

# **AARP Vermont – City of Burlington**

## **Press Release**

### ***For Immediate Release***

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## **Burlington Action Plan Released to Public and City Councilors**

BURLINGTON, VT, May 21, 2007 -- Following some 18 months of extensive evaluations, opinion research and analysis and community discussions, the Burlington Livable Community Project today released its report of recommendations and presents them to the Burlington City Council tonight.

The report, *A Great City for Older Adults -- An Action Plan for Burlington*, outlines the key findings of city-wide surveys and focus groups and represents the work of some 30 organizations dedicated to creating a community that accommodates, embraces and serves a fast-growing aging population. The report articulates a vision for the city in the areas of housing, mobility and accessibility and community engagement while making a host of actionable recommendations in each area. The 10-year project is a collaboration of many organizations across the city and is being coordinated through a partnership of the City of Burlington and AARP Vermont. This report was released formally by Mayor Kiss, AARP Vermont and others at a city hall press conference.

“We are very pleased to be sharing the results of our work with the public,” said Jennifer Wallace Brodeur of AARP Vermont. “Burlington will see a huge increase in its older population over the coming years and this initiative has sought to provide direction, assess needs and resources, and now put forward specific recommendations to make this city a great place to grow old,” she said. “As a collaborative effort we have involved many committed individuals, groups and organizations and have reached out to the community on many levels in the process. This report represents a significant body of work aimed at making Burlington a better place for an aging population.”

"The release of this report is a significant step towards meeting the goals of the Burlington Livable Community Project," said Burlington Mayor Bob Kiss. "While we've made good progress, we can still do more in Burlington about pedestrian access, housing and other community services for seniors. We hope this project will have a broad and lasting impact which will benefit seniors, as well as the whole community. I'd like to thank AARP Vermont and their volunteers for all the work that went into the report, and also recognize the efforts of other community partners and City departments, especially CEDO, that have been an important part of this ongoing project."

The report outlines significant findings from the project to date and key research results as well as laying out a vision for the community in regards to housing, mobility/accessibility and community engagement. The action steps in these areas include planning and policy steps, infrastructure needs, pedestrian and public transit, recreational activities, volunteering and employment and civic participation among others.

The report concludes with thoughts on how the city can work together to address other issues related to a livable community such as changing public perceptions of the elderly, how to engage older residents in building neighborhoods and how to foster enhanced connections in the community that link all residents together regardless of age.

The report is available at [www.aarp.org/vt](http://www.aarp.org/vt) under "Announcements" or by contacting AARP Vermont at 866-227-7451 or by e-mail at [vtaarp@aarp.org](mailto:vtaarp@aarp.org).