

**SAFETY INITIATIVES FOR
SENIOR DRIVERS IN TENNESSEE**

National Lifesavers Conference
March 30, 2009

WORDS FOR THOUGHT!

- › Over 27 million Americans are 70 years old or older.
- › An estimated 20 million of them are licensed drivers.
- › Over 500,000 drivers aged 70 and older were involved in police-reported motor vehicle crashes in 2006, including 4,265 fatal crashes.
- › The U.S. Census estimates there will be 50 million Americans aged 70 and older by the year 2030.

**TENNESSEE STRATEGIC HIGHWAY
SAFETY PLAN**

In August 2007, the Tennessee Strategic Highway Safety Plan was revised to:

- › Include an initiative on enhancing the safety of senior drivers in Tennessee
- › Propose strategies that could be implemented on our roadways to improve roadway delineation
- › Suggested legislation reform to encourage re-testing for license renewal.

**THE GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, (GAO)
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

- ▶ Discovered the plight of senior drivers was not high priority in most States.
- ▶ In an April 2007 report, the GAO stressed the importance of committing more resources and initiatives to address senior driver safety.

**NATIONAL CENTER ON SENIOR
TRANSPORTATION (NCST)**

In April 2008, the NCST, administered by the Easter Seals, Inc., in partnership with:

- ▶ National Highway Traffic Administration (NHTSA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Solicited request for proposals (RFP) from states to develop and implement statewide plans on senior drivers safety that included linkages to alternative transportation.

RFP ELIGIBILITY

States had to apply as a coalition of governmental agencies and organizations. TDOT took the lead and formed a coalition of representatives from:

- ▶ Governor's Highway Safety Office
- ▶ Tennessee Highway Patrol
- ▶ Commission on Aging
- ▶ TN. Department of Safety, Motor Licensing
- ▶ Tennessee Department of Health
- ▶ Meharry Medical College
- ▶ AARP
- ▶ AAA Auto Club South
- ▶ Tennessee Regional Safety Council
- ▶ 3M Corporation
- ▶ TDOT, Safety, Roadway and Transit

AWARD INFORMATION

Seven state teams were selected and awarded a \$5000 grant:

- ▶ Tennessee
- ▶ Iowa
- ▶ Nebraska
- ▶ Florida
- ▶ North Carolina
- ▶ Georgia
- ▶ Minnesota

State Teams participated in a two-day technical assistance meeting in Dallas, Texas to create an action plan. After the development of the action plan, two states received an additional \$6000 based on the composition of the submitted plan.

Tennessee and Nebraska received an additional \$6000 grant. Total grants awarded to Tennessee is \$11,000.

TENNESSEE COALITION TEAM TIMELINE FOR THE 12 MONTHS GRANT PERIOD

1 st Quarter (Oct-Nov)	2 nd Quarter (Jan-March)	3 rd Quarter (April-June)	4 th Quarter (July-Sept)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct survey and do research on public transit options in Tennessee. GA Filter and provide feedback information on request driver who state programs being implemented in TN. Reva Research and gather information for major contractors and vendors and develop an inventory sheet for just in time demand design. Reva Organize trip survey meeting with Murray Methodist College and their staff. Reva Research and gather information for the general public for older driver, transportation, etc. Coalition Conduct research and conference with state fleet director. Reva Update website on the status of the grant awarded to drivers age over 65. Reva Update website on highway projects that impact older drivers. Reva Research alternative modes of transportation. GA, Indiana, ID, NY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess to conduct for business, community, and working tasks. with TSP Coalition Assess to conduct for transportation older driver, families, caregivers and other agencies. Coalition Identify funds for purchasing and program materials. Partners of gov, local and all vehicles. Coalition Report survey to National Center on Senior Transportation. GA Run CD 3000s, design design. Reva Submit TSP request and funding request. Reva Develop program website and collaboration partner. Coalition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start pilot program in each of these counties. Chattanooga, Chattanooga, Greene, and Madison. TSP Develop evaluation measures. Coalition Design evaluation tool. Coalition Order search with state stakeholders to disseminate tool. Coalition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect results of pilot counties. TSP Evaluate success of program. Coalition Make revisions and apply recommendations. Coalition Present progress to the Governor's Highway Safety Liaison Committee. GAHS Collect any survey information. GAHS Survey participants for specific questions about the program. TSP/TTS Present to the state legislative session transportation. TSP/TTS Make final report to HCVT. GA

WORKSHOP IN DALLAS, TEXAS SEPTEMBER 15- 17, 2008



MISSION STATEMENT

To provide all Tennesseans information and resources to maintain desired mobility and enhance quality of life.

TENNESSEE'S COALITION ACTION PLAN EMPHASIZED THE FOLLOWING CONCEPTS:

- ▶ Public Education
- ▶ Public Outreach
- ▶ Driver License Issuance/Legislative Review
- ▶ Mobility Options and Alternative Transportation

Public Education

Tennessee Coalition was permitted by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation to model their senior driver training manual to create the Tennessee Law Enforcement and Driver Licensing Supervisors Training Manual

Public Outreach

Tennessee Governor's Highway Safety Office (GHSO) provided funds and the use of Tombras Consultant to create the Tennessee Senior Drivers Assistance Manual and the Family/ Care Giver Manual

Driver License Issuance/Legislative Review

- ▶ The Tennessee Department of Safety will continue to enforce TCA 55-50-505 which reads:

" The Department of Safety may, upon receiving evidence sufficient to establish that a licensed driver is incompetent or otherwise not qualified to be licensed, upon notice of at least (20) days to the licensee, require the driver to submit to a driver license examination and/ or submit any other information deemed appropriate by the commissioner. "

The Department shall take action as may be appropriate and may suspend the license of the person or permit the driver to retain the license, or may issue a license subject

- ▶ TDOT will suggest legislation reform

Mobility Options and Alternative Transportation

The Senior Driver Assistance Manual and the Family/Caregiver Manual list the contact information for all public urban and rural transportation providers as well as Tennessee Area Agencies on Aging and Disability, and other agencies that are associated with transportation needs of senior persons in Tennessee.

**Tennessee's
Safety Initiatives for Senior Drivers**

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