

Building Effective Coalitions for Promoting Safe Mobility for Older Adults

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Summary of Presentation

- Background on senior safety coalitions
- North Carolina experience
- Some keys to success
- Building for the future

“Coalition” (American Heritage Dictionary)

- An alliance, especially a temporary one, of people, factions, parties, or nations.
- A combination into one body; a union.
- A group of usually two to six male lions that drive off and replace the male lions in a pride in order to mate with the females and protect the resulting offspring.

Sound familiar???

U.S. DOT Vision

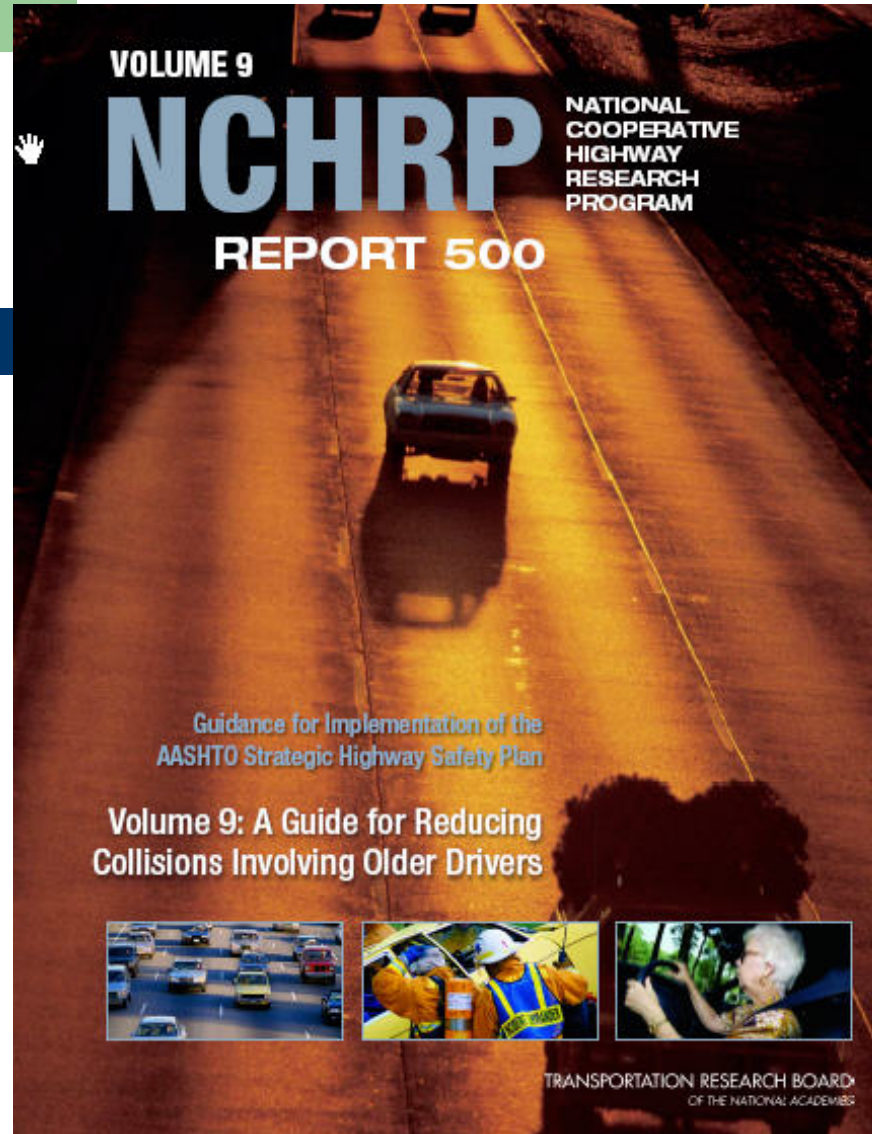
“A transportation system that offers safe mobility to all people and allows older persons to remain independent and to age in place. Investments in highway and pedestrian infrastructure and public transportation services support independence. Medical and social service communities, transportation managers, motor vehicle administrators, and caregivers work together to extend safe driving and to offer other convenient and affordable transportation options when driving and walking must be curtailed. Public and private organizations form new partnerships to enable all citizens to enjoy safe mobility for life.”

Safe Mobility for Life: Challenges and Opportunities, 2003

“Safe Mobility for Life” Report

- Identified broad strategies for enhancing safe mobility at the national level:
- Called for state and local level action plans, also reflecting broad consortium of governmental agencies and private sector organizations.

**State and Local Coalitions
Make This Happen!**



<http://safety.transportation.org/guides.aspx>

Objective 1: Plan for an Aging Population

- Establish a broad-based coalition to plan for addressing the older adults' transportation needs.
- Model states
 - California
 - Florida
 - Michigan (SEMCOG)
 - Iowa
 - Maryland
 - Arizona (Maricopa County)

North Carolina Experience

- NC Senior Driver Safety Coalition established in 2004, with GHSP funding.
- Key initial partners were AARP and the Division of Aging and Adult Services.
- Membership quickly swelled to 20+.
- Full Coalition met bi-monthly, usually in Raleigh (AARP state office).
- Coalition also served as official “Older Driver Working Group” of the state DOT’s Executive Committee for Highway Safety.

Coalition Membership

- UNC HSRC
- AARP
- NC Division on Aging
- DMV (Medical Review Branch)
- DOT (Traffic Engineer and Safety Systems Branch)
- GHSP
- AAA Carolinas
- State Highway Patrol / Local law enforcement
- OT / Driver Rehabilitation Specialist
- Others

Coalition Goals

- Keep older adults driving as long as they can do so safely.
- Maximize personal and community safety.
- Provide transportation options , when needed, to maintain mobility.

Approach: Strategy Development and Implementation

- Improve signage at non-standard interchange approaches
- Identify hazardous intersections and improve their safety
- Improve the roadway and driving environment: building capacity

Approach: Strategy Development and Implementation

- Increase public awareness of issues and resources.
- Expand law enforcement involvement in older driver safety initiatives

Other Activities and Initiatives:

- Hosted series of 5 community workshops across the state
- Development of toolkit of useful information and resources
- Participation in CarFit program
- Participation in annual statewide aging conferences
- Support for AARP's "We Need to Talk"

Keys to Success

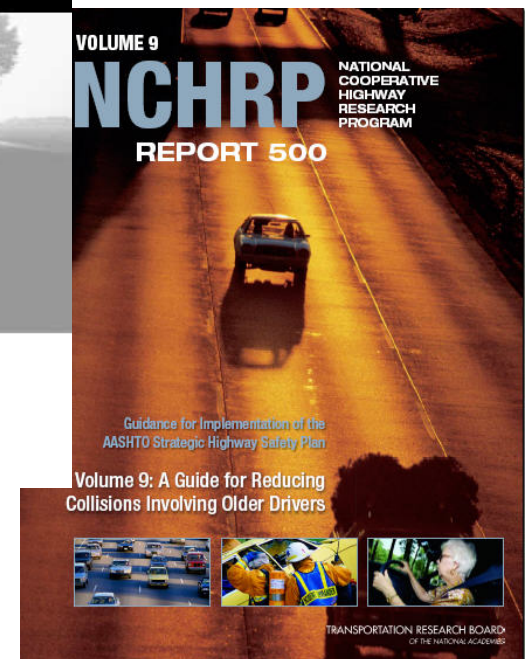
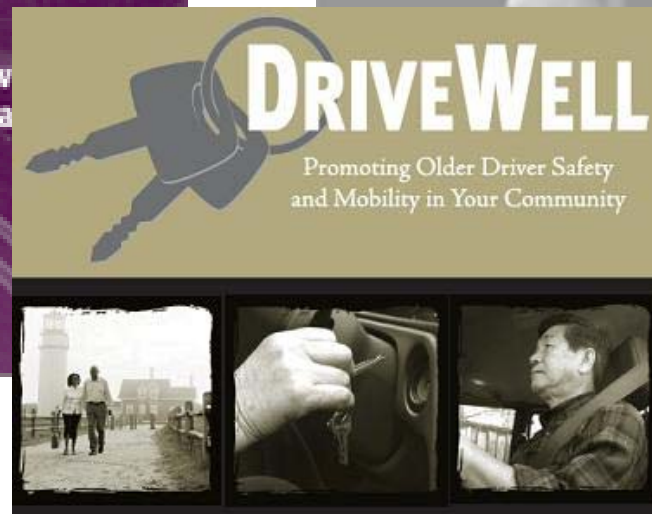
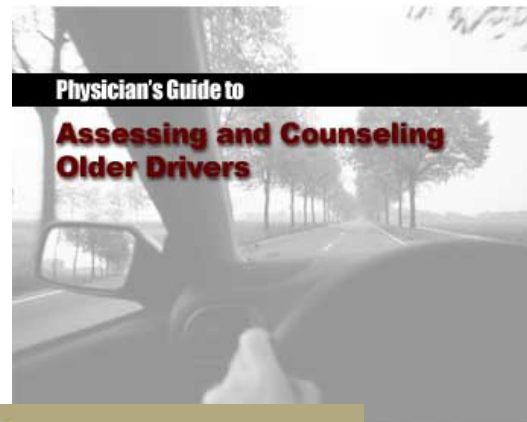
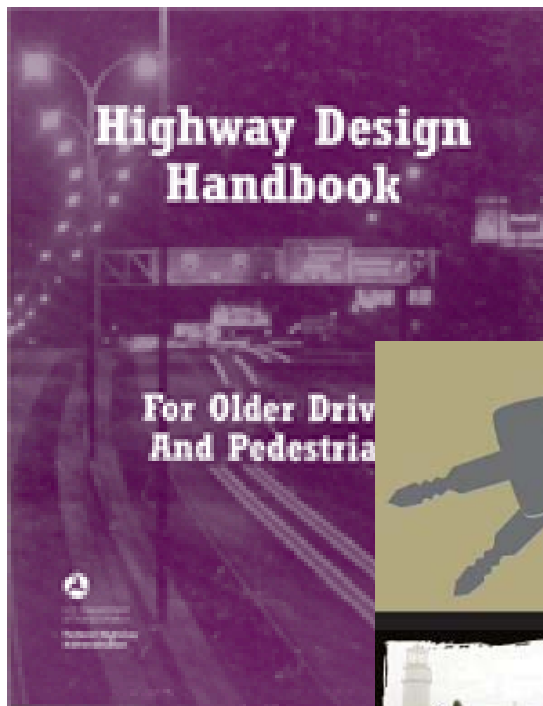
- Establish partnerships
- Identify broad goals
- Develop comprehensive action plan – “something for everyone”
- Seek funding – not necessary, but (as always) helpful
- Promote local coalitions
- Learn from others – don’t reinvent the wheel!

Many Resources Available

- FHWA Highway Design Handbook for Older Drivers and Pedestrians
- NHTSA Older Driver Law Enforcement Course
- NHTSA / ASA DriveWell Toolkit
- AMA Physician's Guide for Assessing Older Drivers
- AARP Livable Communities Guide

Sample Resources

American Medical Association
Physicians dedicated to the health of America



National Center on Senior Transportation Initiative

- NHTSA and Federal Transit Administration funded project, in response to April 2007 GAO report
- Six states selected to establish and implement statewide older driver safety plans

Florida

Georgia

Minnesota

Nebraska

North Carolina

Tennessee

Team requirements:

- State Unit on Aging
- Driver licensing
- Law enforcement
- Highway Safety Office
- State Health Department
- DOT – roadways
- DOT – transit

Project requirements

- Participation in 2-day technical assistance meeting
 - September 16-17 in Dallas, TX
- Each team to develop an action plan to improve older driver safety in their state
- NCST to review plans and develop user-friendly guide on State implementation

Questions???

