



HIGHLIGHTS OF JUNE 6, 2013 MEETING

NOTE:

- All presentations and related meeting handouts are located on the RSTF website.
<http://www.dvrpc.org/ASP/committee/Presentations/RSTF/2013-06.pdf>

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jenny Robinson, RSTF Co-chair, and Manager of Philadelphia Public and Government Affairs at AAA Mid-Atlantic, welcomed everyone. Introductions followed. Violet Marrero, RSTF Co-chair, and Manager of Special Projects at New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety (NJDHTS), encouraged attendees to complete and return the members' surveys after the meeting. This effort will help make the RSTF more effective and useful to members.

2. Update from the Enforcement Community

Members of the enforcement community shared the following information:

- The national "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" enforcement campaign runs through July 8.
- The second Aggressive Driving Wave for 2013 runs from July 8 to August 15. Three hundred and fifty municipal police agencies and the Pennsylvania State Police will conduct traffic enforcement on over 400 roadways throughout the state.
- Ray Reeve, Senior Highway Safety Specialist, NJDHTS, mentioned that the "Operation 130 Safe Passage" program, a multi-jurisdictional enforcement effort in Burlington County along Route 130, went into effect on May 13th. This effort entails local and county law enforcement agencies who are working collectively to make the busy Route 130 corridor safer for pedestrians. Results, so far, indicate improved safety conditions for motorists and pedestrians. A private web app was developed to identify where police are located along the corridor for motorists, showing that it has captured attention.
- The RSTF helps share information about events, especially enforcement, so all RSTF members were encouraged to share and distribute information.

3. Legislative Update

New Jersey:

- There is new legislation (S-2531) proposed to establish a mileage-based fee on passenger vehicles and to exempt passenger vehicles from the motor fuels tax. AAA Mid-Atlantic is closely monitoring this legislation.
- The New Jersey Right to Repair bill (A-352) is moving along in the legislature. While computers have made vehicles more reliable and efficient, they have also become more complicated to diagnose and repair, which often forces consumers to get their vehicles repaired by a manufacturer's car dealer. This legislation would allow all repair shops to buy, at a fair price, the same data (i.e. codes) the manufacturers give to their car dealers to diagnose, service, or maintain vehicles. This would allow consumers the freedom to decide whether to use a local mechanic or dealership. Massachusetts recently passed similar legislation.

Pennsylvania:

- In Pennsylvania, SB-1 passed in the Senate. It will provide 2.5 billion dollars in transportation funding. This bill was later removed from the table by the Assembly and a transportation funding bill has not been passed as of the end of August.

4. Emphasis Area Focus – SUSTAIN SAFE SENIOR MOBILITY

Kevin Murphy, Principal Planner, DVRPC, provided a quick review of the *DVRPC Transportation Safety Action Plan* and its components, including analysis and priority strategies for the Sustain Safe Senior Mobility emphasis area. The main points presented were:

- According to the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO), in the U.S. in 2009, seniors made up 16 percent of all traffic fatalities, and 8 percent of all people injured.
- In the DVRPC region, seniors represent 16 percent of the total population.
- Mobility alternatives are a key safety consideration for seniors.
- Drivers over 65 years of age were involved in crashes that led to 18 percent of traffic fatalities per year in the Delaware Valley, on average, from 2008 to 2010.

Larry Bucci, Traffic Safety Engineer, PennDOT District 6, shared senior driver crash data information from a recent five-year analysis (2007 – 2011). Below are main points from his presentation:

- Approximately 16 percent of Pennsylvania's 8.7 million licensed drivers are 65 and older.
- Traffic safety measures implemented to accommodate older drivers benefit everyone.
- The older driver population continues to climb statewide. Nearly 26 percent of drivers over the age of 65 reside in the five-county southeastern Pennsylvania area.
- The most common types of crashes involving seniors include the following: angle, rear-end, hit-fixed-object, and head on.
- The majority of seniors do not drive at night. Nearly 81 percent of crashes occurred between 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM.
- Improper turning, affected by physical condition, driving too fast for conditions, and making left-turns were common driver actions that contributed to senior driver crashes.

Jeffrey Booker, Manager of Community Outreach, New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC), shared information on the commission's Wisdom Behind the Wheels Program (WBWP). Below are highlights from his presentation:

- The WBWP started in July 2012.
- This statewide program assists senior drivers in extending their mobility. The intent of this program is not to take away their driving privileges.
- Nearly 20 percent of New Jersey's driving population is over the age of 65.
- One important aspect of the program is having optometrists on board to discuss the importance of vision care. Visiting an eye doctor on a regular basis helps seniors identify issues early, which helps them to prolong their driving privileges.
- Other partners in the program include AAA, NJDHTS, and NJDOT.
- The WBWP offer advice to help seniors remain visible to drivers while walking. These tips include to wear bright or reflective clothing and to remain alert while navigating through parking lots. Seniors are also encouraged to wear seatbelts, to drive locally, and to avoid driving in rush hour traffic.
- This program has been presented to several community and senior centers from around the state.
- Seniors have been receptive to the program's messaging.
- To find out more information about the WBWP contact the MVC Speaker's Bureau at (609) 984-3605 or via email at MVC.Speakers@dot.state.nj.us.

Additional Comments:

- If someone is concerned about a senior family member's driving capability, information is available online at www.state.nj.us/mvc/.
- The New Jersey Medical Review Board can make recommendations to suspend someone's driving privileges; however NJMVC makes the final decision.
- Under MAP-21, which is the federal legislation package for transportation, there is a clause that requires states to review crash data (fatalities and injuries) that involve seniors. If the data indicates an increase in senior involved crashes, the state must apply federal highway guidance on design standards particularly with seniors in mind. This may include enhanced signage, increased roadway widths, and striping.
- NJDOT and PennDOT have adopted clear view font type to make traffic signs more visible.

Tracy Noble, Public Affairs Specialist, AAA Mid-Atlantic and Ms. Robinson, shared information on their agency's senior driving programs. Below are main points from their presentation:

- AAA has a clearinghouse of information available for senior drivers. This information is located on the www.AAA.com/SeniorDriving website. On this website seniors can:
 - Evaluate current driving ability and easily access tools and relevant information resources;
 - Find out how their vision, hearing, reaction time, mind, fitness, and medications affect their driving ability;
 - Locate a Car Fit program event in their area to get their vehicles adjusted to fit their physical needs; and
 - Take a senior driver safety course online or find a classroom course, and qualify for potential insurance discounts.
- Surveys show that seniors want to keep their skills up to be better drivers.
- In Pennsylvania, the senior driver course and insurance discount are applicable for seniors who are 55 and older. In New Jersey this course is not age specific.
- The Car Fit program was developed in cooperation with AARP. This program goes out into the community to ensure that seniors are properly fitted in their vehicles. An occupational therapist is on hand to identify any underlying issues that may require additional medical attention. A technician will identify car issues that drivers aren't aware of. Often time, seniors don't realize that there are minor alterations that can be made to help them drive more comfortably. Appointments are scheduled primarily in the spring and fall and take about 15 minutes.
- The Roadwise Rx program provides drug interaction information. Medication information can be entered in the system to determine any adverse interaction that drugs may have on driving capabilities such as drowsiness or dizziness. The results can be quite alarming.
- Ms. Marrero mentioned that seniors learned to drive with their hands in the 3 and 9 o'clock position of the steering wheel, which is not safe because of air bags; hands should be placed in the 4 and 8 o'clock position to lessen the risk of injury to their wrists.
- Warren Strumpfer, Safety Advocate, has utilized CVS.com, which has a similar program to Roadwise Rx.

5. Developing Action Items

Below are comments and action items generated from the discussion to sustain safe senior mobility. Members who volunteered will report back at future meetings on the action items. See the 2011 Tracking Safety Actions Table for list of volunteers.

Discussion

- Dennis Winters, Transportation Team Member, Clean Air Council, mentioned that the Pennsylvania Lottery helps fund SEPTA's free transit services offered to seniors (except on the Regional Rail Line). This effort is not widely promoted.

- Ryan McNary, Assistant Manager, Alcohol Highway Safety Program, PennDOT said that PennDOT is currently developing a brochure to promote transit options. This draft material is expected to be completed in the next 6 to 8 months. The state is also developing a statewide committee on mature drivers, which will include members from PennDOT, the departments of Health and Aging, and the Medical Advisory Board. Mr. McNary volunteered to share more information on this endeavor at the next meeting.
- Mr. Booker suggested reaching out to safety related trade organizations, which may include attending conferences or workshops. This could be an alternative approach to share safety information to a group of stakeholders all at once, as opposed to reaching out to them on an individual level.
- DVRPC staff volunteered to create a map with high senior populations, senior centers, and high crash locations to look for key senior safety locations.
- Chief Mark Schmidt, Upper Makefield Township Police Department, mentioned the challenges of living in a rural area where transit does not exist. He said that 22 percent of Upper Makefield Township's medical calls are generated from one senior housing community. He volunteered to share the above mentioned map created by DVRPC with the Bucks County Chief Association (42 agencies) and possibly coordinate with Montgomery County police agencies. Ray Rauanheimo, Montgomery County Volunteer Coordinator and MPO Representative, AARP Montgomery County, volunteered to partner with Chief Schmidt on this action item.
- Pat Ott, Managing Member, MBO Engineering, mentioned a previous NJDOT pilot Road Safety Audit (RSA) program targeted for seniors. Findings from the program were presented at local senior centers to get feedback. This effort helped to get low cost safety improvements implemented. Ms. Ott volunteered to share more information about this effort at the next meeting. Although this program was conducted 10 years ago, it could be used as a model if a county or TMA were interested. Plan4Safety could be used to help select applicable locations.
- Debby Schaaf, Senior Transportation Planner, Philadelphia City Planning Commission, volunteered to be a liaison between the RSTF and the City of Philadelphia's Complete Street's committee.
- Caroline Trueman, Safety Engineer, FHWA – New Jersey Division Office, explained how complete street projects are implemented in New Jersey. The state is constructing more sidewalks and other similarly scaled projects. NJDOT has developed a guide on how to implement local level projects. In Camden County, this is done through the TMAs to coordinate with the local municipalities.
- At the next meeting, DVRPC staff will share information on pedestrian crashes by age group to determine what the implications are for the aging population.
- Several people volunteered to share senior safety resources on various websites, particularly the Roadwise Rx program. Volunteers were from Greater Valley Forge TMA, Rutgers University – TSRC, NJDHTS, PennDOT, and DVRPC.
- Mr. Strumpfer volunteered to share senior safety information with his local community.
- Suzanne Kubiak, Health Educator, Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC), and Mr. Winters volunteered to develop a toolbox of senior safety resources with links for agencies. This tool could be a 2 or 3 page document and be available online. A toolbox may be helpful to increase the awareness of options available to seniors, particularly in Delaware County, where there is a growing senior population.
- It is important to communicate with the medical community on senior safety. Each county has their own medical society. A representative from the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety (IIHS) gave a presentation at a previous RSTF meeting. DVRPC staff will coordinate with someone at IIHS to perhaps present at a future meeting.
- Reaching out to senior centers or senior expos is an ideal way to report related safety information because nearly half the seniors do not use computers. This is an ongoing activity with AAA Mid-Atlantic.

- Pennsylvania is the only state in the tri-state area that doesn't have the Silver Alert program, which is an amber alert system for seniors. However, they are taking a program of this nature under consideration. Mr. McNary shared information about the progress the state has made in adopting such a program. The RSTF could endorse this effort with a letter of support.

6. Follow-up from March 2013 Meeting

- The March 7, 2013 meeting highlights were approved.
- *PennDOT and NJDOT Quarterly Crash Trends Update:*
 - In Pennsylvania, the monthly crash average for the first four months in 2013 was lower than the five-year monthly average (2008 to 2012). Between January and May 2012, there was an average of 18 fatalities per month, compared to 21 fatalities in the five-year average.
 - In New Jersey, the 2012 monthly crash average was lower than the five-year crash average and the 2012 fatality monthly average was also lower than the five-year fatality average.
- *Volunteer Updates from March 7, 2013 Meeting – Improve the Design and Operation of Intersections:*
 - Mr. Winters and Mr. Murphy gave an update on the toolbox that was developed to house a range of available safety improvement treatments for unsignalized and signalized intersections. Mr. Murphy demonstrated to the group how the tool worked on the DVRPC website. www.dvrpc.org/Transportation/Safety/Toolbox.htm
 - Ms. Ott shared an update on responses to the draft aggressive driving and run-off- road (ROR) letters that the RSTF sent to the New Jersey Statewide Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (STRCC).
 - *Aggressive driving letter:* The issue in the letter pertained to the state adopting a clear definition for aggressive driving. Ms. Ott stated that aggressive driving is a difficult issue to tackle and there are different opinions on how to properly define the term. Adopting a definition of aggressive driving will remain on the radar, however, for the time being, the STRCC has agreed to table the issue to a future meeting.
 - *ROR letter:* The issue in the letter related to coding ROR crashes on the NJ TR-1 form. Ms. Ott reported that NJDOT is working with the Police Traffic Officers Association (PTOA) to develop more guidance to officers on proper coding of ROR crashes. These changes will be included as part of the next update to the manual and TR-1 form.
 - Ms. Ott also provided information on development of the STRCC strategic plan. They are in middle of surveying data owners and users of the state's traffic records. The survey identifies current needs and solutions to help prioritize projects. This effort is expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year. Ms. Ott offered to email the survey to interested members.
- *Volunteer Updates from October 4, 2012 Meeting – Curb Aggressive Driving*
 - Sarah Oaks, Principal Planner, DVRPC, mentioned that there will be a working lunch after the main meeting to continue the discussion on moving forward with completing the aggressive driving brochure and other related materials. The purpose is to better inform prosecutors of the danger of excessive plea bargaining of aggressive driving citations.

7. Member Updates and Open Forum

- DVRPC completed the *2011 County Crash Data Bulletins*. Each bulletin provides an annual snapshot of road safety within each county and its municipalities. It also highlights and compares trends at the state, county, and local levels. This information is also available as a web application on the DVRPC Safety webpage. www.dvrpc.org/webmaps/CountyCrash/

Attendees:

Bartels, Stacy	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Beans, Bill	MBO Engineering LLC
Booker, Jeff	New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
Bucci, Larry	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation – District 6
Buerk, Jesse	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Chelius, Tim	South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization
Felts, Alex	Greater Valley Forge TMA
Hansen, Janet	Rutgers University – TSRC
Kubiak, Suzanne	Public Health Management Corporation
MacCarrigan, Lisa	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Marrero, Violet	New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
Merritt, Darrell	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Moore, Regina	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Murphy, Kevin	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Neaderland, Zoe	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Noble, Tracy	AAA Mid-Atlantic – New Jersey Office
Oaks, Sarah	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Ott, Pat	MBO Engineering LLC
Philbin, Officer James	Cherry Hill Township Police Department
Rauanheimo, Ray	AARP – Montgomery County
Reeve, Ray	New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
Robinson, Jenny	AAA Mid-Atlantic – Philadelphia Office
Schaaf, Debby	Philadelphia City Planning Commission
Schmidt, Chief Mark	Upper Makefield Township Police Department
Shaw, Brandon	TMA Bucks
Simon, Richard	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration – Region 2
Strumpfer, Warren	Citizen
Thomas, Carol	Burlington County Engineering Department
Trueman, Caroline	Federal Highway Administration – New Jersey
Tullio, Mike	Kean University
Ward, John	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Winters, Sgt. Amy	Cherry Hill Township Police Department
Winters, Dennis	Clean Air Council
Wise, Renee	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission