and better shape the community environment to support these residents.

AGE 65 AND OVER LIVING ALONE, 2000 AND 2014



Source: 2009-2014 American Community Survey (Table B09020); US Census 2000 (Table P030)

The proportion of older adults living alone in Mendota Heights decreased slightly between 2000 and 2014, from 21 to 20%. Fewer people live alone in Mendota Heights compared to Dakota County as a whole. Many more female residents live alone in Mendota Heights as compared to men, which is also true for Dakota County as a whole. When living alone turns to isolation, individuals can experience physical and mental decline. **In circumstances like this, what could be done to better identify and assist isolated older adults? Could nonprofits or faith communities partner to provide home visits or check-ins by phone? Could more formal neighborhood networks be helpful to those living alone and create stronger neighborhood connections and support for everyone?**

48% of socially-isolated older adults list transportation as the thing they will most likely need help with in the future. [16]

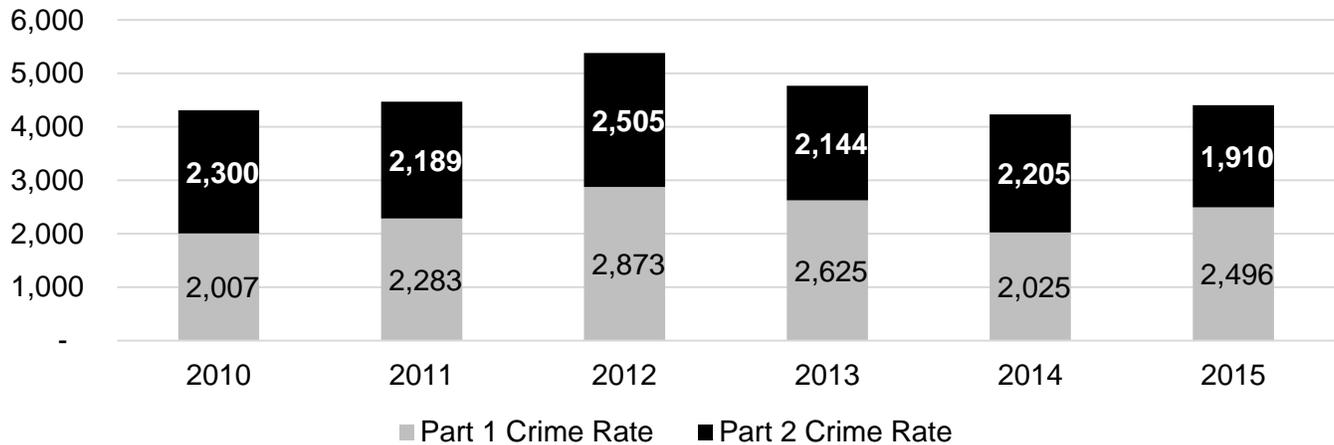
¹⁶ *The United States of Aging Survey 2014*, National Council on Aging. Retrieved on September 21, 2015 from: <https://www.ncoa.org/wp-content/uploads/USA14-National-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

PUBLIC SAFETY

INDICATOR: DECREASED CRIME

All residents want to feel safe in their community. Feeling unsafe negatively affects residents' participation in the community. For older residents, too, feeling unsafe inhibits their trips out of the home for services, work, volunteering, or recreation, leading to harmful isolation.

CRIME RATES IN APPLE VALLEY, 2010-2015



* The crime rate represents the number of reported crimes per 100,000 in population.

** Part 1 Crimes: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, vehicle theft and arson;

Part 2 Crimes include: other assaults, forgery, fraud, vandalism, sex offences, drugs and alcohol and DUI

Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety State Crime Books, 2010-2015

Overall, crime in Mendota Heights increased by 2.3% from 2010 to 2015. During this time period, the city experienced an increase in Part 1 crime, although there was a drop in 2014, and a decrease in Part 2 crime. **How can all communities continue to work with residents to lower crime rates and increase engagement of all residents, including older adults that may face isolation?**

AGE-FRIENDLY POLICIES

ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT POLICY

An accessory dwelling unit (ADU) – also known as a “granny flat,” “mother-in-law apartment” or “carriage house” – is a self-contained living unit that can be located within the walls of an existing or newly constructed home, or that can be an addition to an existing home. It can also be a freestanding structure on the same lot as the main house. ADUs have received significant attention in recent years as a way to provide more flexible housing options using existing housing stock. Over the past few decades, municipalities across the country have adopted standards to allow or encourage the construction of ADUs.

| Accessory Dwelling Unit Policy: Yes/No? | No |
|---|----|
| <p>Some Policy Details Mendota Heights does not have an Accessory Dwelling Unit policy.</p> <p>Possible Next Steps to Develop a Policy: With more than a third of the population comprised of boomers, relatively high housing costs for both homeowners and renters, and having predominantly single family homes on larger lots, Mendota Heights is the type of community that could benefit greatly from having a specific ADU policy to help provide more caregiving options and affordable housing for aging residents and their families.</p> <p>For more information on ADUs:</p> <p>AARP, Accessory Dwelling Units, Model State Act and Local Ordinance http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/consume/d17158_dwell.pdf</p> <p>For sample, downloadable language, see Model Code for Accessory Dwelling Units https://accessorydwellings.org/2014/11/25/model-code-for-accessory-dwelling-units</p> <p>Dakota County cities with ADU policies for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apple Valley, Code of Ordinances: http://www.ci.apple-valley.mn.us/index.aspx?NID=357 • Eagan, Municipal Code: http://www.cityofeagan.com/index.php/planning-zoning/city-code-enforcement • Inver Grove Heights: Amendment: Title 10, Chapter 18: http://www.ci.inver-grove-heights.mn.us | |

ADUs ordinances are often driven by requests from homeowners. **What drove the development of ADU policy in other Dakota County cities? Could ADU policy in Mendota Heights be enacted to allow wider usage by increasing numbers of aging residents or those that have aging parents? For example: Could an ordinance be enacted to allow ADUs on smaller lots, or to encourage accessibility and Universal Design in the construction of the units?**

COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

“Complete streets” is an approach to road planning and design that considers and balances the needs of all transportation users. It is about improving the basics—the transportation system’s safety and functionality for all users—but in many cases, also making transit ways more aesthetically pleasing. Its main premise is for people to get around safely and efficiently from point A to point B, using whatever mode of travel they choose. The complete streets approach helps to maximize the use of public roadways and right-of-way in order to provide a comprehensive and connected multimodal transportation system.

A recent study comparing the United States with Germany and the Netherlands, where Complete Streets are common, found that when compared per mile/kilometer traveled, bicyclist and pedestrian death rates are two to six times higher in the United States. Complete Streets therefore improve safety for all users. According to an international study, as the number and portion of people bicycling and walking increases, deaths and injuries decline. This is known as the safety in numbers hypothesis: more people walking and biking reduces the risk per trip.

| Complete Streets Policy: Yes/No? | No |
|--|----|
| <p>Some Policy Details Mendota Heights does not have a ‘Complete Streets Policy.’</p> <p>Possible Next Steps to Develop a Policy: The momentum that brought about Mendota Height’s trail expansion could be leveraged to adapt a more comprehensive Complete Streets policy, attracting additional recognition towards supporting functionality, safety, and aesthetics for non-vehicular transportation (walking, biking). Interest and demand for more walkable and bikeable communities is growing rapidly, and Complete Streets design can create a safe, comfortable, integrated transportation network for all users.</p> <p>An ideal Complete Streets policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes a vision for how and why the community wants to complete its streets • Specifies that ‘all users’ includes pedestrians, bicyclists and transit passengers of all ages and abilities, as well as trucks, buses and automobiles. • Applies to both new and retrofit projects, including design, planning, maintenance, and operations, for the entire right of way... <p>For more details on an ideal policy, go to: http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/complete-streets/changing-policy/policy-elements</p> <p>For more information on Complete Streets Policy: National Complete Streets Coalition, Resources, Fundamentals: http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/complete-streets/complete-streets-fundamentals/resources</p> | |

Dakota County cities with Complete Streets policies:

- Apple Valley's "Great Streets" concept:
<http://mn-applevalley.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/381>
- Eagan's resolution:
<http://fresh-energy.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Eagan-Complete-Streets-Resolution.pdf>

How can cities realize not just the benefits of safe multi-use streets but also the economic benefits of bike and pedestrian-friendly Complete Streets? How might funding for Complete Streets projects be leveraged through increased inter-government coordination or public-private partnerships?

MIXED-USE (OR SUBURBAN-INTENSITY) LAND POLICY

Mixed land use is a critical component of an aging-friendly community, enhancing mobility and housing options, and offering several other community benefits all at once. Some are now referring to mixed use planning occurring in the suburban environment as Suburban-Intensity. The uses may be mixed vertically (in a common structure) or horizontally (in a common site or area).

By putting a mix of residential, commercial, and recreational uses in close proximity to one another, alternatives to driving, such as walking or biking, become more attractive. At the same time, a denser, more sizable population makes public transit more viable. Incorporating multi-unit housing options into Suburban-Intensity areas provides residents with housing options and often more accessible and visitable homes.

There are also public health, public safety, and economic benefits to Suburban-Intensity areas. Compact, walkable neighborhoods encourage more physical activity, with residents walking rather than driving to their destinations. And with more people and eyes on the street, people feel safer. Economic benefits include: rising property values, increasing local tax receipts, and increased foot-traffic for local businesses.

| Mixed-Use Land Policy: Yes/No? | Yes |
|--|-----|
| <p>Some Policy Details Mendota Heights does have a mixed use land policy.</p> <p>Mixed Use – Planned Unit Development (MU-PUD) “The intent of the district is to allow for mixed use developments that combine residential, retail, and commercial uses into a coordinated, planned development project. Areas of the community with this land use designation are located near the intersection of Highway 110 and Dodd Road. The intersection of Dodd Road and Highway 110 is the City’s only significant retail area. The northeast quadrant of this intersection has been developed into a mixed use commercial/residential center known as “The Village at Mendota Heights.”</p> <p>Located in the southeast corner of the Dodd and Highway 110 intersection is a related commercial area. This older shopping center is being considered for redevelopment, including a mixed-use land use pattern reflecting the Village development concept. It is an objective of the City to encourage redevelopment of this area reflecting a small-town village layout, avoiding the suburban shopping center environment that dominates the current development pattern.</p> <p>The corresponding zoning district classification is MU-PUD (Mixed Use Planned Unit Development). The zoning ordinance will require amendments in order to establish the Corresponding mixed use, planned unit development zoning districts and performance standards.”</p> <p>Opportunities: Interest and demand for more walkable and bikeable communities is growing, and the “The Village of Mendota Heights” has many amenities that highlight the advantages of mixed use land policy. Hopefully future developments will incorporate this mix of commercial/retail, multi-unit housing, and recreational uses.</p> | |

For more information on Mixed Use Land Policy:

American Planning Association, Quick Notes, Zoning for Mixed Uses
<https://www.planning.org/pas/quicknotes/pdf/QN6.pdf>

Dakota County cities with Mixed-Use policies:

- Apple Valley, Mixed Use (MU), 2030 Comprehensive Plan, Land Use (pg. 4-24)
<http://mn-applevalley.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/581>
- Mendota Heights: Mixed Use – Planned Unit Development (pg. 44)
<http://www.mendota-heights.com/vertical/sites/%7BA0FB05B5-4CF8-4485-84AA-0C48D0BC98D7%7D/uploads/%7B604CF49D-F816-4882-A644-012E69A2AF23%7D.PDF>
- West St. Paul: Comprehensive Plan, Land Use Guide Plan, June 2009 (pg. 54)
<http://wspmn.gov/DocumentCenter/View/118>
- Burnsville: MIX Mixed Use District (Title 10-Zoning, Chapter 22C)
http://www.sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/index.php?book_id=468
- South St. Paul: SSP/2030 South St. Paul Comprehensive Plan (pg. 69)
<http://www.southstpaul.org/DocumentCenter/View/526>

Source: MH 2030 Comp Plan Final Section 3 - Land Use Plan, <http://www.mendota-heights.com/vertical/sites/%7BA0FB05B5-4CF8-4485-84AA-0C48D0BC98D7%7D/uploads/%7B604CF49D-F816-4882-A644-012E69A2AF23%7D.PDF>

The challenge in any city is balancing what the community wants and needs with what the market is demanding at the time and what developers are willing to build. **How can Mendota Heights increase the number of mixed use developments that combine residential, retail, and commercial uses to increase housing and shopping options, and walkability for the benefit of all residents? What specific policies could the city implement to ensure that mixed-use designations are continually incorporated into future land use planning?**

BIKE WALK POLICY

Bike walk policies focus on the safe, convenient, and enjoyable mobility of pedestrians, bicyclists, and people with disabilities who use assistive devices. These policies have much in common with Complete Streets policies, but focus more squarely on the needs and experience of pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles. Communities that have a bike walk policy or plan demonstrate that they place a high priority on planning methods and policies that favor alternative modes of travel. It also demonstrates a community's commitment to public health and quality of life, two major benefits of biking and walking.

| Bike Pedestrian Plan: Yes/No? | No |
|---|----|
| <p>Some Policy Details Mendota Heights does not have a Bike Pedestrian Plan.</p> <p>However, within 'MH 2030 Comp Plan Final Section 5 - Parks & Open Space Plan', there are policies that: "4. Improve and expand bicycle and pedestrian connections to City parks and other community destinations. 5. Provide neighborhoods of the City with trails, open space, and quality park facilities and amenities."</p> <p>"Trails for biking, walking, and roller blading have become very popular in recent years. Twenty-one (21) miles of trails currently extend through portions of the City's neighborhoods. These trails are both off- and on-road and serve as important connections for recreational opportunities and travel. Improved trail connections are important because many residential areas are divided by highways and arterial roads...As a result, many areas of the community cannot be easily accessed on bikes, roller blades or foot from other areas of the community. Additional or improved trail connections are needed to provide residents access to City parks and other recreational opportunities in the region."</p> <p>Possible Next Steps to Develop a Policy: Developing a distinct and more robust Bike Pedestrian Plan could further highlight the important strides made towards prioritizing pedestrians and bicyclists in Mendota Heights, while outlining specific policies and standards to ensure that the city's goals of supporting walking and biking are realized.</p> <p>For more information on Bike Pedestrian Plans:</p> <p>U.S. Department of Transportation, Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Planning Guidance http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/guidance/inter.cfm</p> <p>Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center, Sample Plans, see Local/County Plans http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/planning/sample_plans.cfm</p> <p>Dakota County cities with Bike Pedestrian plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South St. Paul: http://www.southstpaul.org/DocumentCenter/View/1039 • Apple Valley: http://www.ci.apple-valley.mn.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/327 • West St. Paul: http://wspmn.gov/DocumentCenter/View/114 • Rosemount: http://ci.rosemount.mn.us/index.aspx?NID=452 | |

Source: MH 2030 Comp Plan Final Section 5 - Parks & Open Space Plan http://www.mendota-heights.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={11B331B5-D1A2-496E-868D-4021E614AFC4}&DE=

Two critical issues that are often overlooked in bike walk policies and plans are safe intersection crossings and the infrastructure needs of persons with physical disabilities who use assistive devices. Safe crossings are critical for people of all ages, from parents pushing strollers, to older residents using walkers. The installation of audible and visual countdown timers at intersections is an effective feature for many users. Many roadways and intersections are planned and maintained by different levels of government; therefore communication and coordination across jurisdictions is needed to make intersections as safe as possible. **How is Mendota Heights addressing the need for safe street crossings as a part of system connectivity? And are assistive devices well-supported by the current pedestrian infrastructure and maintenance program?**