

Older Users Emphasis Area Team Report

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Participants

Name	Agency/Organization
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Older User Safety Strategies and Countermeasures

Strategy: Reduce wrong way crashes on ramps and freeways

- Track and disseminate the results of wrong way crash programs in the North Central Texas Council of Governments, Fort Worth, and other community programs
- Examine the San Antonio data on wrong way drivers who avoid crashing to identify, document, and disseminate information on self-correcting techniques
- Install wrong way driver warning signs, pavement markings and advanced technology to detect and warn wrong way drivers
- Address high speed intersections with medians where drivers are likely to turn into oncoming traffic

Strategy: Design and operate roadways to meet the needs of older system users

- Implement strategies and standards included in the Human Factors Guide and the Handbook for Designing Roadways for the Aging Population broadly across Texas. Specifically adopt as standard practice:
 - Turn lane channelization
 - Offset left-turn lanes
 - Edge line and curb delineation
 - Left-turn traffic control for signalized intersections (protected left turn phases)
 - Advance street name signs, particularly at three-legged intersections and locations with a relatively large AADT or a large expected number of crashes.
 - Larger signs
 - Advance warning signs
 - Overhead lane assignment on intersection approach
 - Improved signal head visibility
- Adopt Safe System (Vision Zero) and Complete Streets approaches that benefit older road users when designing and operating roadways
- Continue to investigate intersection geometric features, e.g. channelization, island size, lane width, etc., related to older driver and pedestrian safety
- Encourage developers to work with law enforcement to proactively mitigate potential crash hazards for older motorists and pedestrians when building or expanding commercial areas
- Bring FHWA and NHI training courses on the Handbook for Designing Roadways for the Aging Population and Human Factors Guidelines to TxDOT districts, MPOs, and city engineering audiences

Strategy: Implement effective methods and tools to prepare older road users to deal with the limitations brought on by the aging process

- Identify resources to increase older road user safety knowledge and awareness (AAA, Hartford Insurance, Hillcrest Medical Center caregiver focused mature driver program and the Fort Worth Blue Zone)

- Follow the TTI research program and participate in the pilot program designed to test the effectiveness and efficacy of a smartphone-based application that supports older driver safety through the provision of real-time information and warnings to address the behavioral, cognitive, and perceptual factors associated with older driver crashes
- Implement CarFit statewide
- Encourage participation in the 55 Alive program and other education and training opportunities
- Identify and support effective programs included in the current TxDOT Highway Safety Plan

Strategy: Improve mobility options for older road users

- Examine the required regional planning documents (MPO Long Range Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs) and other sources to create a clearinghouse on mobility options available to older road users
- Educate the public on methods for identifying mobility options at the community level
- Identify current and recommended strategies for improving older person mobility in rural communities
- Monitor TTI research on Transportation Network Companies (e.g. Uber, Lyft) and older travelers

Strategy: Implement methods to reduce injury severity among older road users

- Adopt a Safe System (Vision Zero) Approach to reduce the consequences of human error
- Educate older drivers on vehicle safety technologies and provide incentives for purchase of vehicles with enhanced safety features
- Educate older drivers about vehicle safety systems and after-market products useful for reducing injuries due to traffic incidences
- Pilot test the “My Car Does What” program in one or more motor vehicle offices
- Determine older users safety belt use from TxDOT surveys

- Educate older drivers on the importance of using safety belts and provide information on options to increase safety belt comfort for older drivers and passengers
- Increase safety belt use among older drivers
- Work with Texas dealerships through the Texas Automobile Dealers Association and its local affiliates to increase their capacity for educating older drivers on vehicle safety technologies and encourage them to provide incentives purchasing safety vehicles

Next Steps

Upcoming Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be scheduled for May 2017 based on result from doodle poll.

This meeting will accomplish at least four purposes:

1. Review, revise, and finalize the SHSP older users strategies and countermeasures;
2. Review and discuss the SHSP goals established by the Executive Committee;
3. Set goals/targets for the older users emphasis area; and
4. Identify an additional meeting date in June to discuss suggestions and recommendations from the 2017 Texas Traffic Safety Conference.