

Age-Friendly Communities Forum

A Seniors' Perspective

June 2, 2011 - Halton Region Auditorium

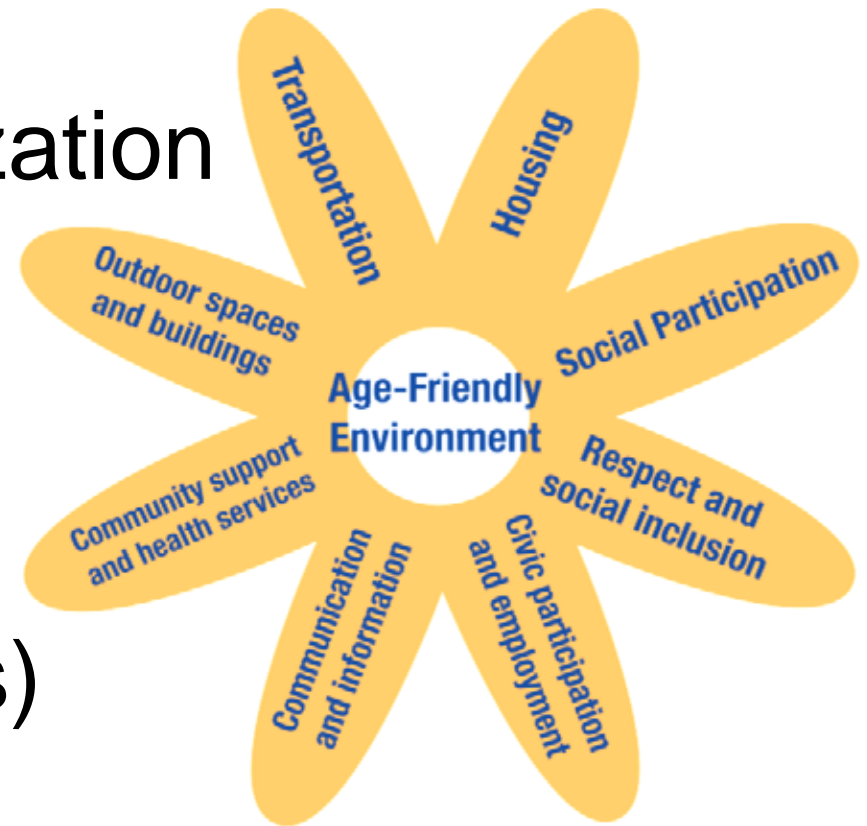
Sponsored by
The Halton Region Elder Services Advisory Committee

Funded by
New Horizons for Seniors Program

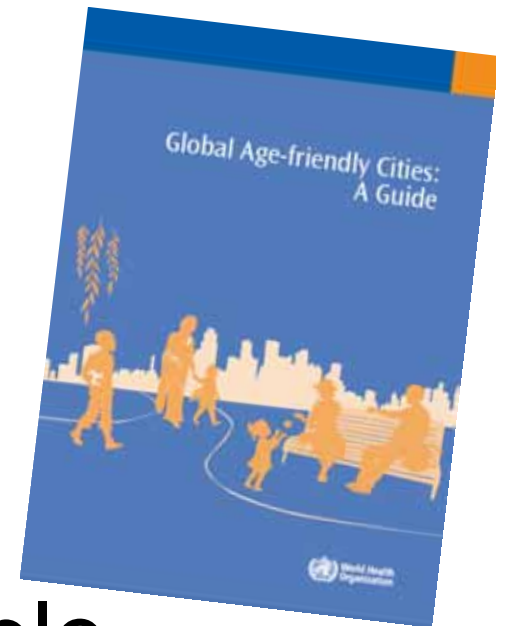


Why “Age-Friendly Communities”?

- World Health Organization (WHO) initiative
- Aging demographic
- Key indicators for planning (daisy petals)



Age-Friendly Communities



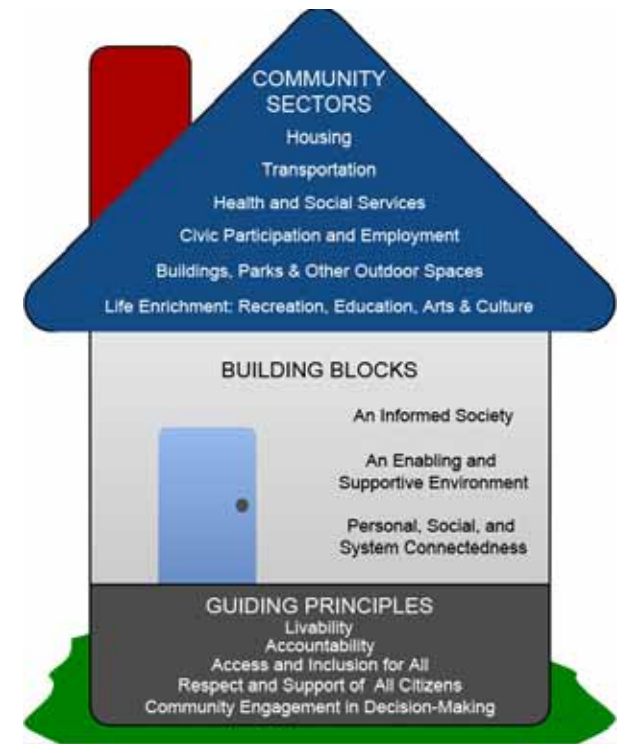
Definition:

Age-friendly communities enable older persons to live safely, age actively, maintain their health and participate fully in their community.

... WHO Global Age-Friendly Cities: A Guide

Underlying Principles:

- Livability
- Accountability
- Access and inclusion for all
- Respect and support of all citizens
- Community engagement in decision-making



... Age-Friendly Communities Project – MAREP; University of Waterloo

Some Canadian Examples:

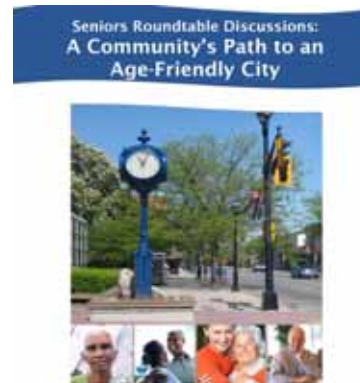
- Saanich, British Columbia



- London, Ontario



- Burlington, Ontario



Why A Halton Age-Friendly Communities Study?

- Provide advice to Halton Regional Council
- Capture seniors' voices – aging in Halton
- Explore what is working and opportunities for improvement
- Build on ESAC's previous work

– e.g., “*The Quality of Life for Seniors in Halton*”

(Halton Region - 2007)



Data Collection

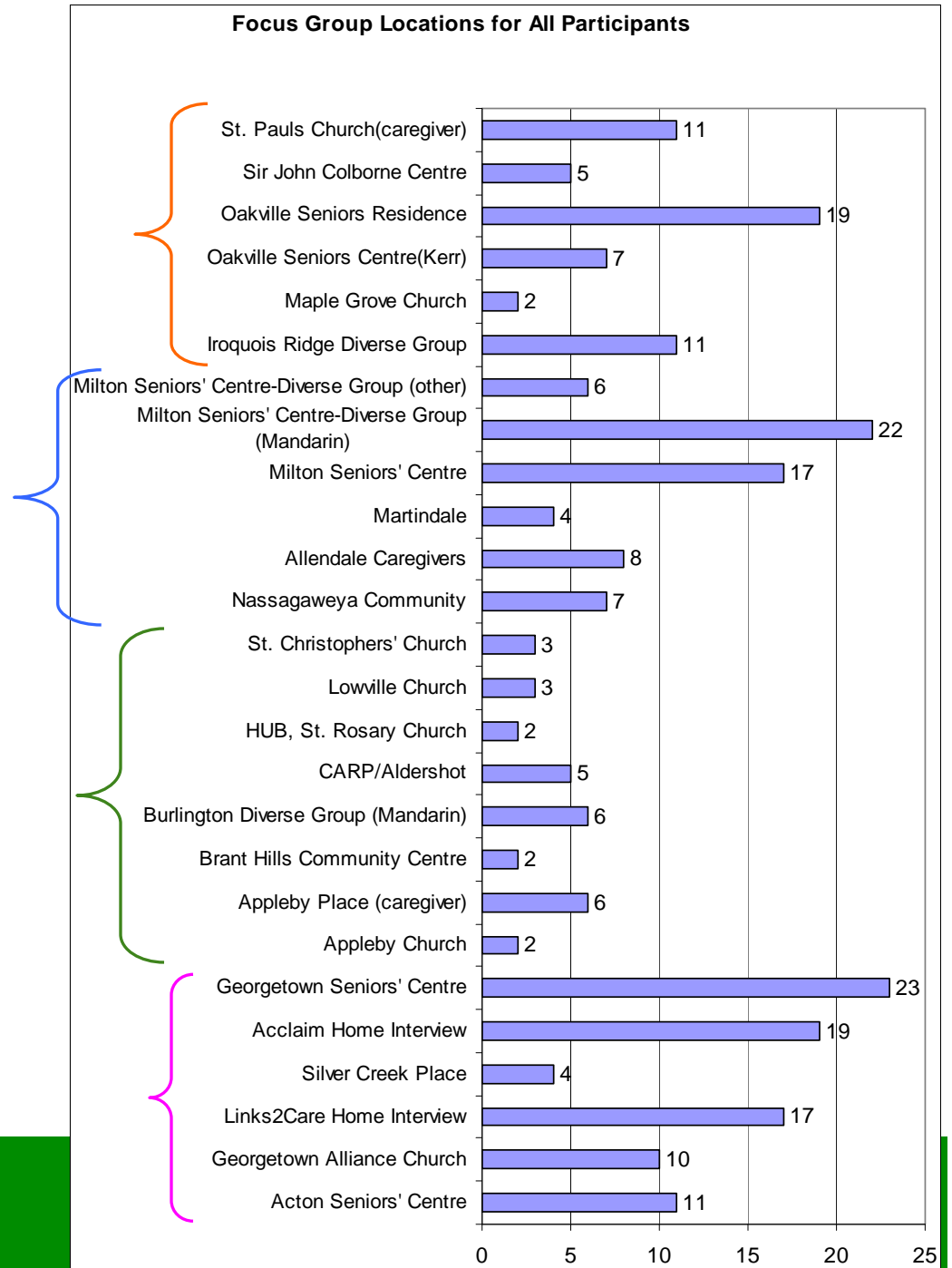
24 Focus Groups

- Oakville (5)
- Milton (4)
- Burlington (7)
- Halton Hills (4)
- Conversation Circles (4)

37 Interviews

- Acclaim Health (20)
- Links2Care (17)

= 233 people



What Did We Hear?



What Did We Hear?

Communications and Information

A range of tools are available

**211 and 311
are still not
widely used**

However

**Seniors rely on
newspapers;
Content, delivery,
and cost are
concerns**

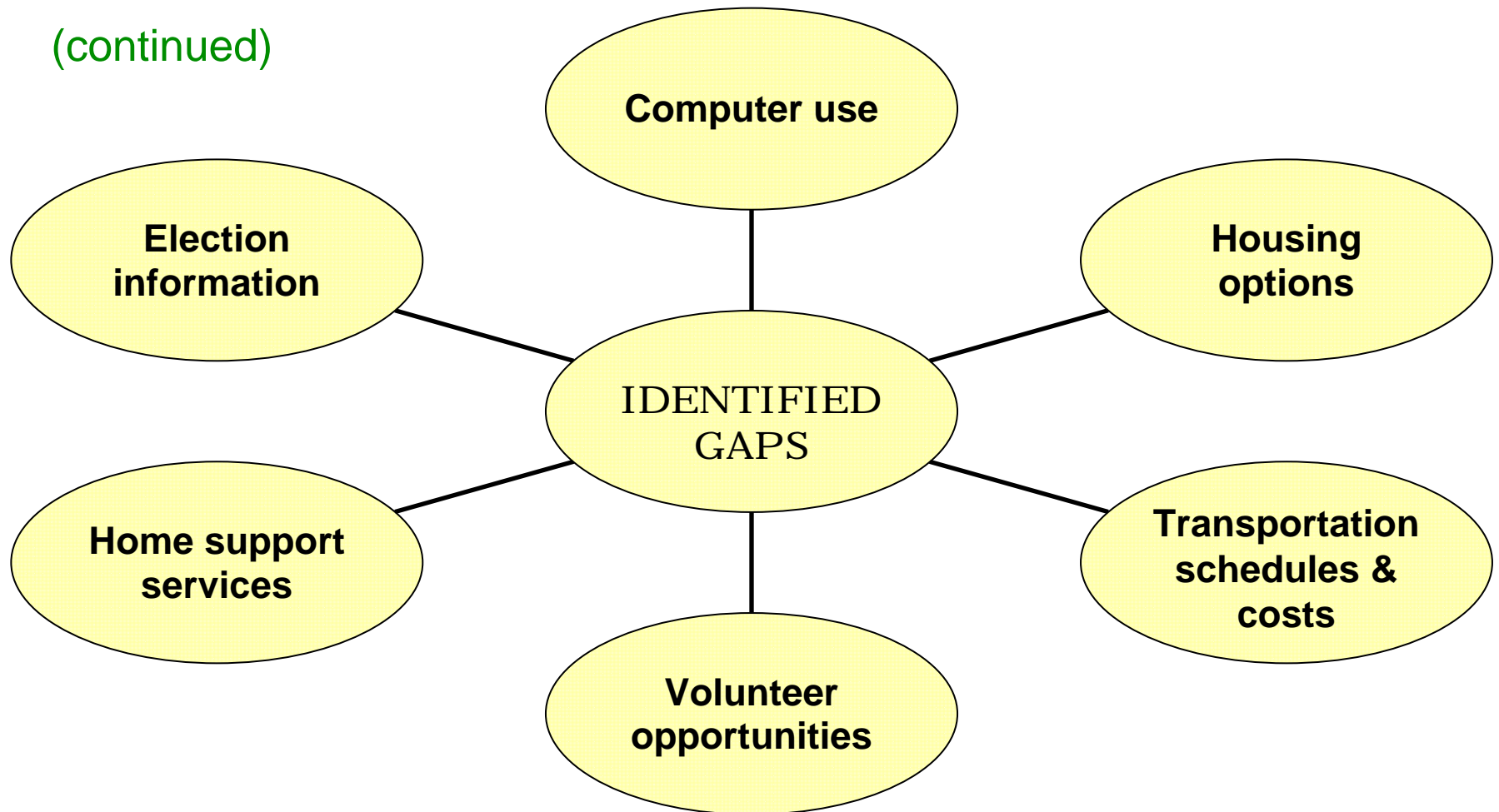
**Seniors Directory is
widely available;
Not all have a copy**

**COGECO is viewed;
On-screen print is
unclear**

What Did We Hear?

Communications and Information

(continued)



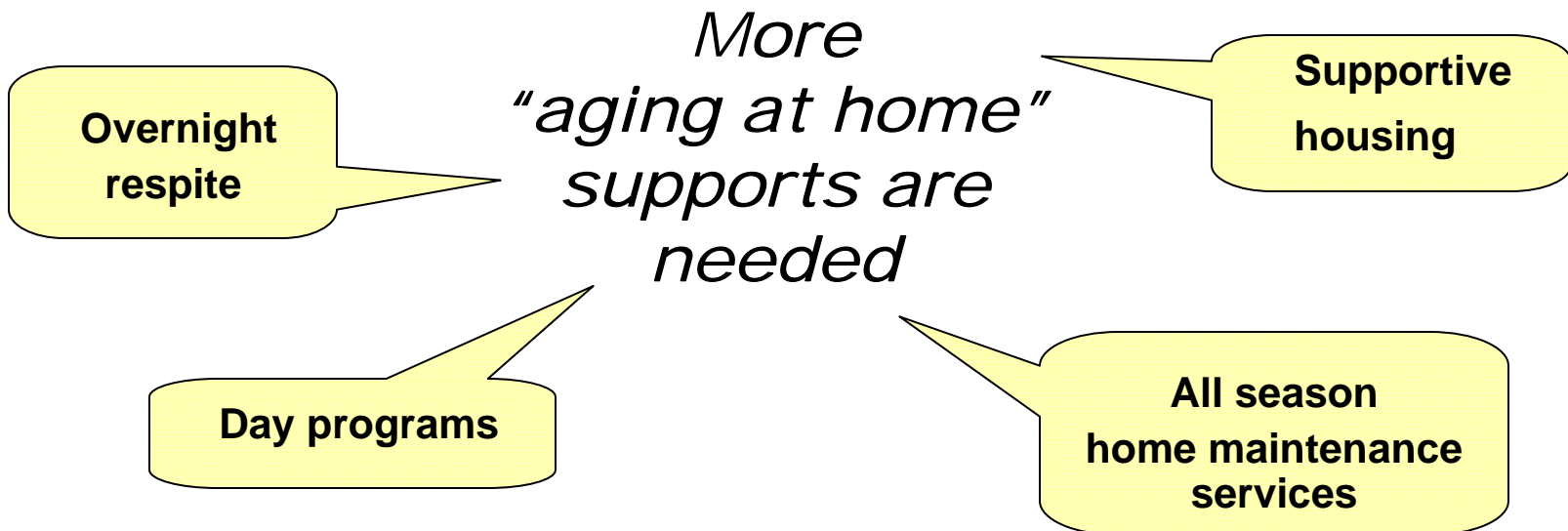
What Did We Hear?



What Did We Hear?

Community Support/Health Services

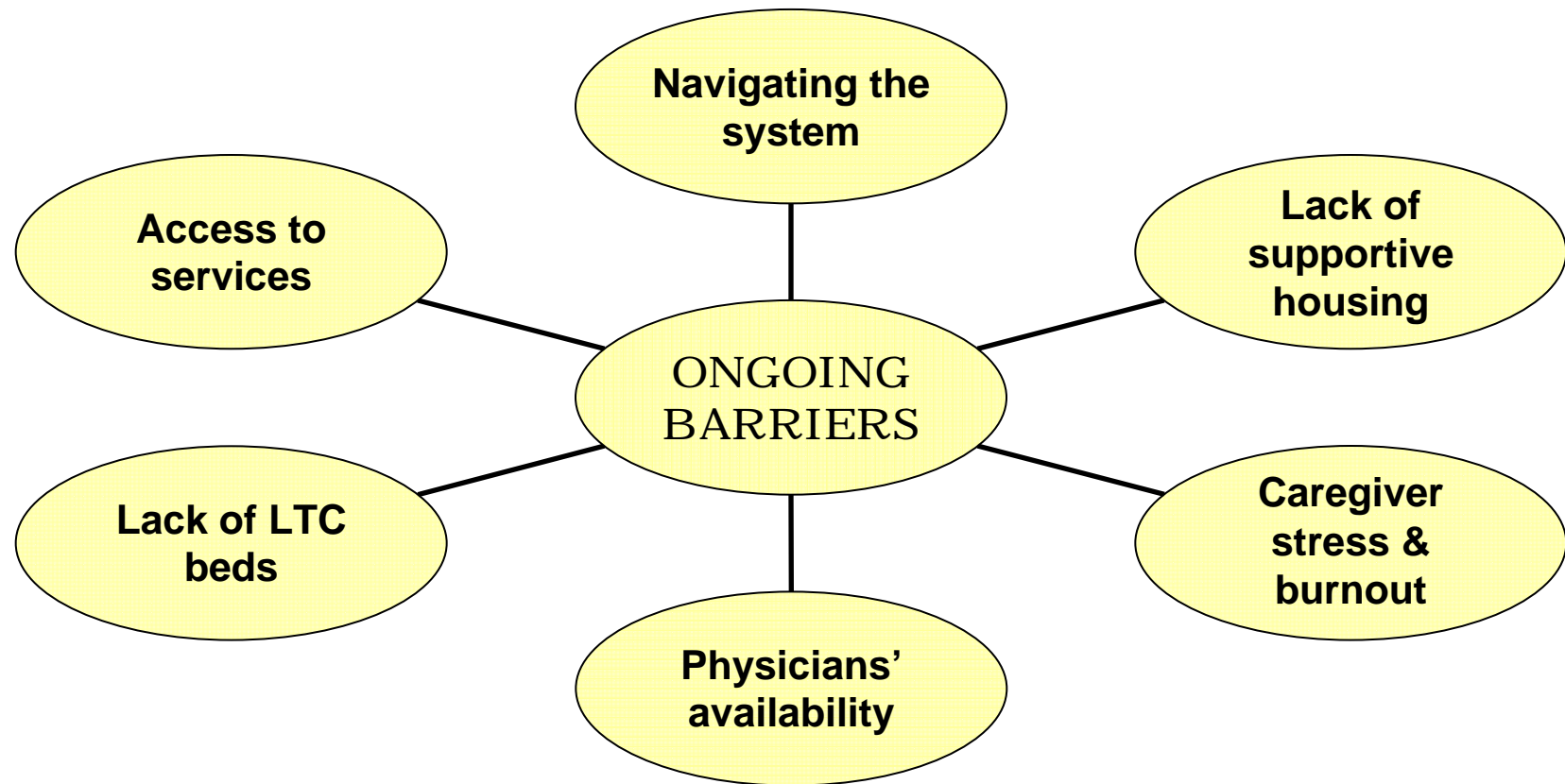
Good health & community support services are available



What Did We Hear?

Community Support/Health Services

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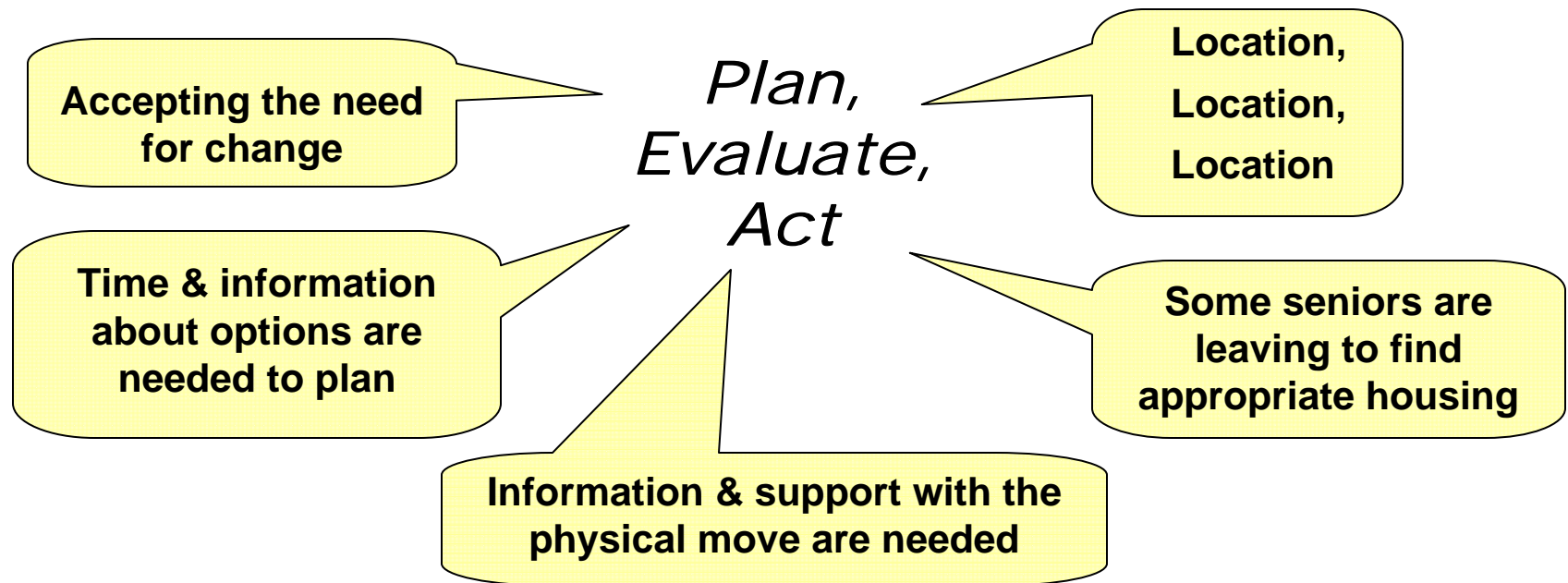


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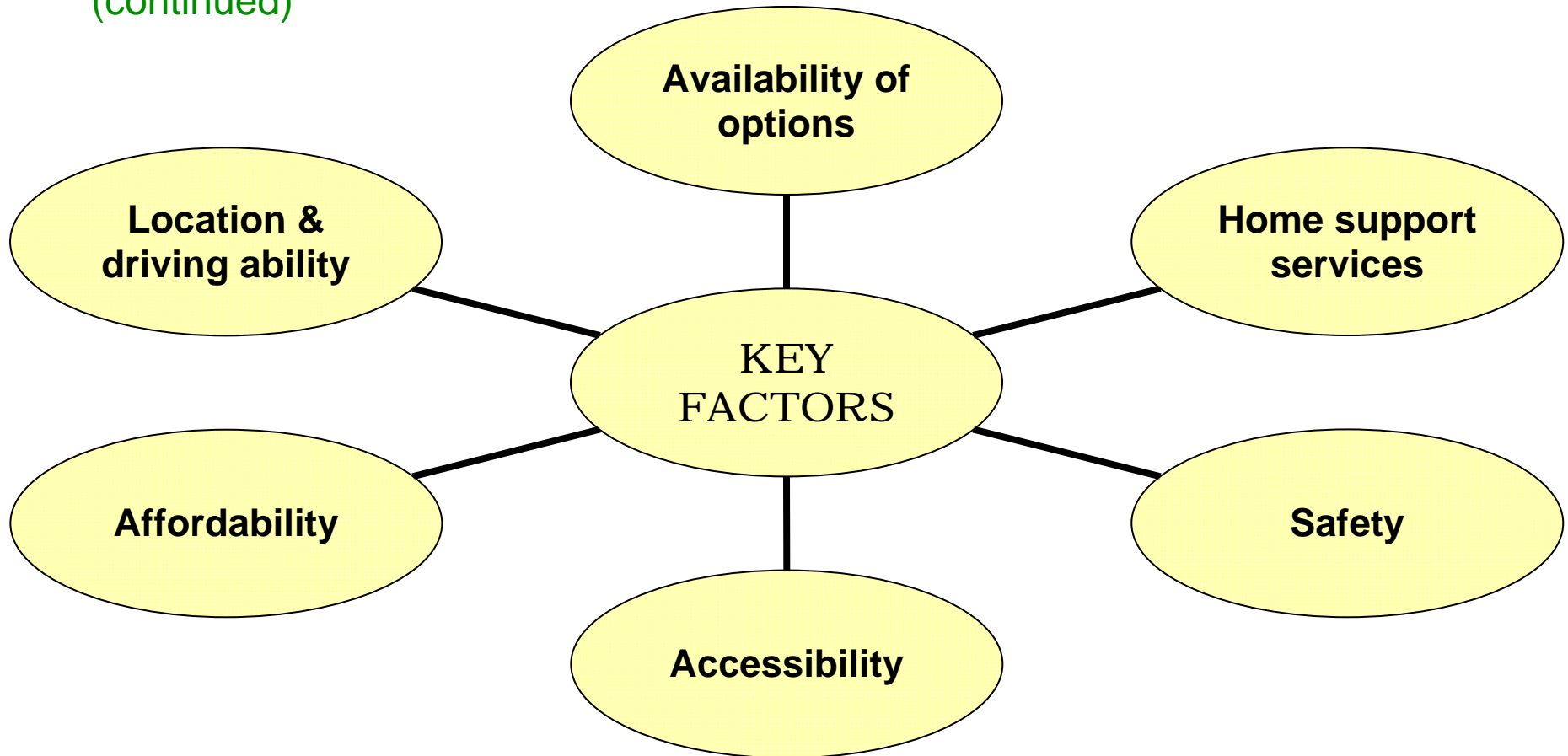
What Did We Hear? Housing Choices

*Housing transitions are difficult,
especially moving from one's own home*



What Did We Hear? Housing Choices

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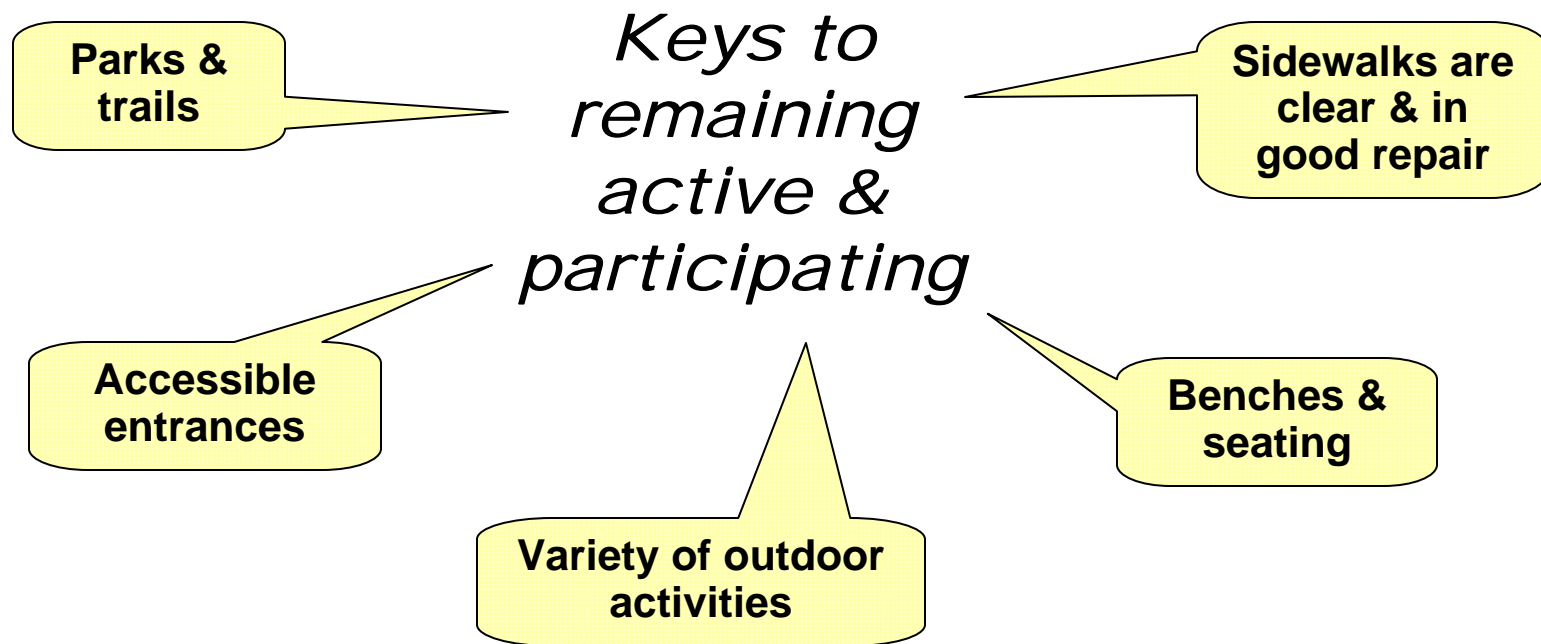


What Did We Hear?



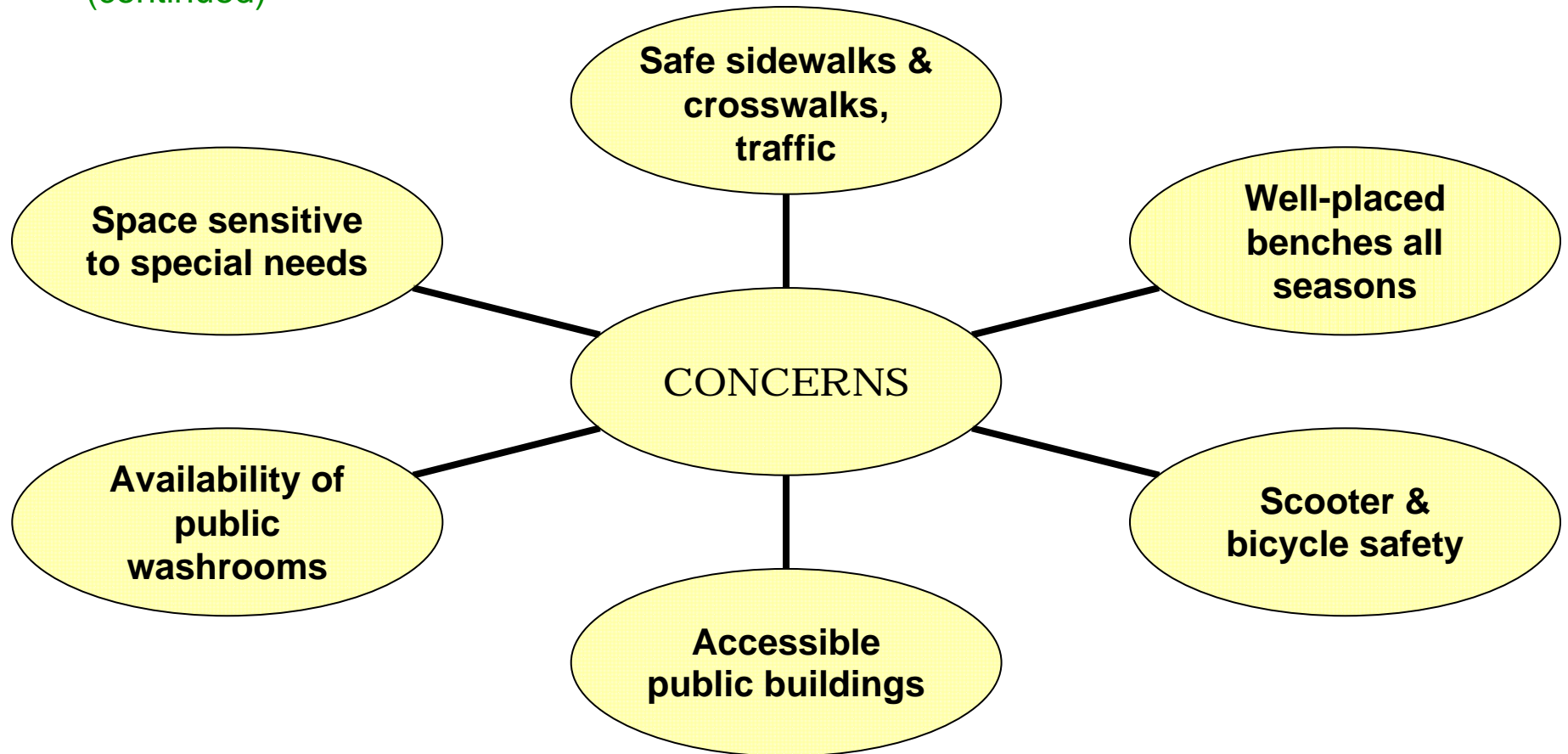
What Did We Hear? Outdoor Spaces & Buildings

Seniors value & appreciate outdoor spaces



What Did We Hear? Outdoor Spaces & Buildings

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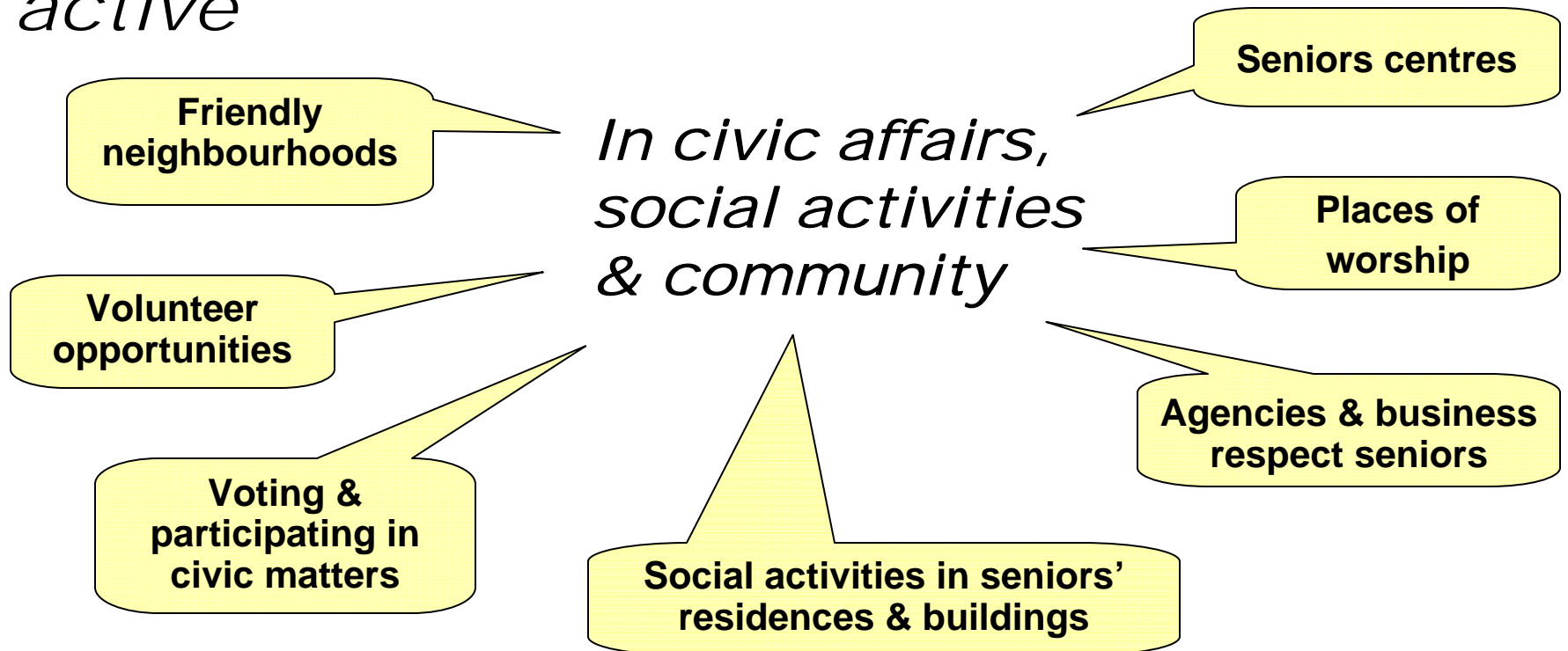




What Did We Hear?

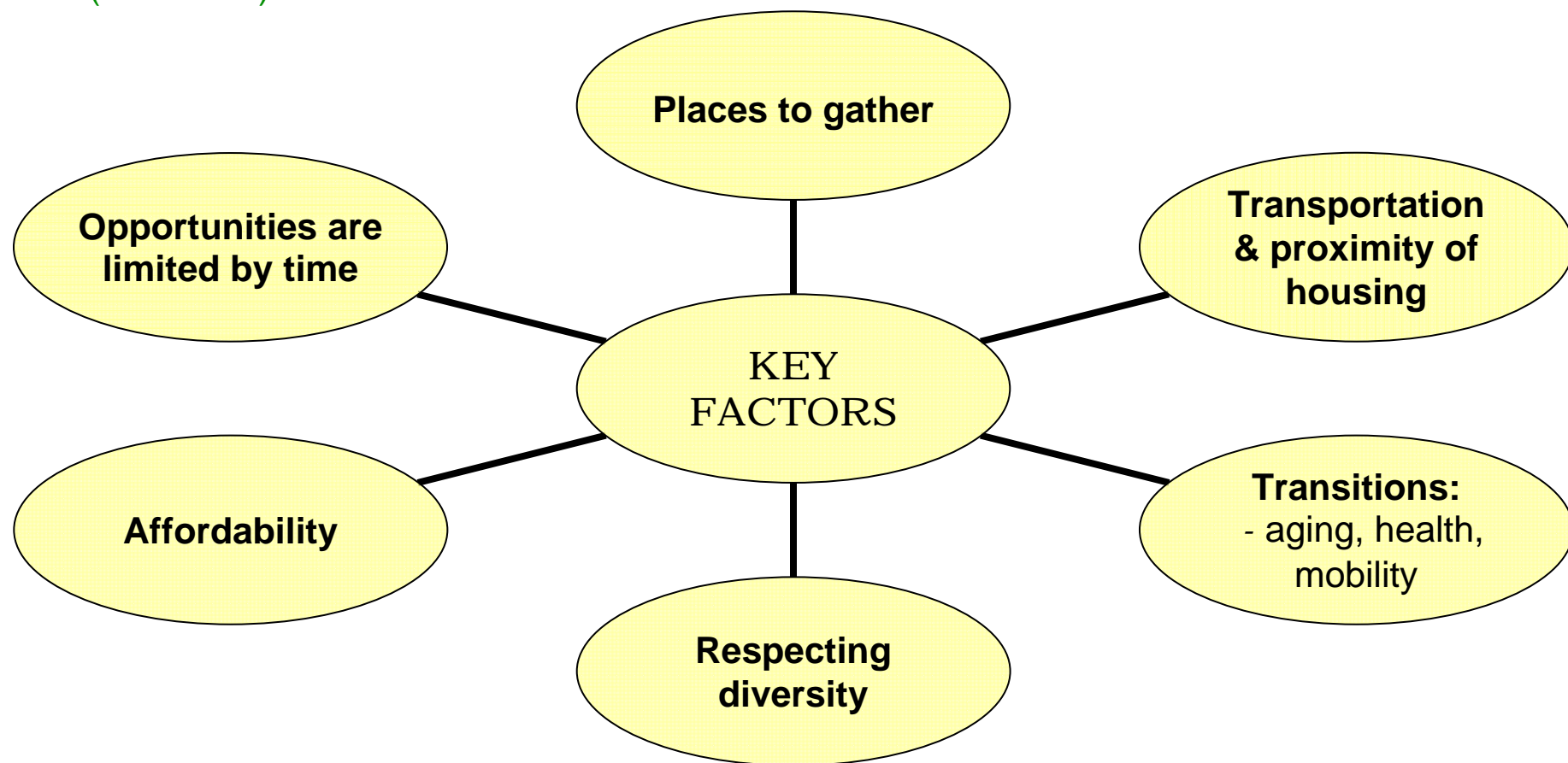
Community Involvement

Seniors are engaged & want to remain active



What Did We Hear? Community Involvement

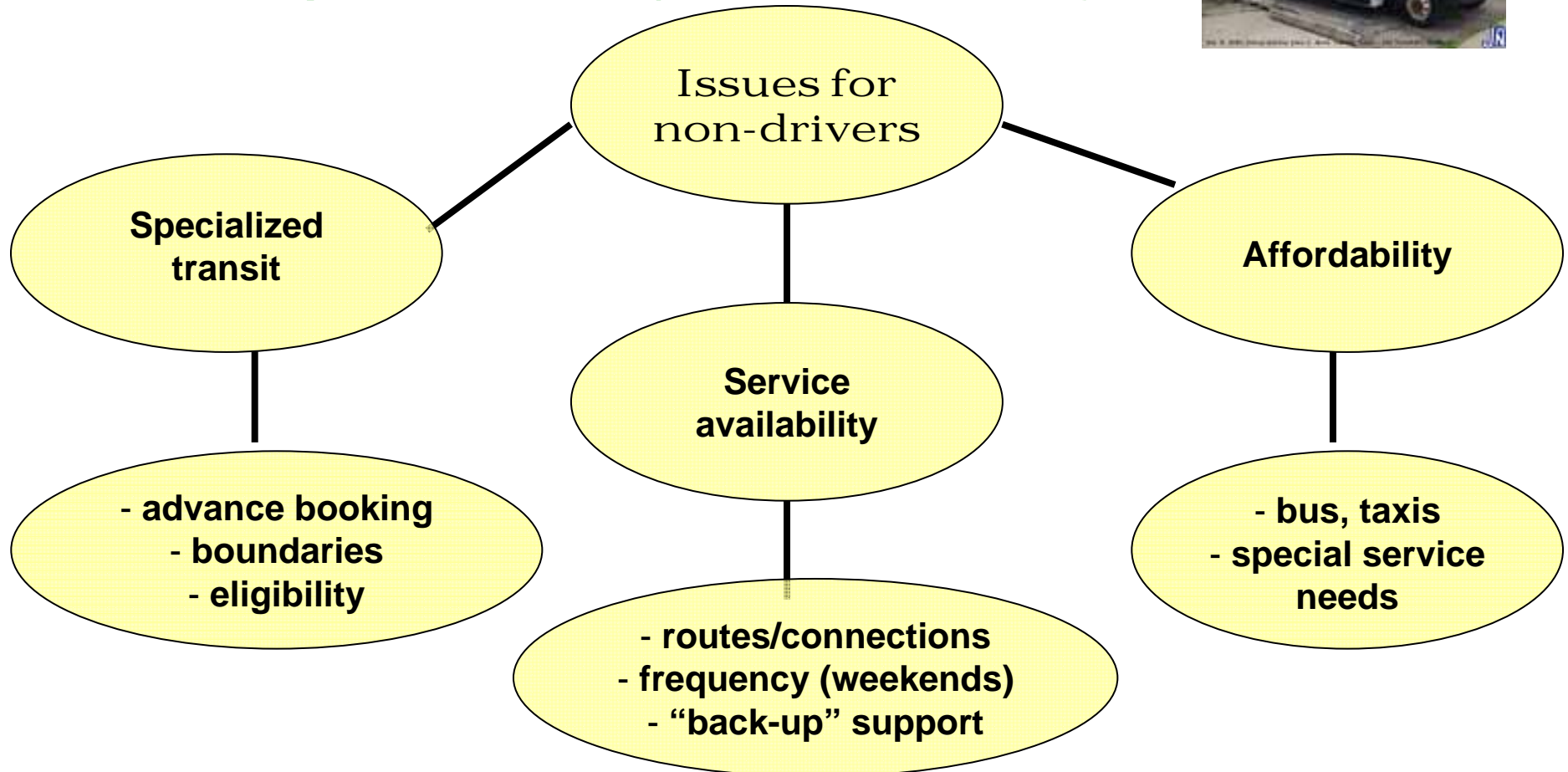
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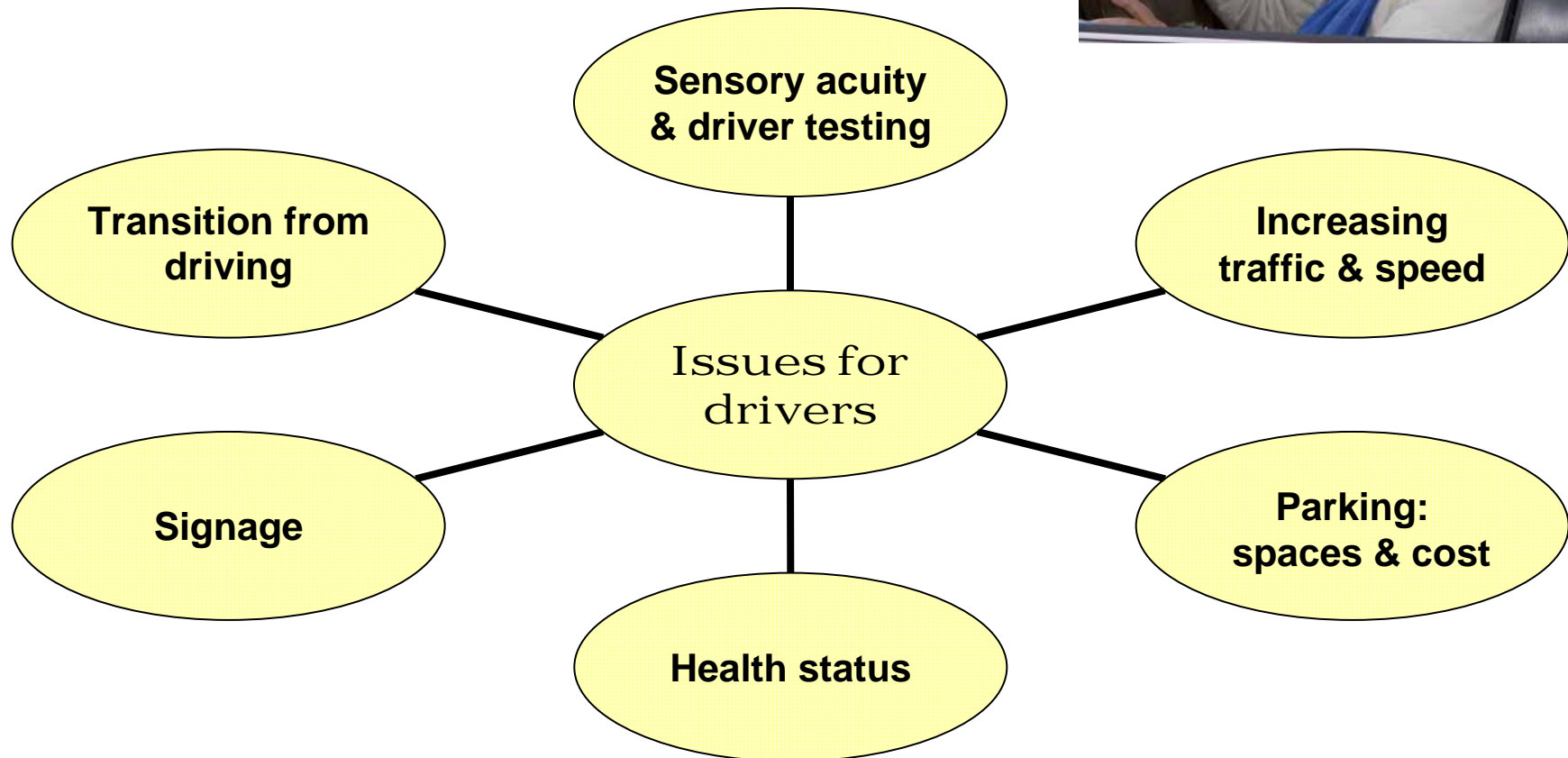
What Did We Hear?



What Did We Hear? Transportation (Non-drivers)



What Did We Hear? Transportation (Drivers)



What Did We Hear?

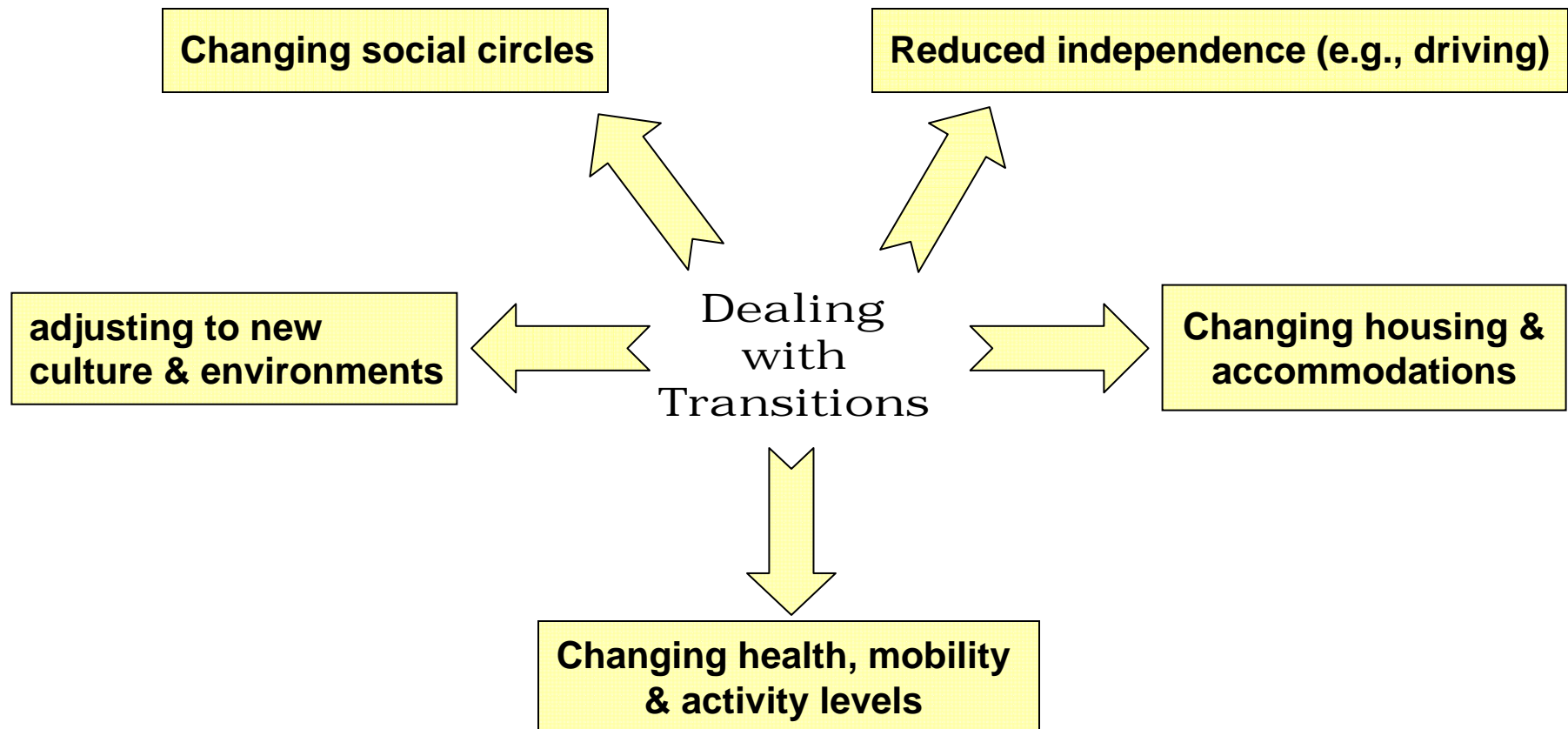
Highlights: Differences Across Halton



Burlington:	transportation	communications & information
Halton Hills:	strong community/family ties	transportation
Milton:	active social participation	pace of growth/change
Oakville:	outdoor spaces & buildings	transportation

What Did We Hear?

Common Theme: Transitions



Expectations for today

- Validate what we've heard from seniors
- Identify how our communities are already age-friendly
- Identify and share ideas for local action to become more age-friendly
- Provide input for reporting and future planning

Age-Friendly Communities Project: Next Steps

- Consolidate feedback from the Forum
- Prepare reports for Regional Council and New Horizons
- Feedback to inform ESAC's workplan
- Encourage progress on creating age-friendly communities throughout Halton