APPENDIX B – Community Survey Results

2017 AARP Louisiana Transportation and Mobility Needs Assessment

Background:
In June 2017, AARP Louisiana and the Center for Planning Excellence conducted an online survey in Baton Rouge to further understand the community’s desire for improved conditions for biking, walking and transit. Door to door surveys of residents were done in the following neighborhoods: Ardenwood, Bernard Terrace, Eden Park, Fairfield, Melrose, and Seven Oaks. Below are the findings:

Findings:
Respondents are concerned about safety for both walkers and bikers. As such, it is important to them that their community has features that would make people safer. They also report a lack of access to such things as walking/bike trails and well-lit and maintained sidewalks. Below are detailed findings from the survey:

- Over three-quarters (76%) of Baton Rouge respondents drive when they need to get around for things like shopping, visiting the doctor, running errands or other activities.
- One fourth either walks (23%) or rides a bike (20%) when they need to get around. About one in six have someone else drive them (17%) or use public transportation (16%). Only two percent of Louisiana respondents use handicap services to get around the community.
- Nearly three in ten (28%) report they have frequently or sometimes missed activities because they did not have transportation. Additionally, six in ten (59%) would be likely to use public transportation if it was affordable and easy to get to.
- Safety is a concern for Louisiana respondents; as such more than one-half (53%) say they are not satisfied with the safety of bikers and walkers. Many report having speeding cars (84%), too much traffic (49%), unsightly or runs down areas (54%), and suspicious or criminal behavior (52%) in their neighborhood.
- More than eight in ten respondents (81%) say they would be more likely to exercise if they had safe places to walk in their neighborhood.
- Moreover, safe streets and sidewalks are the top ranked most important transportation/mobility features in the community. Specifically, respondents say having safe streets and intersections for everyone (96%), having well-lit and maintained sidewalks (95%), and easy to read traffic signs (94%) are most important to them.
More than nine in ten also report that having safe handicap-accessible public transportation stops (93%), special transportation services for disabled and elderly persons (91%), easy and affordable transportation (91%), and enforced speed limits (91%) are important.

When asked about the presence of certain transportation and mobility features in their community, more than one-half of respondents said the well-lit and maintained sidewalks (69%), bicycle and walking trails (64%), buttons for signal to cross the street on foot (58%), well-maintained streets (53%), and enforced speed limits (51%) are missing from their communities.

Nearly all respondents (97%) report that it is important to them for people to be able to walk safety on busy streets.

About nine in ten say it is important that bike trails and walking paths that are separated from traffic be built (91%), things that make crossing a busy street be installed, and sidewalks that help people access bus stops be built (89%).