



Aggressive Driving is Dangerous for All Roadway Users

People who drive aggressively put everyone on the road in danger and increase the risk of being involved in a collision with potential deadly consequences. Aggressive driving includes speeding, following too closely, unsafe lane changes, and running red lights. On October 4, 2012 the RSTF held a meeting focused on curbing aggressive driving in the Delaware Valley. This is the most significant emphasis area to address to improve safety. We want to share key findings with the broader range of people improving safety because everyone needs to be involved.

Crash Statistics in the Bi-State Delaware Valley

In 2011, there were 35,067 crashes in which aggressive driving was a contributing factor in the region, which led to the deaths of 199 people and injured another 23,422 people. On average, aggressive driving was a contributing factor in 50 percent of the annual traffic fatalities in the Delaware Valley, for years 2008 through 2010.

Best Practices in the Region

- ★ Philadelphia's Automated Red Light Enforcement Program reduced red light violations by an average of 48 percent within the first 12 months of enforcement. The program avoids problems experienced in some other states. These findings are part of an evaluation by the Pennsylvania State Transportation Advisory Committee. In July, legislation passed allowing red light cameras in parts of counties around Philadelphia. A municipality would need to pass an ordinance authorizing a red light camera intersection, and submit the request to PennDOT.

Municipalities Newly Eligible for Red Light Enforcement Cameras

County	Eligible Municipalities
Bucks	Falls, Middletown, and Warminster
Delaware	Springfield
Montgomery	Norristown, Abington, Horsham, Lower Merion, Lower Providence, Montgomery, Upper Dublin, & Upper Merion

- ★ When prosecutors and judges plea-bargain or waive a significant percent of tickets, it undermines traffic laws. There is need for more even-handed follow-through on aggressive driving and impaired driving tickets according to analysis and officer experience. The RSTF is developing a brochure oriented to members of the public-future jury members. It will also be distributed to judges and prosecutors along with a checklist for consideration.

- ★ The Washington Township (NJ) Police Department recently helped lead a Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) enforcement effort which targeted aggressive driving in towns along the Cross Keys Road corridor. The DDACTS model provides a highly effective approach to reducing crime and crashes.

What You Can Do: Practical Strategies to Curb Aggressive Driving

- ★ RSTF members are doing the following tasks and would be happy to share our experiences with others interested in trying them or learn from your related efforts. Publicize aggressive driving enforcement activities on your website or in your newsletter as this increases the effectiveness of these location-specific efforts.
- ★ Distribute aggressive driving posters or brochures in the waiting rooms of Pennsylvania magistrate district judges and New Jersey municipal courts, as well as other places.
- ★ Help officers understand the value of thoroughly completing crash reports when reporting aggressive driving-related incidents; this data is used to determine funding for safety programs.
- ★ It is more effective for the public to see fewer messages more times. Look for ways to use shared messages rather than developing new ones.

How Do I Learn More?

Curbing aggressive driving is one of seven key emphasis areas identified in the DVRPC 2012 Transportation Safety Action Plan. These emphasis areas contributed to 95 percent of the traffic fatalities in the region for the period 2008 through 2010. For more information, go to www.dvrpc.org/Transportation/Safety. You will also find prior RSTF meeting highlights and presentations there. **The next meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2012 will focus on keeping vehicles on the roadway and minimizing the consequences of leaving the roadway.** All are welcome. Contact Regina Moore, RSTF Meeting Coordinator, at rmoore@dvrpc.org or (215) 238-2862 for more information.