Transportation Advocacy
5 Focus Areas

1. **Educational Programs**
   a. **Transportation Counseling**
      The biggest perceived barrier to community transportation was identified as "not being familiar with the range of transportation options." Counseling individuals on the range of transportation options and creating an individualized transportation to be uploaded into the state's No Wrong Door system.
   b. **On-Demand Services**
      On-Demand Services, such as Uber and Lyft are a great addition to the transportation realm. However, these smartphone applications can be difficult to navigate and require a smartphone. Educating individuals on how to navigate these services will be essential.

2. **Cost-Effective Transportation Options: Volunteer Driver Programs**
   Volunteer Driver Programs are a cost-effective, person-centered transportation option. Individuals volunteer to drive community members to medical appointments, on personal business or grocery shopping. A guide, *Community Transportation: Volunteer Driver Program Guide*, has been created by Sara Morris to ease the process of starting a volunteer driver program.

3. **Cost-Effective Transportation Options: Voucher Programs**
   While it was identified that we need to educate community members on the range of transportation options, what is the point if we do not provide access to the range of options? Voucher programs can provide access to those range of transportation options. A number of vouchers can be provided to an individual that can be used to access their preferred mode of transportation, especially since our current transportation services are segmented.

4. **Empowering Older Adult Drivers**
   As we age, many individuals will begin to self-regulate driving habits and begin cutting back on situations like night driving, driving on high-speed highways and driving to unfamiliar areas. However, many individuals are over-regulating due to the negative feedback from others related to age and driving. Encouraging programs such as Virginia GrandDriver and AARP's driver safety programs can increase confidence thus stop the over-regulation. In addition, creating complete streets which provides a safe place for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders to travel.

5. **Public Transportation Expansion**
   The second most preferred transportation options were public transportation. However, the service gaps in the Richmond metro region makes this unattainable for many residents. In order to expand public transportation, we also need to have the appropriate infrastructures such as: sidewalks, shelters, seating and lighting.

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