



Carbondale Age-Friendly
Community Initiative
5-Year Strategic Plan
Carbondale, Colorado

CARBONDALE AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Introduction

The Carbondale Age-Friendly Community Initiative (CAFCI) is pleased to present our strategic plan for the years 2019 to 2023. Although we penned priorities and action steps related to the eight domains of livability for each year, Covid taught us that no matter what we put down on paper, we must be nimble enough to respond to the needs of the moment.

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Town Overview

Geography and History

Carbondale is a valley town at 6181 feet on the western slope's of Colorado's Rocky Mountains. It sits at the confluence of the Crystal and Roaring Fork rivers, 12 miles south of the Colorado River, in the shadow of Wemagooah Kazuhchich's twin peaks that rise dramatically some 6800 feet above the town. The area was inhabited by native Utes. The first white person to see the majestic mountain was Richard Sopris, who visited the area in 1860 on a mapping and gold exploration trip. His group named the mountain after their leader, and it stuck.



The Ute people once occupied a large portion of present-day western Colorado and eastern Utah. In prehistoric times, they traveled on foot, moving with the seasons in small family groups to hunt big game and harvest ripening plants. They built expendable shelters from wooden limbs and poles covered with bark and brush or animal skins. They possessed only what they could carry. Their practical, efficient life ways sustained countless generations.

Beginning in the 17th century, Ute groups throughout western Colorado began to adopt horse culture and other European influences. Their nomadic way of life flourished with the mobility of the horse, and for more than a century, they were a dominant presence in the mountains of western Colorado. But as American settlers flooded into the



Colorado Rockies in the mid-1800s, the Utes' traditional hunting and gathering ways began to disappear. In 1881, the last northern Colorado Utes, including those in the valleys of the Crystal and Roaring Fork Rivers, were banished to reservations in the deserts of eastern Utah.

Carbondale takes its name from Carbondale, Pennsylvania, hometown of some of its early settlers. Carbondale's initial economy was agriculturally based. Farmers and ranchers capitalized on open lands around Carbondale to supply food for miners in nearby Aspen, then a booming center of silver mining activity. Early in the 20th century, before the rise of Idaho's industrial agriculture, Carbondale's primary product was potatoes, a legacy that lives on in an annual fall festival, Potato Days. Despite the non-geologic origins of the town's name, the Carbondale area does in fact possess significant coal resources. Until the late 1980s, Carbondale's economy was primarily based on coal operations along the Crystal River. In 1981, a methane gas explosion killed 15 miners, and by 1991, the mines were permanently closed.



Railroads are an important part of Carbondale's past, having reached Aspen's silver mines in 1887. But as the value of silver diminished during the latter part of the 19th and early 20th centuries, the demand for railroad service to Aspen also declined. The last train left Aspen in 1968, and regular service from Carbondale north to Glenwood Springs stopped when the final train left Carbondale's Mid-Continent Coal and Coke Company's load station in 1991. Infrequent service from Glenwood continued until 1995, delivering beer to a distributor about 5 miles south of the main line along the Colorado River.



All railroad operations ceased in 1995, creating an opportunity that would become the beautiful 42-mile Rio Grande Trail. The old depot remains, home to American Legion Post #100.



Above Photos Courtesy of Carbondale Historical Society Wikimedia Commons

Special Designations

Today, Carbondale is a thriving mountain town and a wonderful place to live. In addition to being a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities,. Carbondale is a Colorado-designated Creative Arts District and Gold Standard Bike Friendly Community by The League of American Bicyclists. Like similar towns, Carbondale is working to preserve its historic, small-town character while coping with housing shortfalls, increasing traffic and commercial growth. The town has discouraged "big box" stores (there are none) and drive-up fast-food establishments (also none). Major employers include retail, restaurants, healthcare, marijuana dispensaries and two private living facilities with nursing care, rehabilitation services, assisted and independent living and memory care. Several multi-unit, mixed-use housing/commercial developments exist, and more are under construction and in the planning stage. Nonetheless, housing is scarce and expensive.

Demographics

Carbondale's population is growing and getting older. In 2000, the town had about 5000 people, of which 6% were over 65. Today's population is about 7000, with 12% over 65. The Latino population has also grown significantly, rising from 32.5% in 2000 to over 40% today. Latino children make up more than half of the student population. The median annual per capita income is estimated at \$36,553, below the statewide average of \$38,200. The median home price is \$570,500 compared to \$394,000 statewide. Home prices no doubt reflect the desirability of calling Carbondale home, but also make life difficult for many, including older people with fixed or modest incomes. Pre-pandemic census data indicate that 8.6% of the town's residents live in poverty, somewhat fewer than Colorado's average of 9.3%.

Governmental Structure

At over 3400 people per square mile (psq), Carbondale's population density exceeds its nearest neighbors, Glenwood Springs (1700 psq) and Basalt (1900 psq). The density discrepancy between Carbondale and its neighbors is the result of planning on Carbondale's part to grow through infill rather than annexation.

As a home rule municipality, Carbondale can legislate ordinances and plan its own future to a large degree. Decisions are made by a mayor and six trustees, each serving no more than two consecutive terms. Various department heads report to this Board of Trustees (BOT), as do several commissions.



Thus, Carbondale has an increasingly dense core, but remains surrounded by farms, ranches and open space, commodities that are disappearing more quickly in neighboring communities. Each spring and fall, ranchers move hundreds of cattle from the valley floor to high country pastures and back again, using a route that runs between two of the buildings of a residential care facility and along one of the town's main streets.

Thanks to policies limiting high-density development to specific parts of town, even moose occasionally still visit their human neighbors.



Carbondale Age-Friendly Community Initiative

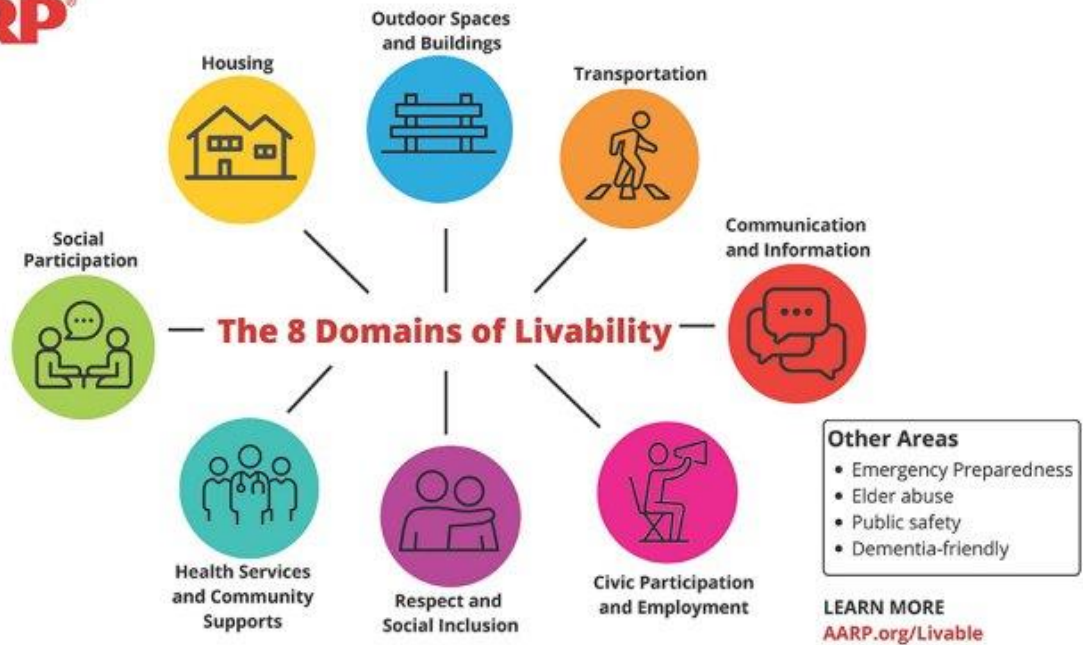
Formation

In 2019, CAFCI initiated the effort for Carbondale to be recognized as an AARP Age-Friendly Community, and in July of that year, Carbondale officially became a member of the National AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. The Network is an independent affiliate of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Program, an international effort launched in 2006 to help communities prepare for the growth of the older adult population.

CAFCI is the town's connection to AARP/WHO, but the town, not CAFCI, owns the Age-Friendly Community designation. It is important to note that this designation is aspirational. Membership in the Network means that a community's elected leadership has made a commitment to actively work with residents and local advocates to ensure that the community becomes increasingly livable for people of all ages. This is accomplished by supporting features like walkable streets, accessible housing and transportation and access to key services and opportunities that enable residents to participate in community activities.

According to WHO/AARP, livable communities embody characteristics of equity and sustainability. Equity means the community is livable for all residents. Livable communities value diversity, fairness, dignity and equal opportunity and realize those acts in legislation, regulation, investment and acts of daily life. Components of livability must be equally available and accessible to all residents. Sustainability connotes that the components of livability are sustainable and include long-term, integrated systems that address the interdependent economic, environmental and social concerns of a community. A livable community is safe, has affordable and appropriate housing and transportation options and offers supportive community features and services that residents need to remain in their homes and communities as they age. Livable communities foster residents' engagement in civic, economic and social life.

CAFCI'S efforts are guided by AARP's eight domains of livability:



Illustrations from iStock

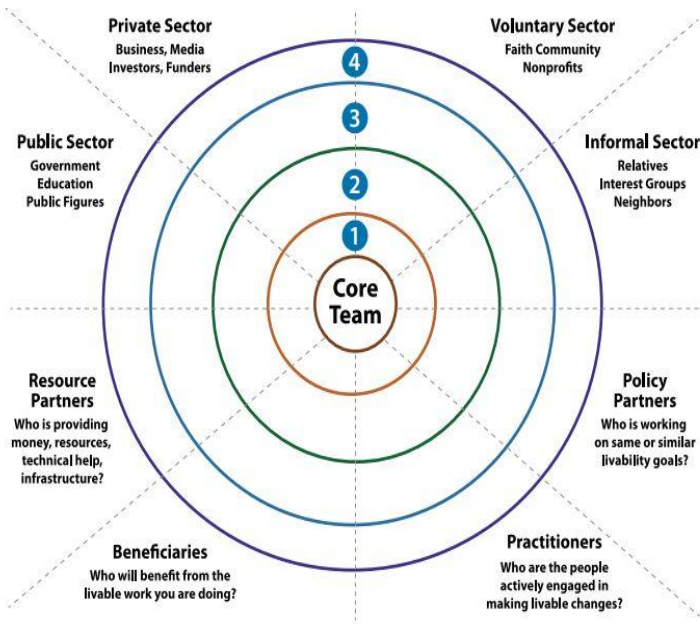
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Structure

CAFCI is a grassroots caucus of Carbondale's older residents. Our Steering Committee is 100% volunteer and comprises the following individuals: Bella Fabela, Frank Sgambati, Judie Blanchard (Co-Chair), Kristi Nicholls, Larry Bogatz, Nancy Peterson, Niki Delson (Co-Chair), Ron Kokish and Sue Zisls. We self-fund our minimal operating expenses.

CAFCI works on its own and with other organizations to strengthen the voices of Carbondale's older population by participating in town planning and civic issues. CAFCI's purpose is to make the aging population more visible, vocal, inclusive and contributory in all areas of civic and social life. CAFCI will occasionally support or provide a service on behalf of policies it supports but is primarily policy oriented.

In addition, we are creating the overarching umbrella under which our efforts toward increasing community support and participation will be accomplished (see figure below).



1. Circle of Engagement: Steering committee and volunteer helpers.

2. Circle of Champions: Elected officials, Town manager, Town commissioners, department heads.

3. Circle of Information and Awareness: Local newspapers, radio station, social media platforms.

4. Circle of Possibility: Partnerships with nonprofits, businesses, volunteers.

1

Mission

CAFCI strives to make Carbondale an ever-better place to live for people of all ages and abilities by contributing its voice and participation in civic planning and policy.

Vision

An *ad hoc* caucus of volunteers encouraging older adults to be visible, vocal and contributing in all town affairs.

Values

To work in collaboration and partnership with government entities, nonprofits and businesses to enrich community living in Carbondale that:

- Is safe and secure.
- Offers choices in where to live and how to get around.
- Serves residents of all ages, ability levels, incomes, races, ethnicities and other backgrounds equitably.
- Enhances personal independence.
- Allows residents to remain in their homes and community as they age.
- Provides opportunities for residents of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to engage fully in civic, economic and social life.

The Plan

¹ AARP Roadmap to Livability Book 1

Year 1 (2019)

DOMAIN: OUTDOOR SPACES AND BUILDINGS

Priority: Improve mobility in Carbondale

Project 1: Survey - COMPLETED

Action Steps

- CAFCI steering committee members conducted an informal survey of 186 residents, including 26 from staff and residents of Heritage Park Care Center. Many residents (not only the older population) reported that some sidewalks and trails around town were difficult to navigate. Respondents included not only those with walkers, wheelchairs and canes, but also young mothers pushing children in strollers. All 186 people we surveyed signed a petition asking the Board of Trustees (BOT) to work with Carbondale's older adults to actively pursue strategies that enhance mobility for people of all ages.
- CAFCI and more than 20 other Carbondale residents attended the February 19 BOT working session on mobility. We presented the petition and identified five priority mobility issues: (1) sidewalk clearance, encroachment and interference; (2) bike, pedestrian and auto conflicts; (3) too few accessible benches along trails; (4) unsafe intersections; (5) lack of transportation outside the downtown core.

Project 2: Accessible Benches on Ditch Trail - PROGRESS

Action Steps

- Discussed mobility Issues with staff and residents of Heritage Park Care Center. Met with staff and residents and learned that residents like to walk along the Ditch Trail that runs behind the property, from Surrey Road to Cowen Drive. However, some residents need rest to complete a loop about the facility and neighborhood, and there are no accessible benches along this trail.



- Worked with the staff and residents of Heritage Park Care Center, the Departments of Parks and Recreation and Public Works and determined a suitable location for a fully accessible, outdoor conversational space.



- Consulted with a physical therapist about a design that would be ADA accessible and also encourage maximum social engagement.
- Obtained easement from Life Care Centers (owner of Heritage Park Care Center) allowing the Town to install the benches.
- Obtained private donations to fund two benches which the Town agreed to install in early 2020.

Project 3: Accessible benches on Rio Grande Trail ARTway - **PROGRESS**



Action Steps

- Explored feasibility of installing accessible benches on the Rio Grande ARTway.
- Walked the ARTway section of the Rio Grande Trail with Amy Kimberly, Executive Director of Carbondale Arts, and Brett Meredith of the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA) and identified an appropriate location for benches.
- Sent a proposal to Mike Hermes, RFTA Director of Facilities and Project Manager.
- RFTA will order and install two benches at an identified location in 2020.¥

DOMAIN: TRANSPORTATION

Priority 1: Improve pedestrian safety at crosswalks

*Project 1: Dangerous Intersections - **COMPLETED***

Action Step

- Responded to a request from a blind resident who was having difficulty crossing the intersection of Village Road and Highway 133
 - CAFCI learned that when pedestrian signals exist at a crossing, the retrofitting of an Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS) device will automatically be approved if the person requesting the APS is blind or has a visual impairment and regularly uses the crossing.
 - CAFCI completed the APS request form, contacted the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) office in Grand Junction, and made an appointment with a CDOT representative and a CDOT engineer to meet CAFCI volunteers at the designated intersection. In preparation for this meeting, we asked Darryl Fuller, outgoing chair of the Bike Pedestrian and Trails Commission (BPT), to summarize the safety issues at the intersections between the highway 133/82 interchange going south through town to Snowmass Drive. This summary was presented in a letter from CAFCI to the CDOT representative at our meeting on April 23, 2019.
 - CDOT increased the amount of time on both the audible and visual signals. However, we did not receive a response to our letter from CDOT. The letter (including summary) was brought before the BPT on November 4 and was unanimously approved.
 - The BPT recommended that the BOT send the letter (including summary) to CDOT. This was unanimously approved by the BOT on December 10, and the letter was mailed shortly thereafter.

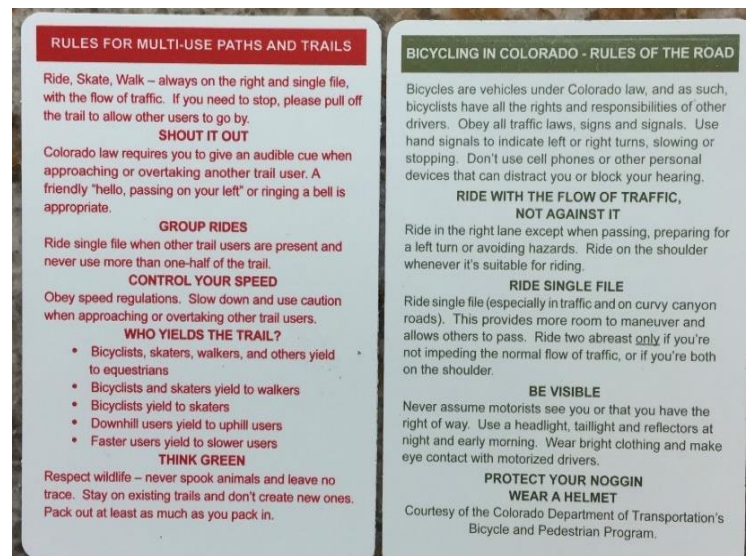
Project 2: Bike Bells - COMPLETED

Action Steps

- Distributed free bicycle bells while educating citizens about bike safety.
- Obtained donations from Near New Rebekah Lodge Thrift Store and Senior Matters for the purchase of bicycle bells, which were generously purchased at cost from Aloha Cyclery.
- Ordered copies of CDOT's Colorado Rules of the Road.
- Colorado Rules of the Road and 200 bicycle bells were given out at two Carbondale events.



I promise to follow the rules of the road.



- Children and adults were engaged in conversation about bicycle etiquette and safe cycling while the bells were installed on their bikes.

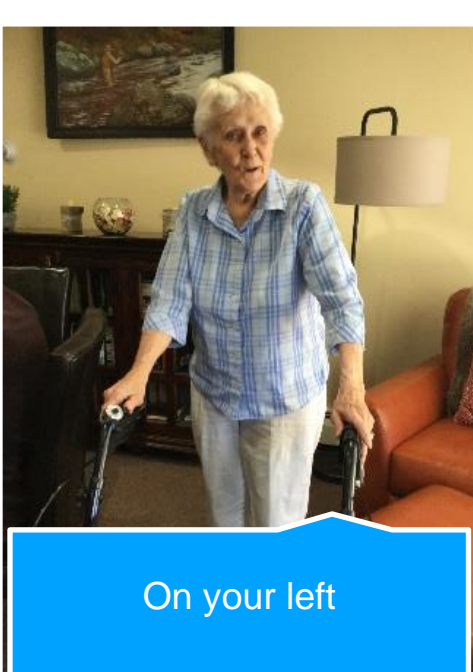


Announce when passing

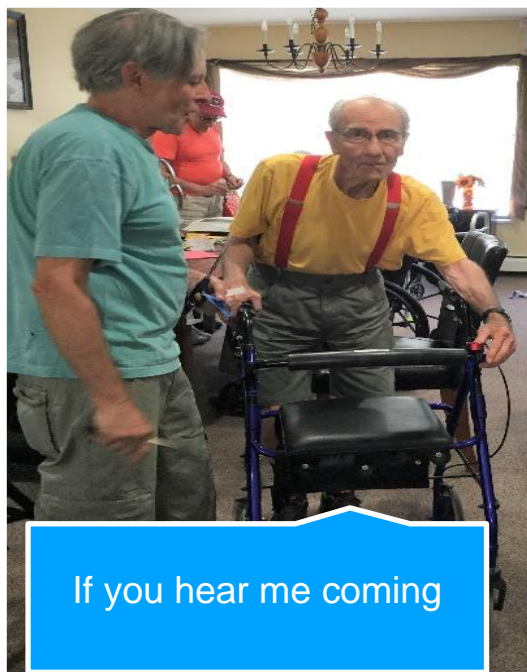


Teaching bike safety at an early age

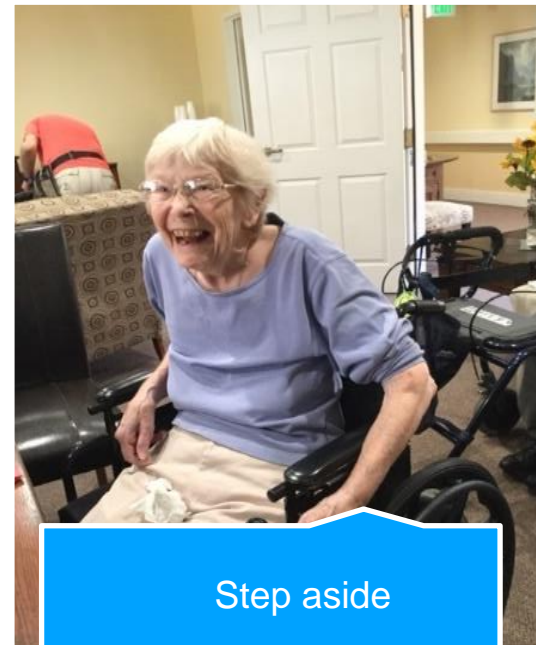
- Residents at Heritage Park Care Center asked if we would install bells on their walkers and wheelchairs. Three CAFCI volunteers installed 15 bells.



On your left



If you hear me coming

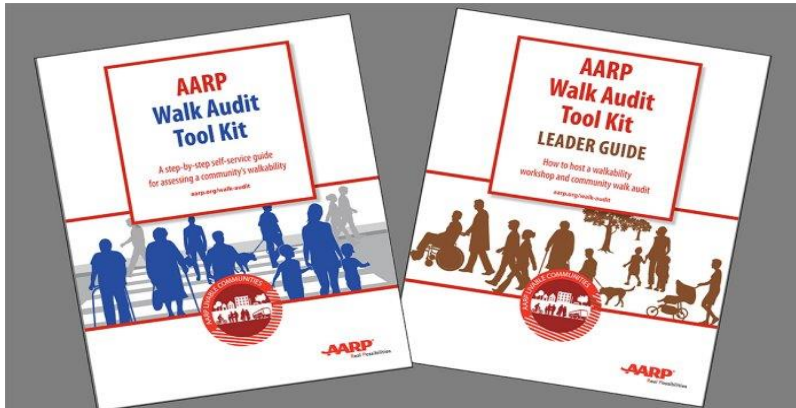


Step aside

Project 3: Priority Corridors - **COMPLETED**

Action Step

- Used modified version of AARP Walk Audit on all Carbondale Priority Corridors (CPCs) designated by the BPTC.



Project 4: 8th Street Priority Corridor - **COMPLETED**

After completing all walk audits, CAFCI determined that the corridor needing immediate attention was 8th Street, from Village Road to Main Street. This section of the corridor presents a multitude of issues: it is heavily trafficked; vehicles, including trucks, often exceed the speed limit, and use the area to cut through town; children and adults on bikes and on foot use the corridor to access the Rio Grande trail; sidewalks are discontinuous and very narrow in places; many residents do not shovel sidewalks or cut back overhanging branches and have other landscaping issues that obstruct pedestrian traffic.

Action Step

- CAFCI presented a detailed audit of the Eighth Street Priority Corridor to the BPT in September. The BPT agreed to recommend that the BOT take action on infrastructure changes to Eighth Street. To be continued in year 2.

Priority 2: Complete sidewalk on main thoroughfare

Project: Cowen Drive to Intersection with Highway 133 – **ABANDONED**

Action Step

- Researched town's interest and funding possibilities.
 - Consulted with the funding representative of Next50 (a grantor organization) to ascertain whether this project would fall within its grant guidelines. It did.
 - Met with Kevin Schorzman, Carbondale's Director of Public Works. He estimated that the project would cost \$25,000. He agreed that the town would

- be the fiscal manager and would write the budget if CAFCI would write the grant.
- Upon further investigation, it was determined that not only was this a project Next50 was unlikely to fund, but it would also require an onerous amount of work on the part of Building Department. Hence, the project was abandoned.

DOMAIN: WORK AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Priority 1: Become a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

*Project: Recognition of Carbondale as an Age-Friendly Community - **COMPLETED***

Action Steps

- Educated the BOT about advantages of joining the AARP Age-Friendly Communities Network.
- Completed the application to become a member of the AARP Age-Friendly Communities Network and presented it to the BOT. The BOT approved unanimously and submitted it to AARP. In July Carbondale became the thirteenth community in Colorado to be accepted into the network.

Priority 2: Forge relationships with local organizations and municipal government

*Project : Relationship Building - **PROGRESS***

Action Steps

- Met with Senior Matters (SM) Board of Directors. Two CAFCI leaders joined SM's Board and are working to provide additional programming for older residents. One SM board member with expertise in universal design joined CAFCI's steering committee to provide advocacy and guidance in her field. SM agreed to act as CAFCI's fiscal sponsor for specific projects.
- Introduced ourselves to various Town departments and explored ways to work together.
- Used social media, newspaper and radio to expand name recognition, values and goals. Several articles about Age-Friendly Communities were published.
- Met with: leaders/staff of Rotary; Rebekah Lodge; Heritage Park Care Center; Sopris Lodge Senior Living Community; Carbondale Arts; RFTA; Crystal Meadows Senior Housing. Some financial support and several joint programs ensued.

DOMAIN: RESPECT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Priority: Engage with older adult living communities

*Project: “Our Town One Table” Carbondale Event - **COMPLETED***

Action Steps

- Met with Celia Carrol, Director of Assisted Living at Heritage Park Care Centers with goal of engaging residents in activities outside their center.
- Met with staff and residents from Heritage Park and invited them to join CAFCI at “Our Town One Table,” an outdoor summer potluck dinner for Carbondale residents.



DOMAIN: CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Priority: Be active and contribute to civic and social life

*Project: Annual Presentation to Board of Trustees - **COMPLETED***

Action Steps

- Created annual report describing CAFCI 2019 accomplishments.
- Presented report at BOT meeting.

DOMAIN: COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Priority: Bring awareness of CAFCI to Carbondale residents and beyond

*Project: Promote CAFCI - **COMPLETED***

Action Steps

- Created the Age-Friendly Carbondale website (<https://agefriendlycarbondale.org/>).
- Researched programs available to Carbondale’s older residents and created a “For Seniors” link on the Town of Carbondale’s website.
- Developed an email list of individuals interested in CAFCI activities.
- Featured on community radio station KDNK and in the local newspaper.

- Organized and raised funds for the CAFCI Community Assembly held on November 21, 2019.
- Held three house meetings as a follow-up to the assembly. Seventeen individuals attended.
- Attended three AARP conferences; present at two of them.
- Educated residents about our goals at every informal opportunity (e.g., when walking in town).

The CAFCI Community Assembly brought together 160 attendees and 20 local organizations and vendors





Featured speakers were Bob Murphy (Director of AARP Colorado), Carbondale Mayor Dan Richardson, John Hoffman (Chair of Senior Matters) and CAFCI leaders.

Participants at the event completed surveys about what would make Carbondale increasingly age friendly.

A GREAT FINISH TO AN EXCITING FIRST YEAR!

The Plan

Year 2 (2020)

Our overarching goal for year two is to broaden our reach, visibility and recognition locally, state-wide and nationally by forging relationships with multiple government and private organizations.

DOMAIN: COMMUNITY AND INFORMATION

Priority: Promote the vision of creating a more livable community

*Project 1: Promotion of Livable Communities - **COMPLETED***

Action Steps

- Met with Age-Friendly Pitkin and Eagle Counties to foster regional collaboration. The Roaring Fork Age-Friendly Collaborative held its first meeting in January 2020. Thirty members make up the group and come from a variety of organizations that either serve older adults or have an interest in furthering age-friendly work in their communities.
- Participated in the Mountain Voices Project-to raise awareness about issues of aging on a regional level.
- Met with community leaders from government, adult living communities, Carbondale Arts, Carbondale Chamber of Commerce, Garfield County Senior Services, mental health service providers and other nonprofits.
- Promoted Age-Friendly Communities on local radio station.
- Hosted an informal meeting of 10 community leaders with Roberto Rey, Associate State Director, Multicultural Outreach AARP Colorado.
- Continued inviting diverse community leaders to CAFCI steering committee meetings.
- Continued sharing CAFCI achievements at national and state conferences and other organizational meetings.

*Project 2: Participation in State and National Age-Friendly Community Events - **COMPLETED***

Action Steps

- Participated in two webinars. One focused on regional collaboration between Pitkin, Eagle and Carbondale Age-Friendly Communities. The emphasis of our

presentation was that our geographies and economies are interdependent, and we are all stronger when we share financial and human capital. For example, Eagle County shared financial capital by providing Carbondale's older adults with home delivered meals. The second webinar provided an update on the status of the pandemic. CAFCI presented local best practices, along with Colorado Springs and Larimer County.

DOMAIN: OUTDOOR SPACES AND BUILDINGS

Priority: Improve mobility in Carbondale

Project 1: Accessible Benches on Ditch Trail - COMPLETED

Action Steps

- Continued engaging with stakeholders until installation.
- The project, started in 2019, was completed with the installation of two benches on July 24, 2020. This project took more than a year of cooperation among CAFCI, the Parks and Recreation and Building Departments, Heritage Park Life Care Center staff and residents and two generous donors.



Project 2 (from 2019): Rio Grande Trail ARTway Bench Project - PROGRESS

Action Steps

- Continued engagement with Mike Hermes, RFTA Director of Facilities and Project Manager. RFTA ordered 2 benches which were placed on the trail.
- RFTA director informed CAFCI that they did not have the money in the 2020 budget for permanent, accessible installation.



To Be Continued in Year 3

- Obtain estimate for cement pad and raise funds for completion.

DOMAIN: CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Priority: Be visible, vocal, and contributing in civic affairs

*Project: Participate in Hiring New Police Chief - **COMPLETED***

Action Step

- Participated on citizen advisory panel interviewing finalist applicants.

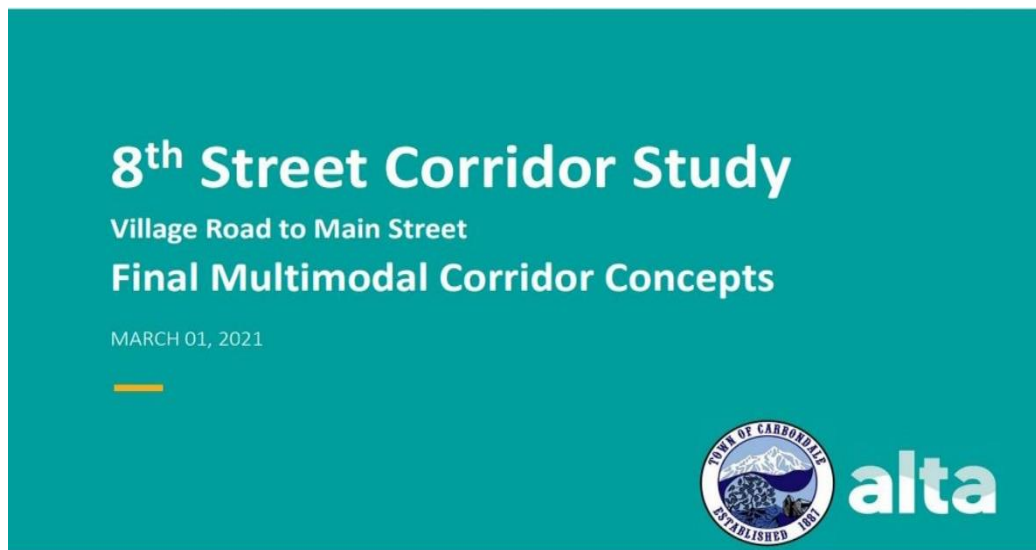
DOMAIN: TRANSPORTATION

Priority: Improve mobility in Carbondale

*Project: 8th Street Priority Corridor - **COMPLETED***

Action Steps

- Attended meetings of the BPT Commission and BOT.
- Encouraged residents to complete the design survey.
- Engaged with design consultant.
- Participated in review of design options.
- Funding for the design consultant (Alta) and the contract was approved as part of the 2020 budget.
- Funding for the construction was approved as part of the 2021 budget.



DOMAIN: COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES

Priority: Support residents impacted by COVID

Project 1: Carbondale Emergency Task Force (CETF) - COMPLETED

Action Step

- Participated in Carbondale's Emergency Task Force (CETF), a collective group of volunteer and organizational experts from across the community. The CETF provides support and guidance to the Town on the potential impact of Covid.
 - We provided weekly updates to CETF leaders on perceived needs of the older population.
 - When vaccines became available, we connected hard-to-reach individuals with facilities that had vaccines available.

Project 2: Care Calls - COMPLETED

Action Steps

- Used CAFCI and Senior Matters email lists to reach out to older residents.
- Made about 100 calls to older residents to provide information, give them an opportunity to share their concerns and connect them with volunteers who would run errands such as grocery shopping and picking up medications.
- Over several weeks, called older residents on CAFCI's contact list.

Project 3: Mask On Carbondale – COMPLETED



Action Steps

- Applied for funding to hire local garment makers to make sanitized masks, thereby supporting local economy.
- Distributed masks to residents and businesses.

Funding and in-kind support came from AARP, Town of Carbondale, Covid Cares Act, Alpine Bank, First Bank and Rocky Mountain Health Foundation.



We distributed 1400 hand-made masks to local schools; senior lunch sites; Crystal Meadows residents; Lift-Up; library staff; Carbondale Recreation and Community Center; John M. Fleet municipal pool; local nonprofit organizations, restaurants and businesses; Valley Meals and More; individual residents.



The Plan

Year 3 (2021)

DOMAIN: CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Priority 1: Promote participation in civic and social affairs

Project 1: Completion of Census Forms – COMPLETED

Action Steps

- Volunteered with local organizations providing information about the census and encouraging residents to complete the form without fear of government intrusion in their lives.
- Provided information about census to local residents via email, website and phone calls.

Project 2: Building Relationship with Carbondale Police Department - PROGRESS

Action Steps

- As a matter of social justice, CAFCI members responded to an incident between the Carbondale Police Department and a local resident. We obtained and posted public documents on our website so that community members could obtain complete information.
- Four CAFCI Steering Committee members and several other older residents completed the 15-hour Police Department's Citizen's Academy.

Priority 2: Be active in and contribute to civic and social life

Project 1: Annual Presentation to Board of Trustees - COMPLETED

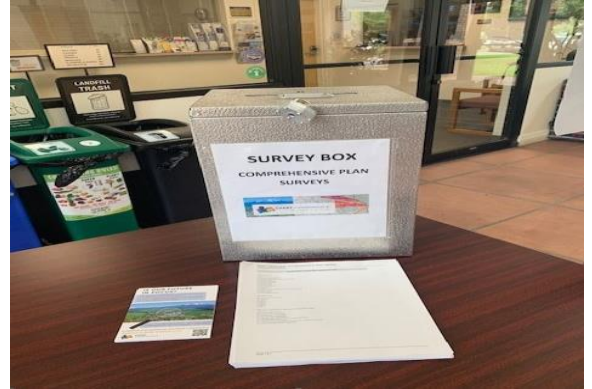
Action Steps

- Created annual report describing CAFCI 2020 accomplishments and 2021 priorities.
- Presented the report at BOT meeting and delineated four most pressing issues for the town.
 - Requested a BOT work session to address specific issues. BOT agreed to hold a work session on one or more of the following four major areas of concern: intra-urban transportation; multimodal mobility; creation of central source of information on local resources; accessibility to outdoor and public spaces and housing. (Scheduled for 9/21/2021)

Project 2: Input into Updated Carbondale 10-Year Comprehensive Plan - **PROGRESS**

Action Steps

- Participated in comprehensive plan focus groups specific to multimodal mobility and aging in community.
- Posted survey links and information on community meetings on Carbondale Facebook page and NextDoor neighborhood listserv.
- Sent Spanish flyer announcing meetings to Voces Unidas de las Montañas.
- Requested Planning and Zoning Department make printed copies of survey for residents not connected to Internet to complete and place in drop-off box in Town Hall.
- Delivered printed copies of survey to Senior Housing and Stepping Stones Youth Center.
- Delivered completed surveys to drop box.
- Participated in one public meeting, two focus groups and one meeting specifically for CAFCI



The ability-to age in community will be a specific goal in the revised 10-year Comprehensive Plan.

DOMAIN: COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES

Priority: Assist Carbondale residents in obtaining Covid vaccinations

Project: Shot Whisperers - **COMPLETED**

Action Steps

- Learned about availability of vaccine.
- Developed personal relationships with distribution site employees and volunteers.
- Formed regional volunteer group to assist residents of Pitkin, Eagle and Garfield counties to schedule appointments. Core team consisted of a nurse, a journalist and CAFCI volunteer.
 - Team soon included other residents who volunteered to help in specific geographical areas.
- Used social media to promote project and publicize vaccine availability.
- When distribution sites told us they had doses available, we posted to social media.

- To reach people not on the internet we contacted the Chamber of Commerce in an outlying area to assist posting information. Posted on local bulletin boards, used local radio station and created flyers to be distributed with home-delivered meals.

We assisted more than 100 residents who had been unable to make appointments and assisted many others in self-scheduling.

DOMAIN: RESPECT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Priority 1: Intergenerational opportunities

*Project: Collaboration with Intergenerational and Youth Organizations - **PROGRESS***

Action Step

- Collaborate with (1) Talk With Each Other (TWEO), an organization that has hosted events that bring elders and teens together and (2) Stepping Stones Drop-In Center for youths aged 10-2.

Priority 2: Seek opportunities for addressing social isolation and encouraging social connection

*Project: Relationship-Building with Sopris Lodge - **PROGRESS***

Action Step

- Engage with residents and staff of Sopris Lodge, a new community for independent living, assisted living and memory care.

Priority 3: Engage with Latino Community

*Project: Latino Participation in Age-Friendly Work - **PROGRESS***

Action Steps

- Invite Latino members to the steering committee, with the long-term goal of having a committee that reflects the Carbondale population.
- Strengthen relationships with the Latino community organizations by meeting with community leaders.
- Advocate for civic inclusion by promoting simultaneous Spanish translation of municipal meetings and translation of public documents on an ongoing basis and across all CAFCI priorities.

- Invited a member of the Latina community to join the steering committee. She did.
- Reached out to Voces Unidas de las Montañas leadership development program. Met with founder/director.
- Encouraged government organizations to include simultaneous Spanish/English translation at meetings and of bilingual documents.

The Town Of Carbondale now uses simultaneous translation during all BOT meetings. Latinos are 40% of the resident population. At a series of recent public meetings 30% were Latino, which is a new high for Latino participation. We are happy to have contributed to an effort that involved many individuals and organizations.

DOMAIN: OUTDOOR SPACES AND BUILDINGS

Priority: Improve accessibility in outdoor spaces

Project 1: Nature Park Improvement - PROGRESS

Action Step

- Met with Director of Parks and Recreation Department and Chair of Parks and Rec Commission to express our interest in expanding use of the Nature Park to meet needs of many nature enthusiasts – not just dog lovers.

Project 2: Assessing of Accessibility of Carbondale Parks - PROGRESS

Action Steps

- Posted query on AARP Age-Friendly Community Forum Discussion Board and obtained information about two assessment tools.
- Received permission from Karen Roof, Director of Safe and Healthy Communities, to modify the Outdoor Livability Assessment Tool (OLAT) for adaptation to small mountain town.
- Met with Parks and Recreation Director to express CAFCI interest in assessing all local parks with this tool, and scheduled meeting with Karen Roof to train us in using the OLAT.

Priority: Forge relationship with Planning Department and Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission

Project: Incorporate Universal Design in New Construction and Building Renovations. - PROGRESS

Action Steps

- Advocated for universal design features in all new town building projects at meetings to update 10-year Comprehensive Plan.
- Met with Janet Buck, Director of Planning Department.
- Attended P&Z and Trustee meetings to update building codes for compliance with new Comprehensive Plan.
- Provided Town government with research regarding how other municipalities have included universal design features in building codes.

DOMAIN: TRANSPORTATION

Priority: Improve mobility in Carbondale

Project 1: Infrastructure Improvements

Action Step

- Continue providing input regarding new town infrastructure projects.

*Project 2: Dangerous Sidewalks and Intersections - **PROGRESS***

Action Steps

- Follow up with Carbondale Police Chief Kirk Wilson regarding installing red flags at existing crossings that currently only have flashing lights.
- Educate the public about the snow removal ordinance.
- Work with the Town to expedite replacement/repair of nonfunctional lights.
- Work with RFTA, BPT Commission and municipal departments on improving the use of audible signals by cyclists on the Rio Grande trail and throughout town.
- Promoted bicycle safety by distributing AARP/ League of American Bicyclists *Smart Cycling Quick Guide*.
- Attended BOT meeting and informed them of challenges CAFCI sees for the Town in the future.
- Delivered *Smart Cycling Quick Guide* to: Carbondale Police Department to distribute to cyclists failing to follow rules of road; library; town hall; recreation center. The guide will also be distributed at the joint CAFCI/Senior Matters table at First Friday events.

DOMAIN: COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Priority: Increase awareness of CAFCI and age-friendly concerns

Project: Media Exposure - PROGRESS

Action Steps

- Published a monthly column in the *Sopris Sun*, focusing on how to live into the aspiration of making Carbondale a more livable community for people of all ages.
- Contact KDNK regarding radio programming focused on issues of the older population.
- Raise awareness about issues related to civic and social life in Carbondale on social media.

The Plan

Year 4 (2022)

DOMAIN: COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Priority: Increase awareness of CAFCI and age-friendly concerns

Project: Media Exposure

Action Steps

- Publish a monthly column in the *Sopris Sun*, focusing on how to live into the aspiration of making Carbondale a more livable community for people of all ages.
- Contact KDNK regarding radio programming focused on issues of the older population.
- Raise awareness about issues about civic and social life in Carbondale on social media.

DOMAIN: OUTDOOR SPACES AND BUILDINGS

Priority 1: Improve Accessibility in Outdoor Spaces

Project 1: Assessment of Accessibility of Carbondale Parks

Action Step

- Continue working with Parks and Recreation Department on assessing accessibility in parks.

Project 2: Rio Grande Trail ARTway Bench Project

Action Steps

- Continue working with RFTA to install additional accessible benches along the ARTway.
- Raise funds for permanent installation of benches.
- Install benches.

Project 3: Universal Design

Action Steps

- Continue advocating for universal design features in all new town building projects and outdoor spaces.
- Attend P&Z meetings.

- Provide P&Z with research regarding how other municipalities have included universal design features in building codes.
- Engage with Planning Department Director regarding adoption of building codes adopted in 2021.

Priority 2: Create an accessible area on the western side of the Nature Park that excludes dogs to protect birds and other wildlife

Project: Nature Park

Action Step

- Work with Parks & Recreation Department and Parks and Rec Commission to create a plan to move this forward.

DOMAIN: CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Priority: Promote participation in civic and social affairs

Project 1: Annual Presentation to Board of Trustees

Action Steps

- Create annual report describing CAFCI 2021 accomplishments and 2022 priorities.
- Present report at BOT meeting.

Project 2: Comprehensive Plan Update

Action Step

- Review draft of update to ensure inclusion of age-friendly concerns.

Project 3: Promotion of Age-Friendly Concerns with Candidates for Mayor and Trustees

Action Step

- Participate in community forums.

Project 4: CAFCI Town Event

Action Step

- Develop and produce 2022 CAFCI event.

Project 5: Age-Friendly Concerns as Part of the DNA of Carbondale

Action Step

- Embed CAFCI concerns in civic and social arenas.

DOMAIN: RESPECT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Priority: Engage with diverse communities

Project: Diversification

Action Step

- Engage with Carbondale's diverse communities.

DOMAIN: TRANSPORTATION

Priority: Improve mobility in Carbondale

Project: Priority Corridors

Action Step

- Reassess and document damage to and encroachment on all sidewalks on priority corridors.

The Plan
Year 5 (2023)

DOMAIN: HOUSING

Priority: Increase long-term housing options

Project: Issues Surrounding Short-Term Rentals

Action Steps

- Inform ourselves on current practices in mountain towns.
- Participate in conversations with P&Z.

DOMAIN: TRANSPORTATION

Priority: Explore intra-municipal transportation options

Project: Funding Options for Intra-town Transportation

Action Steps

- Use AARP Forum to explore successful private small-town intra-transport systems.
- Bring options to RFTA and BOT.

Domain: Civic Participation

Priority 1: Promote participation in civic and social affairs

Project: Annual Presentation to Board of Trustees

Action Steps

- Create annual report describing CAFCI 2022 accomplishments and 2023 priorities.
- Present report at BOT meeting.

Priority 2: Planning for CAFCI future

Project: Looking Ahead

Action Step

- Hold retreat for steering committee to determine next steps.