

# OPINION

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## Burlington chosen for livability project

**B**urlington has long received top marks for its livability, but how is it doing for older folks? Do they feel comfortable, safe and welcome in this city?

A pilot project launched Monday by the city of Burlington and AARP Vermont will try to determine what works and what doesn't for an aging population.

Burlington is one of three U.S. cities chosen by AARP, the American Association of Retired Persons, to undertake this groundbreaking initiative. El Paso, Texas and part of Chicago are the other two test areas.

The Burlington Livable Community Project is a 10-year commitment from AARP with a startup investment of \$100,000 for the kick-off year, starting in January.

The goal is to provide an in-depth community assessment and to follow through with practical improvements that residents of all ages can enjoy for a safer, easier, more pleasant place to live. Friendly, walkable neighborhoods; efficient public transportation; safe lighting and sidewalks; reasonably priced housing; community services — these can all help

### Join the conversation

For more information on the Burlington Livable Community Project, contact AARP Vermont in Montpelier at 229-1333 or Mayor Peter Clavelle's office at 865-7272.

matter what age you are.

AARP, Mayor Peter Clavelle, city staff, Burlington police, the Chittenden County Transportation Authority, the Champlain Senior Center, the Champlain Valley Agency on Aging and other organizations will meet next month to map out a rough plan of action. The public will be invited to attend numerous discussions to help shape the vision for the project, and many volunteers will be needed to help with a number of tasks, including community evaluations.

Burlington has worked hard to gain its national reputation for livability. This project is intended to keep up that standard and to reach out to residents with a comforting message: "Grow old with me."

What do you need as you get older? Does Burlington provide it? Speak out. Help improve your city.