Livable New York

Sustainable Communities
for all ages

All across the country there is a growing call among residents, organizations, professional disciplines, and governments to improve the "livability" of our cities, towns, villages, and neighborhoods. A major impetus for this growing movement is the effects of crucial "change drivers" that have come together to make the liv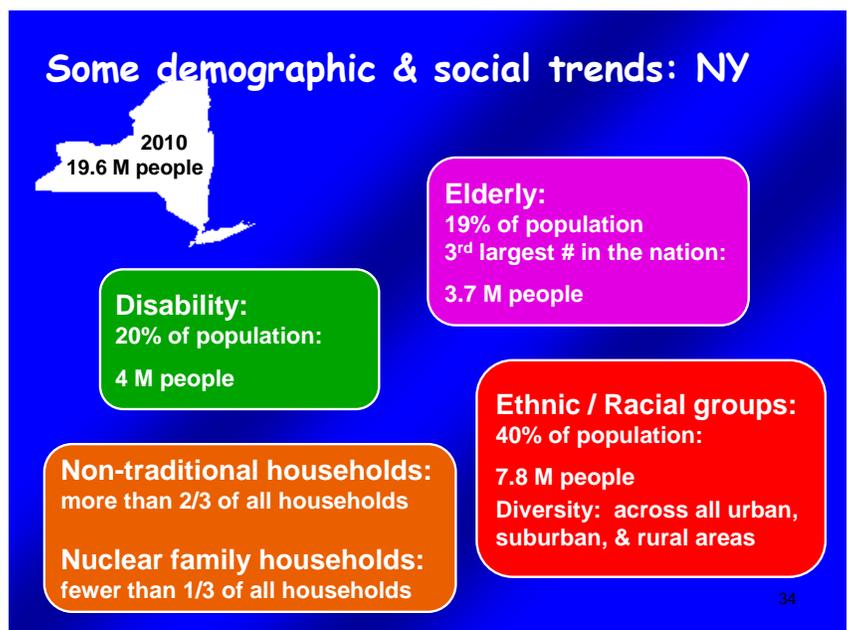able communities movement both timely and practical as a more effective planning, design, and development strategy and as a means for choosing solutions that bring the community into better alignment with ever-evolving issues and residents' expectations.

Livable New York

...why now ?

Significant Community *Change Drivers*

With change . . .

Comes changes in:

Expectations
Preferences
Needs

. . . and in
Issues & Solutions

One critical force is the impact of demographic and social trends that are transforming the portrait of New York's neighborhood populations and, as a result, the needs and preferences of community members. These trends include:

- The aging of the State's population,
- Increasing longevity,
- The shifting proportional balance between the elderly and non-elderly populations,
- Loss of specific population segments to other states,
- Growth in the number of residents of all ages with all types of disabilities,
- Dramatic growth in our population's ethnic and cultural diversity,
- Robust patterns of foreign immigration and domestic migration, and
- Significant increases in the number and types of non-traditional households.

Some demographic & social trends: NY

2010
19.6 M people

Elderly:
19% of population
3rd largest # in the nation:
3.7 M people

Disability:
20% of population:
4 M people

Ethnic / Racial groups:
40% of population:
7.8 M people
Diversity: across all urban, suburban, & rural areas

Non-traditional households:
more than 2/3 of all households

Nuclear family households:
fewer than 1/3 of all households

Data Source: NY State Office for the Aging, Albany, NY

Directly related to the impact of these demographic and social trends are major shifts in federal and state public policies, which have had an impact on how and where we house our residents, how we deliver services, and how we address environmental issues. These shifts include:

- Long-term care and housing policies have promoted the ability of all residents—regardless of age, ability, health, or situation—to live in conventional housing options, to be integrated within residential neighborhoods, and to access in-home and community-based services and care in place of institutional care.

- Housing, care, and educational programs and policies support the momentous efforts of over 2.2 million New York State residents who provide substantial unpaid care for frail elderly members and younger-aged members with disabilities.
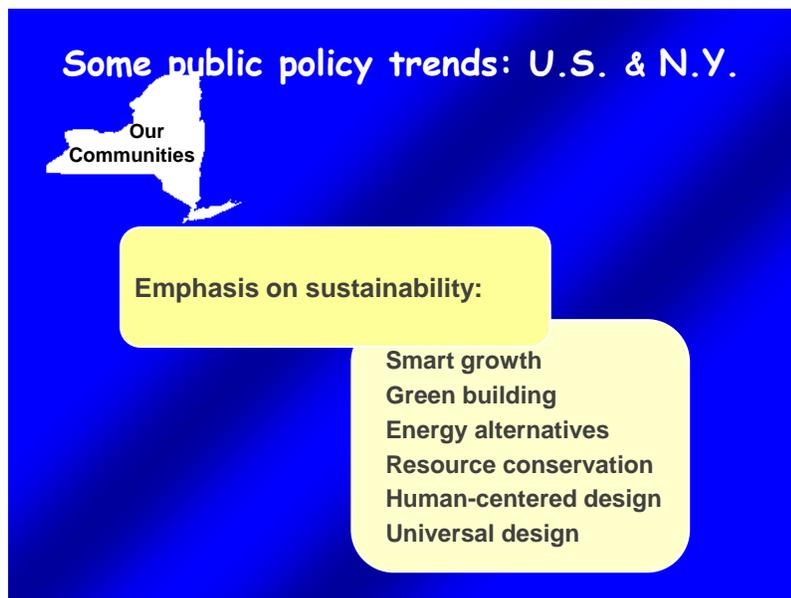
- For economic, environmental, and both resident and community health reasons, development and design policies have spurred a growing focus on green building, energy alternatives, resource conservation, smart growth principles, and universal/human-centered design elements.

Creating more livable communities – *Livable New York's* intent is to help communities better respond to their dramatically changing profiles and shifting public policies to help them create neighborhoods that reflect the evolving needs and preferences of all their residents . . . making New York the best place for all residents to live, work, grow up, and grow old.