



## DRIVING IS RISKY FOR EVERYONE – HOW TO LIMIT THE RISK TO SENIOR DRIVERS:

Sustaining safe senior mobility includes recognizing that, although many older drivers are still capable, the impact of aging has negative effects on the safe driving abilities of some seniors. It is important to address the range of mobility alternatives in addition to driver safety issues of seniors. On June 6, 2013 the Regional Safety Task Force (RSTF) held a meeting focused on sustaining safe senior mobility in the Delaware Valley. We want to share findings with the broader range of people improving safety because everyone needs to be involved.

### How does your county rank?

#### Crash Statistics in the Bi-State Delaware Valley

In 2011, senior drivers involved in crashes represented 14 percent of crashes, 16 percent of injuries, and 21 percent of all traffic fatalities in the region. These numbers do not distinguish whether the senior driver was at fault or was hit, and they include people of all ages. The table below indicates 2011 crash statistics for each county.

#### 2011 Crash Data Summary in which at Least One Driver was Over 65

	County	# of Crashes	# of People Injured	# of People Killed
PA	BUCKS	1,023	848	11
	CHESTER	631	461	6
	DELAWARE	671	572	6
	MONTGOMERY	1,380	1,167	7
	PHILADELPHIA	1,044	1,261	8
NJ	BURLINGTON	2,113	813	16
	CAMDEN	2,054	977	13
	GLOUCESTER	1,115	490	7
	MERCER	2,103	676	6
	<b>REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>12,134</b>	<b>7,265</b>	<b>80</b>

### What Programs and Materials are Available to Sustain Senior Safety in the Region?

1. AAA Mid-Atlantic has several senior driving programs. Visit the [www.AAA.com/SeniorDriving](http://www.AAA.com/SeniorDriving) website to test driving skills, to find out where to take a senior driver safety course to qualify for insurance discounts, or to locate a Car Fit program event at which a person can have their vehicles adjusted to meet their physical needs. The Roadwise Rx program educates senior and all drivers on medicines that have adverse effects on driving.
2. In July 2012, the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC) developed the Behind the

Wheels Program. This conversational-style program is aimed at drivers 65 and over to discuss various topics such as sharing the road, adjusting driver habits, the effects of aging, safe driver courses, pedestrian safety, and general vehicle care. To book the MVC's Wisdom Behind the Wheel program, community and senior groups are encouraged to contact the MVC Speaker's Bureau at (609) 984-3605 or via email at [MVC.Speakers@dot.state.nj.us](mailto:MVC.Speakers@dot.state.nj.us).

3. PennDOT is developing a brochure on mobility alternatives for senior drivers. This brochure will house information on tips and resources for mobility alternatives for Pennsylvania senior drivers.

### Practical Strategies to Help Sustain Safe Senior Mobility

RSTF members are doing their part and would be happy to share our experiences with others who are interested. The RSTF is developing a toolbox containing tips and resources on mobility options in the Delaware Valley and will share and promote senior driver materials on their agencies' websites and at meetings.

### How Do I Learn More?

Sustain Safe Senior Mobility 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](http://www.dvrpc.org/Transportation/Safety). You will also find prior RSTF meeting highlights and presentations there.

**The next RSTF meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2013. All are welcome. Contact Regina Moore, RSTF Meeting Coordinator, at [rmoore@dvrpc.org](mailto:rmoore@dvrpc.org) or (215) 238-2862 for more information.**