

Safe Mobility of Older Persons

The National Academies
2101 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20418



Transportation Research Board
Committee ANB60

<http://www.eyes.uab.edu/safemobility>

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March, 2005

SPECIAL ISSUE

Dear colleagues

This issue needs to go out so quickly I'm not able to write anything here other than best wishes to everyone.

Cynthia

Cynthia Owsley, MSPH, PhD
Chair, ANB60
Committee on the Safe Mobility on Older Persons

ASA-NCOA Plans White House Listening Session for March 10

The policy committee for the White House Conference on Aging—which is scheduled October 23-26 in Washington, D.C., ---is systematically drawing together pertinent recommendations from a number of listening sessions, solutions forums and other events being held across America.

A March 10 session in Philadelphia will focus on transportation safety and mobility issues as part of the annual ASA/NCOA conference at the Marriott Hotel Salon J. The time is 4:15-6 p.m.

This session follows a similar event held in conjunction with the annual TRB conference last January. The March 10 event will be coordinated by James Emerman, ASA, and John Eberhard (retired), former NHTSA research psychologist, now a consultant. Their program will bring key organizations represented by top researchers and practitioners to the podium to discuss a full spectrum of senior transportation issues.

Moderators are Helen Kerschner, Beverly Foundation; Joan Harris, U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the Secretary; and Eberhard.

The program theme is *Safe and Sustainable Transportation for America's Aging Population*. Key issues are seen as

- (1) Enabling older people to drive safely as late in life as possible
- (2) Encouraging mobility in late life
- (3) Transitioning to public transportation; and
- (4) Providing mobility to the functionally disabled.

Speakers and topics are:

Opening Remarks and Format, 4:15 p.m.

John Eberhard

Supporting development of validated screening and assessment tools to identify at-risk drivers; developing

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and evaluating programs to help older people remain safe drivers for more years; developing and evaluating acceptable, affordable, adaptable alternatives to driving, 4:20 p.m.

Lisa J. Molnar, Senior Research Associate, University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute

Supporting distribution of tools with demonstrated effectiveness to inform seniors about 'fitness to drive' issues; supporting policy solutions that integrate infrastructure enhancements with licensing reform to help seniors drive safely longer, 4:25 p.m.

Loren Staplin, Ph.D., TransAnalytics

Summarizing the value of promoting occupational therapy to address driving assessment, intervention, adaptation and access to public transportation; working to assure Medicare will cover occupational therapy for seniors as an intervention to keep drivers on the road; recognizing driving as an IADL (Instrumental Activity of Daily Living); 4:30 p.m.

Elin Schold-Davis, Coordinator, American Occupational Therapy Association, older driver initiative

Developing an informational network to help seniors access community resources; creating assessment and rehabilitation mobility centers; increasing uniformity of medical reporting procedures among states; 4:35 p.m.

Rick Shaffer, Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist, Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, PA

Supporting development of (a) reliable driver screening and assessment tools, (b) educational and remedial programs to help seniors drive safely longer, (c) scientific evaluation of alternatives to driving, and (d) innovative, homegrown transportation solutions, 4:40 p.m.

Audrey Straight, AARP, Coordinator, Mobility Options, Driver Safety Programs, Livable Communities

Looking at an array of programs that might improve public transportation, expanding Medicare funding for medical transit, relating transportation and land use planning, and creating model programs to meet senior transportation needs, 4:45 p.m.

Jane Hardin, J.D., Senior Transportation Specialist, Community Transportation Association of America

Creating incentives to (a) develop private funding of senior transportation needs and (b) generate family

support for senior mobility needs; promoting removal of barriers to use of private resources, 4:50 p.m.

Katherine Freund, President and Executive Director, Independent Transportation Network and *ITNAmerica*

Increasing investment in public transportation, coordinating human services transportation systems, providing effective means to assist the disabled with transportation planning, and supporting the Senior Transportation Technical Assistance Center, 4:55 p.m.

Lisa Peters-Beumer, Project Director, Transportation Solutions for Caregivers, Easter Seals of America

Increasing funding for (a) Title III-B Supportive Services of the Older Americans Act and (b) the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Elderly and Persons with Disabilities formula grant program; relaxing Section 5310 restrictions to increase flexibility in how funds are used, 5 p.m.

Sandi Markwood, CEO, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Expanding 5311 funding to promote rural transport for seniors; establishing a national volunteer driver initiative that encourages creation of model community transport programs; promoting low-cost transportation options for seniors; 5:05 p.m.

Helen Kerschner, President and CEO, the Beverly Foundation

Top Picks-Audience, 5:10 p.m.

Joan Harris, MPA, Moderator, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Office of the Secretary of Transportation

Discussion of audience reactions, issues raised by individuals, and a reflection of expected policy committee responses to the listening session, 5:25 p.m.

Joan Harris, Moderator

A special form has been developed by the moderators to allow rating and prioritizing of recommendations.

Persons who have been unable to attend a WHCOA session can submit their views directly to WHCOA by going to the web site www.whcoa.gov/about/whcoa or providing your input to John Eberhard at jeberhard2@msn.com no later than March 31. Moderators for the March 10 event will develop a five-

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page position paper for submission to the WHCOA policy committee by April 7.

Another WHCOA transportation event will be held in April at MIT. Joe Coughlin, MIT Age Lab, Joan Harris and Audrey Straight are the event organizers. Information can be obtained from Joan Harris-- (202) 366-1827 or Joan.Harris@ost.dot.gov

Note that the winter newsletter contained a compendium of information on other transportation issues that will be subjects for sessions at the ASA/NCOA annual meeting March 10-13 in Philadelphia.