

Age Friendly Coalition for Seattle and King County
Transportation and Public Spaces Committee
Age-Friendly Neighborhoods Project
Problem Statement

Transportation infrastructure and public spaces that allow older adults and people of all ages to get where they need to go and enjoy the public realm in safety and comfort is part of what makes a neighborhood age-friendly. SDOT's *Street Design Toolkit for Age-Friendly Neighborhoods* identifies best practices that could be applied to neighborhoods throughout the region to improve the usability and quality of the public realm and support the safety of all transportation users, particularly those who are most sensitive to local-scale and micro-scale systems (e.g. older adults who are pedestrians and cyclists; pedestrians and cyclists with disabilities; and children).

Methods of prioritizing these best practices in a hyper-local context may be more or less equitable depending, in part, on the extent to which they rely on local knowledge and community needs or preferences. Providing opportunities for local communities to set their own priorities will allow them to achieve their own vision of age-friendliness, which may differ from what would be assumed. A planning and community engagement process is needed to understand existing conditions at a micro-scale, determine priorities for improvement that align with the community's vision of an age-friendly neighborhood, and identify resources to implement prioritized improvements.

The Age Friendly Coalition Transportation and Public Spaces Committee's Age-Friendly Neighborhood project will consist of the following steps:

1. Identify community partners and confirm desirability of partnership
2. Work with community partners and residents to further define project scope, including identification of the targeted area for improvement (targeted areas should be clearly delimited. For example, a 3-5 block radius surrounding a senior center, the public street/pathway connecting a senior center and community center, a 4-block retail corridor, etc.)
3. Analyze existing conditions in the targeted area
4. Work with community partners and residents to identify needed or desired improvements and possible trade-offs, with the goal of a clear understanding of community consensus
5. Determine feasibility and identify resources to implement improvements