



## HIGHLIGHTS OF FEBRUARY 10, 2011 MEETING

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

John Ward, Associate Director of Intermodal Planning at DVRPC, welcomed everyone and recognized Larry Bucci, Highway Safety Engineer at PennDOT District 6, for his service as RSTF co-chair for the past two years. Mr. Ward announced that the co-chair position is available for a RSTF member representing a Pennsylvania or a regional organization. This individual will co-chair the meetings with Sgt. Michael Rann, Traffic Safety Unit Supervisor at Cherry Hill Township Police Department. Introductions followed.

### **2. Approval of November 2010 Meeting Highlights**

Mr. Bucci asked for a motion to approve the highlights from the November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting. The meeting highlights were approved.

### **3. Update from the Enforcement Community**

Sgt. Rann asked for updates from members of the enforcement community. In light of the recent snow storms, the beginning of the discussion focused on snow removal from vehicles. A recent law in New Jersey requires drivers to remove all snow and ice from their vehicles. It is especially important, but problematic, for large trucks and intermodal containers. Sgt. Joe Zito, Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA) Police – Commercial Vehicle Unit and Hazmat at Ben Franklin Bridge, mentioned that DRPA is currently enforcing this issue at port facilities. Large companies including UPS and Fed-Ex have systems in place to handle snow and ice removal, however many smaller companies do not have such policies. Sgt. Zito also provided initial information about a one-day training being organized for this fall on USDOT Commercial Vehicle Operations requirements and opportunities. It will be oriented to owners and operators of commercial vehicles. The RSTF will coordinate with the Goods Movement Task Force to help publicize the event.

### **4. Legislative Update**

Rick Remington, Manager of Public Affairs, AAA Mid-Atlantic, provided a brief update on *Miles to Go: Establishing Benchmarks for Teen Driver Safety*, a study from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) on collateral damage of teen driver accidents. According to the study, in 2008, more than half a million people were involved in crashes where a teen driver was behind the wheel. More than 40,000 were injured, and nearly 30 percent of those who died in these crashes were not in cars driven by teens. Mr. Remington also mentioned another study, *2011 Roadmap to State Highway Safety Laws*, conducted by Advocates of Highway Safety, which highlights the strength of each state's highway

safety laws. According to the report, New Jersey fared well overall and Pennsylvania needs improvement. In New Jersey, the bill requiring more hours of driving practice before licensing is active (A3309). In Pennsylvania, a bill which proposes a ban on texting is active (HB 2070).

## **5. Panel: Sustain Safe Senior Mobility**

Zoe Neaderland, Manager of Transportation Safety and Congestion Management at DVRPC, gave a quick review of the DVRPC Safety Action Plan (SAP) and its products, including analysis and priority strategies for the emphasis area, Sustain Safe Senior Mobility. Ms. Neaderland also provided background information on planning that relates to seniors at DVRPC. In particular, Environmental Justice Planning at DVRPC was highlighted. Regionally in 2009, 89 people died in crashes where at least one driver was 65 years of age or older. This represents 23 percent of the 383 people who died in crashes in 2009. Between the years 2005 to 2009, the number of fatalities involving senior drivers fluctuated. It was discussed that the way this statistic is commonly reported only tracks numbers of senior drivers and not passengers or pedestrians.

### *Guest Panelists*

Ray Rauanheimo, Montgomery County Volunteer Coordinator/MPO Representative, AARP, spoke about AARP's educational programs. AARP offers older driver education classes, which focus on building defensive driving skills and provides updates on current laws. Mr. Rauanheimo said insurance discounts are available to individuals who successfully complete the state-approved driver-improvement course. In New Jersey, anyone at any age can get the insurance discount, however in Pennsylvania the discount is only applicable for drivers age 55 and older. Car Fit is another program offered through AARP. In order to help mature drivers find the best fit in their vehicles, this program provides older motorists hands-on resources and information to help them stay safe behind the wheel. The last program Mr. Rauanheimo mentioned was We Need to Talk, a series of seminars that offer practical tips and advice on how to recognize when it's time to limit or stop driving and how to discuss the topic with elderly relatives. AARP is also an advocate for livable communities, which promotes the need for a range of mobility options including public transportation, walking, and biking. For more information about AARP's programs contact Mr. Rauanheimo via email at [Rauanheimo@usa.net](mailto:Rauanheimo@usa.net).

Eugene Dixon, ADA Eligibility Administrator, SEPTA, discussed three senior-friendly transit services offered through SEPTA. Mr. Dixon said seniors, age 65 years or older with proper ID, ride free at all times on SEPTA buses, subways, and trolleys. However, to ride regional rail, the cost is \$1. Another transit option available for seniors is the Shared-Ride program. At a cost of \$4, this program is a door-to-door, advance-reservation, ride-sharing service, offered on a space-available basis to senior citizens age 65 and or older and residents of Philadelphia. The last program mentioned was the ADA Paratransit service. This particular service provides transport for seniors and people with disabilities who are functionally unable to use regular accessible fixed-route bus service for some or

all of their transportation needs. The cost to use this service is \$4 and eligible individuals can travel whenever and wherever buses operate in SEPTA's five-county service region.

Cheryl Kastrenakes, Executive Director, Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association (GMTMA), shared information about transportation options offered through her organization. Ms. Kastrenakes said as people get older, they tend to drive less, but there are still significant numbers of crashes indicating the likelihood of getting into a crash increases. She also said that without mobility options, seniors can become stranded at home, which leads to isolation and is bad for their health. One option available through the GMTMA is a group travel training program, which happens in a classroom setting and helps seniors learn about riding the bus through special outings. RideProvide is another service that provides senior citizens and disabled persons transportation options in locations where transit is limited or non-existent. There is a fare and zone system for this service.

Larry Bucci discussed senior crash data for the PennDOT District 6 region. Twenty-six percent of all Pennsylvania licensed drivers age 65 and older live in District 6. Mr. Bucci also said more than 16,700 crashes involved drivers age 65 and older, which resulted in 276 fatalities. The fatality rate goes up steadily as age increases. Overall, the trend of fatal crashes seems to be going down. Mr. Bucci highlighted some common crash factors including problems making left turns, being affected by medical or physical conditions, running red lights, proceeding without proper clearance, and surprisingly, incidents involving hitting motorcycles.

The discussion included the following highlights:

- Older drivers tend to have slower reaction times and their ability to make decisions may be compromised in situations involving the need to yield and make left turns.
- There was a question about doctors recommending elderly patients to stop driving. It can be a problem because some doctors fear losing patients. Every month about 1,900 licenses in Pennsylvania are pulled for driver evaluation. A letter can be sent to PennDOT recommending a person to have further driver evaluation and they will be added to the random drawing. In New Jersey, the Department of Motor Vehicle (NJDMV) Medical Review Unit screens and establishes cases based on referrals from medical professionals, police, courts, social workers and family members. The following links provide forms related to the issue from:
  - PennDOT - <http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/forms/olderDriverForms.shtml>
  - NJDMV - <http://www.state.nj.us/mvc/Licenses/index.htm>
- There needs to be more education outreach to medical professionals.
- As the retirement and social security eligibility age increases, the need for more viable transportation alternatives is needed including more livable communities and transit options like SEPTA and GMTMA. DVRPC volunteered to help spread the word about these services through DVRPC's newsletter.
- Education has to give people the tools to evaluate their own driving and understand the importance of knowing when their skills are failing.

## **6. Tracking Progress on Actionable Items**

Ms. Neaderland led the discussion on developing a short set of actionable items to help sustain safe senior mobility in the Delaware Valley. The group voted on items building on the panel discussion and the existing implementation strategies in the SAP. These included working to promote and publicize programs and events, such as AARP's driver safety course, partnering more closely with insurance and medical communities for safety planning for seniors, and emphasizing access to transit and pedestrian connectivity as best practices in planning, design and maintenance at the municipal, county, and state levels.

## **7. Open Forum**

An open forum was held for members to share and exchange information. As part of the "Did You Know" series, Regina Moore, Transportation Engineer at DVRPC, provided information about using vehicle technology to help avoid pedestrian crashes. She also mentioned two articles on senior drivers, one featured in the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety Status Report and the other from North Shore News, an online source. Kelvin MacKavanagh, Goods Movement Task Force representative, announced the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual New Jersey TransAction Conference coming up on April 6 – 8, 2011 in Atlantic City. John Ward announced the next RSTF meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, and reminded members interested in the co-chair position to contact Regina Moore. Additional written comments were provided by Warren Strumpfer, DVRPC Regional Citizens Committee representative.

### ***Attendees:***

Amway, Lauren	Street Smarts – Delaware County
Anderson, Matthew	Chester County Planning Commission
Bartels, Stacy	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Beans, Bill	New Jersey Department of Transportation
Behrend, Jean	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Belmonte, Lou	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Bucci, Larry	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Buerk, Jesse	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Butler, John	DVRPC Regional Citizens Committee
Day, William	New Jersey Department of Transportation
Dixon, Eugene	SEPTA
Fiocco, Joe	Fiocco Engineering
Fought, Tricia	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Hansen, Janet	Rutgers University – CAIT/TSRC
Kastrenakes, Cheryl	Greater Mercer TMA
Lawson, Matt	Mercer County Planning Division
MacKavanagh, Kelvin	DVRPC – Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force
Moore, Regina	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Moyer, Officer John	Cherry Hill Township Police Department
Murphy, Kevin	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Myers, Mark	Philadelphia Corporation of Aging
Neaderland, Zoe	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Nots, Officer Joe	Philadelphia Police – Traffic Unit/Truck Enforcement
Nuble, Patrice	Philadelphia Streets Department
Olsen, Katherine	Street Smarts – Montgomery County
Ott, Pat	MBO Engineering, LLC
Philbin, Officer James	Cherry Hill Township Police Department
Quick, Susan	Brain Injury Association of New Jersey
Ragozine, Bill	Cross County Connection TMA
Rahn, Kara	Delaware County TMA
Rann, Sgt. Michael	Cherry Hill Township Police Department
Rauanheimo, Ray	AARP – Montgomery County
Remington, Rick	AAA Mid-Atlantic
Strumpfer, Warren	DVRPC Regional Citizens Committee
Trimbell, Shayne	Greater Valley Forge TMA
Trueman, Caroline	Federal Highway Administration – New Jersey
Ward, John	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Weir, Meghan	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Winters, Dennis	Sierra Club – Pennsylvania Chapter
Zito, Sgt. Joe	Delaware River Port Authority