
This study explores one of the emerging problems confronting planning for an aging population: how will older adults maintain mobility as driving becomes difficult? One potential answer to maintaining their mobility is to develop seniors’ housing in transit oriented communities. The objective of this research is to test how well seniors can move around a transit-oriented community by transit and by walking. To accomplish this, I use a sample of senior citizens living in B’nai Brith Federation Houses, Al Gormer Residence, which is an independent living seniors’ apartment building in South Orange, New Jersey. Structured interviews were conducted with a small sample of its residents. This analysis suggests a benefit from certain aspects of the transit village other than the train service itself. Improvements in seniors’ lives that have come along with Transit Village designation include: improved walking facilities, more amenities within a walkable distance, improved bus service, and jitney service. However, the analysis also suggests that a significant portion of residents who drive regularly, do not walk, and a large portion who rarely take transit, if ever. With limited land surrounding transit stations, and increasing demand for transit-oriented development, the policy for senior housing should be to garner the benefits of transit village for what seniors have found in areas other than those with extremely valuable accessibility to regional employment centers. Particularly useful benefits that may be transferable include the high density of retail stores that are within close proximity and the wide variety of improvements to the pedestrian walking environment.