



**Michigan Senior Mobility and Safety  
Action Plan  
2019-2022**

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### DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

This document has been prepared by the members of the Senior Mobility and Safety (SMS) Action Team. It is considered a living document, and is a compilation of activities and initiatives to address safe senior mobility in the state of Michigan.

The Senior Mobility and Safety (SMS) Action Team is part of a network of committees comprised of local, state, federal and private partners, working in collaboration with the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) to identify traffic safety challenges and comprehensive solutions. The result of these efforts is the production of the State's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). While the strategies identified in the State's SHSP have been approved by the GTSAC, the activities and initiatives identified in this Action Plan, as well as any opinions or conclusions expressed, are those of the individual SMS Action Team member agencies and not necessarily those of the GTSAC.

## **Introduction**

Michigan has an extensive senior transportation network. Every county has some form of senior transportation service which includes public transit providers, specialized service agencies, or volunteer driver services, all focused on keeping Michigan's aging population mobile. There also are a number of very innovative programs across the state demonstrating daily that senior transportation can be successfully delivered.

In 2017, there were 1,479,287 older licensed drivers (age 65 and older) in Michigan, representing 20.5 percent of all licensed Michigan drivers. The number of older licensed drivers in Michigan has increased 31.38 percent in the past 10 years (see table on page 4).

The focus of the Senior Mobility and Safety Action Plan is to reduce the rate of senior driver fatalities and incapacitating injuries. Because of the increase in the aging population, reducing the number of crashes, fatalities, and incapacitating injuries is particularly challenging for this group. The number of licensed drivers over 65 is expected to increase for the next two decades.

The Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team proposes to increase viable mobility options and awareness for seniors, help older adults maintain mobility regardless of driving status, increase the scope and effectiveness of alternative transportation options available, assist in maintaining safe mobility for as long as possible, assist with planning for a day when driving may no longer be possible (driving retirement), and to increase seniors' knowledge of transportation options available.

## **Goals**

Due to advances in medicine and adoption of healthier lifestyle changes, as well as the demographics of the baby boomer phenomenon, the number of senior drivers and the miles traveled will continue to increase every year. Therefore, absent any intervention, the reasonable expectation is senior crashes, including severe crashes, will increase every year.

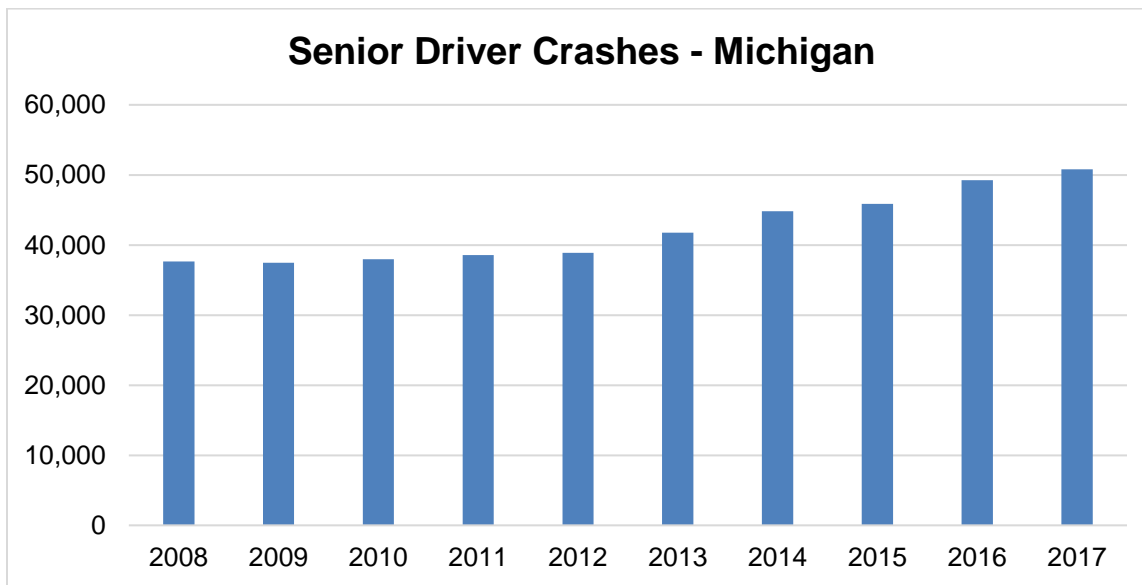
A Poisson regression model with an offset was used to account for the number of senior licensed drivers in Michigan that are continually increasing each year. Poisson models are commonly used to predict the occurrence of rare events and use count data that are independent (such as crashes, fatalities, suspected serious injuries) and occur within a specific time. The Michigan crash data meets the assumptions for a Poisson model. The Poisson model included data from 2013-2017 and was used to predict the action plan goals.

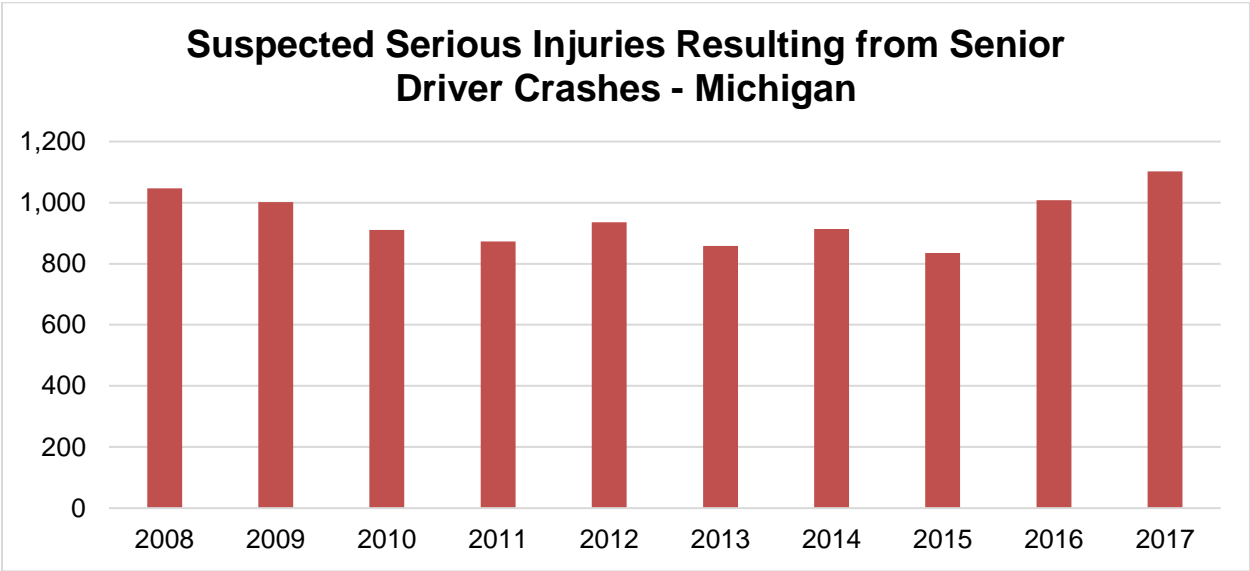
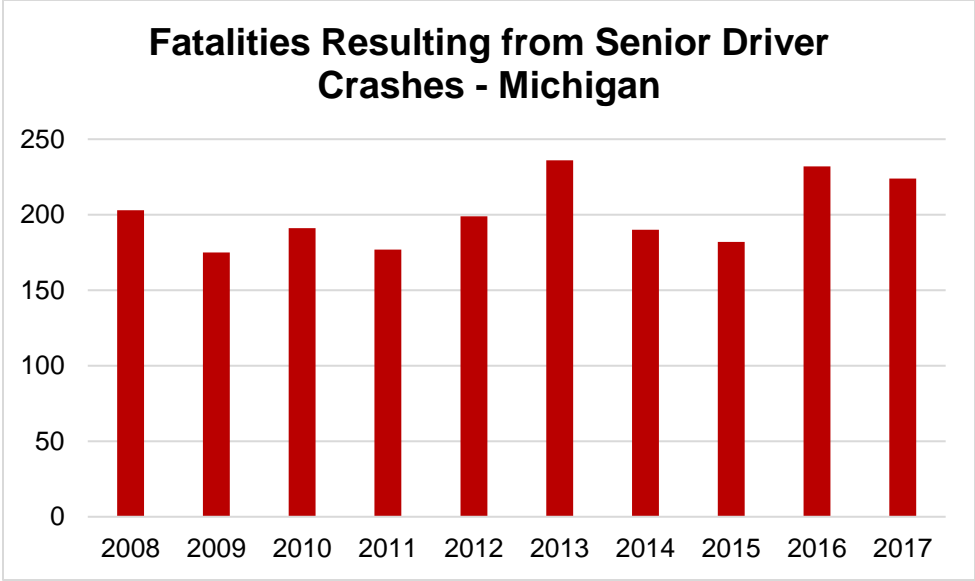
Crash goals for Michigan by 2022:

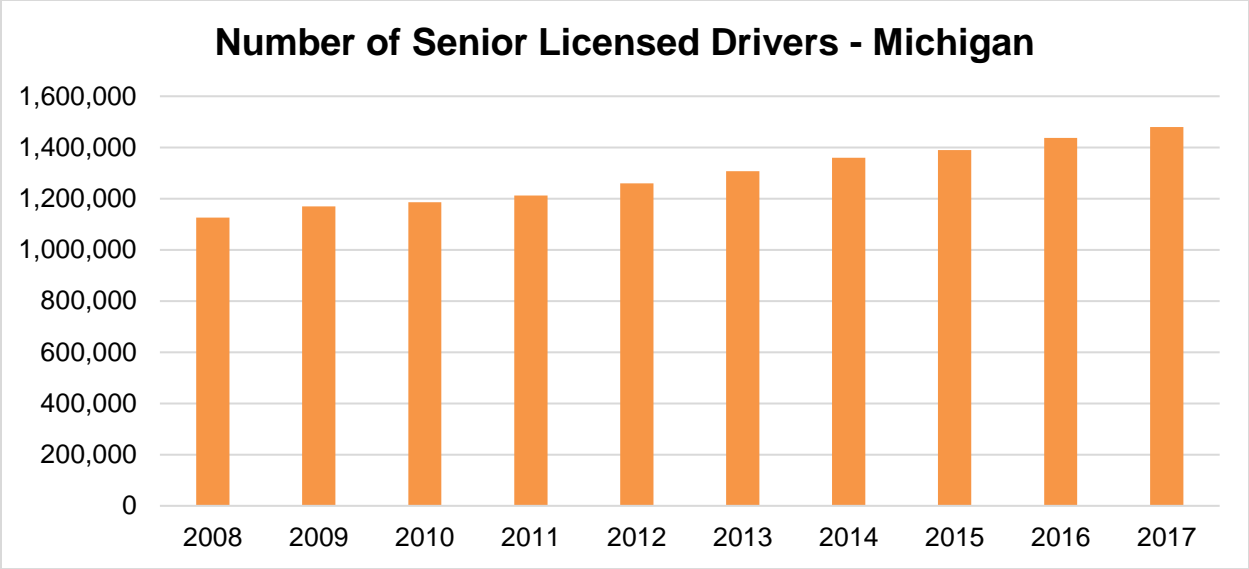
- Decrease senior driver involved fatalities from 224 in 2017 to 216 in 2022.
- Prevent senior driver involved suspected serious injuries from increasing from 1,102 in 2017 to no more than 1,432 in 2022.
- Prevent senior driver involved crashes from increasing from 50,807 in 2017 to no more than 60,041 in 2022.

## Senior Driver Crashes - Michigan

Year	Senior Driver Crashes	KA Injuries Resulting from Senior Driver Crashes	Fatalities (K) Resulting from Senior Driver Crashes	Suspected Serious Injuries (A) Resulting from Senior Driver Crashes	# of Senior Licensed Drivers
2008	37,651	1,250	203	1,047	1,125,966
2009	37,486	1,177	175	1,002	1,169,999
2010	37,965	1,102	191	911	1,185,810
2011	38,555	1,050	177	873	1,212,019
2012	38,896	1,135	199	936	1,259,615
2013	41,762	1,094	236	858	1,307,266
2014	44,799	1,104	190	914	1,360,348
2015	45,864	1,017	182	835	1,390,210
2016	49,256	1,240	232	1,008	1,437,067
2017	50,807	1,326	224	1,102	1,479,287







## Strategies

### Promote and sponsor research in Michigan on senior mobility issues

#### Objective #1

The agencies involved in the action team will routinely identify the need for research projects on senior mobility, which can be completed or funded by the agencies involved in older adult mobility in Michigan.

#### **Short-Term (1-2 years) Activities:**

Investigate alternative transportation needs and issues, particularly gaps between services needed and services provided within Michigan. AAA 1B's one-call, one-click mobility management service will track unmet transportation needs and provide this information to the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART), the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) of Southeast Michigan and other state and national organizations as needed. AAA 1-B will work with the University of Michigan to conduct a variety of research projects on senior mobility issues.

*Lead Agency:* MDOT, AAA-1B, University of Michigan

*Contact:* Passenger Transportation, Mobility Management/UMTRI

#### **Ongoing Activities:**

The Senior Mobility and Safety Action team continues to seek out and identify current research opportunities within the State of Michigan and worldwide on senior mobility issues, and communicates them to other stakeholders.

*Lead Agency:* Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team

*Contact:* All Participants

MDOT will continue to evaluate the need to fund research on senior mobility issues.

*Lead Agency:* MDOT

*Contact:* Safety Programs

### Plan for an aging mobility and transportation dependent population

#### Objective #2

Encourage agencies to consider the aging population when planning their communities. Also encourage agencies to take into account how transportation dependent their population is, and how that should be considered in the planning process.

#### **Ongoing Activities:**

All members of the action team will identify applicable agencies and invite the agencies to be part of the action team to further enhance and promote senior mobility and safety. Members will seek out and encourage the auto industry to join the Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team.

*Lead Agency:* Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team

*Contact:* All Participants

The action team will continue promoting the use of the following resources:

- Michigan Traffic Crash Facts – Michigantrafficcrashfacts.org
- Safe Drivers Smart Options – Keys to Lifelong Mobility – Michigan.gov/agingdriver
- Michigan’s Guide for Aging Drivers and Their Families – Michigan.gov/agingdriver

*Lead Agency: Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team*

*Contact: All Participants*

The action team and partner agencies will continue to work on educating state and local governments on the importance of creating communities that are senior friendly.

*Lead Agency: Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team*

*Contact: All Participants*

Quarterly meetings are held where state traffic safety professionals share tips, materials and ideas related to older driver safety. MDOS and OHSP will continue to participate in the State Aging Road User Programs: Interstate Collaboration.

*Lead Agency: MDOS, OHSP*

*Contact: Traffic Safety Division/Program Management*

Follow the national strategy for “Towards Zero Deaths” regarding Senior Mobility and Safety.

*Lead Agency: Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team*

*Contact: All Participants*

<p><b>Promote the design and operation of Michigan roadways with features that better accommodate the special needs of older drivers and pedestrians</b></p>
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**Objective #3**

Review any new processes for improving the design and operation of our roadways and encourage all agencies to adopt those that are shown to be feasible in Michigan. Encourage and promote connected vehicle technology and infrastructure as it relates to senior mobility.

**Short Term (1-2 years) Activities:**

Backplates provide a visual contrast between traffic signal heads and the environment, enhancing signal visibility and intersection safety. MDOT will support installation of back plates at east-west signal approaches and on all approaches at high-crash intersections and will encourage similar action at local agencies.

*Lead Agency: MDOT*

*Contact: Safety Programs*

**Ongoing Activities:**

MDOT will continue to support actions by the GTSAC Traffic Safety Engineering Action Team to provide for easier navigation and safer operations at intersections through design and operational improvements.

*Lead Agency: MDOT*

*Contact: Safety Programs*

MDOT will continue to review and adopt what is replicable from the FHWA *Older Driver Highway Design Handbook*, and any other older driver best practices that are identified (the 2014 FHWA Handbook for Designing Roadway for the Aging Population) to determine what should and can be adopted in Michigan.

*Lead Agency: MDOT*

*Contact: Safety Programs*



**Develop and/or enhance programs to identify older drivers at increased risk of crashes and take appropriate action**

**Objective #4**

Enable older drivers to retain as much mobility through driving as is consistent with safety on the road for themselves, passengers, and other road users.

**Short-term (1-2 years) Activities:**

Develop social media messaging to educate aging drivers, family members, and professionals about keeping seniors safe and mobile.

*Lead Agency: Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team*

*Contact: All Participants*

OHSP, along with MSP, will seek to provide and coordinate Law Enforcement training pertaining to older drivers.

*Lead Agency: OHSP, MSP*

*Contact: Program Management/State Services Bureau*

Explore the need to create a unified presentation for aging drivers with a focus on lifelong mobility. Presentations could be delivered through community outreach and education such as senior centers and senior fairs

*Lead Agency: Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team*

*Contact: All Participants*

As recommended on the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) survey, develop a presentation for the Traffic Safety Networks. This could increase awareness of the SHSP and educate on how Senior Mobility and Safety fits within the plan.

*Lead Agency: Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team*

*Contact: All Participants*

Explore the development of an electronic *Request for Driver Evaluation (OC-88 form)* for health professionals and make recommendations as to its online location and promotion of its use.

*Lead Agency: MDOS*

*Contact: Traffic Safety Division*

**Ongoing Activities:**

Encourage Michigan law enforcement officers to use the Safe Drivers Smart Options website for educational opportunities.

*Lead Agency: OHSP, MSP*

*Contact: Program Management/State Services Bureau*

Continue to coordinate one or two sessions at the Michigan Traffic Safety Summit on Older Driver Safety.

*Lead Agency: OHSP*

*Contact: Program Management*

Develop recommendations on how the *Driver Fitness Medical Guidelines* developed by NHTSA should be used in assessing drivers.

*Lead Agency: MDOS*

*Contact: Traffic Safety Division*

Develop educational resources tailored for law enforcement, medical professionals, and family and friends about how to refer at-risk older drivers to the Department of State for driver reexamination and the assessment process. Consider posting new resources to the Safe Drivers Smart Options web site and/or other appropriate outlets for dissemination.

*Lead Agency: MDOS*

*Contact: Traffic Safety Division*

Seek opportunities for providing older driver safety training to medical professionals.

*Lead Agency: Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team*

*Contact: All Participants*

Develop and implement a senior mobility message for the MDOS Motor Vehicle Network to air in SOS branch offices. This will be in conjunction with Older Driver Safety Awareness Week in December.

*Lead Agency: MDOS*

*Contact: Traffic Safety Division*

Explore the need to identify in-vehicle advanced technologies shown to increase driver safety, such as forward collision warning and blind spot warning, and increase driver awareness of them.

*Lead Agency: Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team*

*Contact: All Participants*

The Michigan Department of State (MDOS) will continue to consider conducting driver reexaminations for drivers who are referred by physicians, law enforcement, family members, friends, and other concerned citizens.

*Lead Agency: MDOS*

*Contact: Traffic Safety Division*

Support the *Michigan's Guide for Aging Drivers and Their Families* publication including recommending revisions, exploring additional distribution points, and obtaining funding for reprinting, etc.

*Lead: MDOS, MDOT, OHSP*

*Contact: Traffic Safety Division/Safety Programs/Program Management*

Continue to attend events, meetings, and conferences, etc. to present and/or distribute information related to aging driver issues and programs.

*Lead Agency: Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team*

*Contact: All Participants*

Continue to monitor connected vehicle technology and infrastructure as it relates to senior mobility.

*Lead Agency: MDOT*

*Contact: Safety Programs*

## Encourage senior-friendly transportation options

### **Objective #5**

Assist drivers and families/caregivers in making decisions that use a variety of safe transportation options which sustain the individual's self-determination, dignity, mobility and independence.

#### **Short-term (1-2 years) Activities:**

AAA1-B's mobility management service, myride2, will continue to provide transportation options, travel training, which educates individuals on how to use public transportation, and older driver safety

information. The Safe Drivers Smart Options website will continue to be the source of information for older drivers, family, caregivers and professionals.

*Lead Agency: MDOT and AAA1-B*

*Contact: Office of Passenger Transportation/Mobility Manager*

Support efforts to grow Regional Transit Authority in Southeast Michigan. MDOT/Office of Passenger Transportation and AAA1-B assists RTA and the RTA Citizen's Advisory Committee activities. *Lead*

*Agency: MDOT and AAA1-B*

*Contact: Office of Passenger Transportation/Mobility Manager*

Continue to support mobility management services and options throughout the state, including Myride2 in SE Michigan.

*Lead Agency: MDOT and AAA1-B*

*Contact: Office of Passenger Transportation/Mobility Manager*

Continue to develop partnerships with the medical community regarding physician reporting of drivers needing evaluation.

*Lead Agency: MDOS*

*Contact: Traffic Safety Division*

Explore opportunities for regional transportation throughout Michigan.

*Lead Agency: MDOT*

*Contact: Office of Passenger Transportation*

AARP's Smart DriverTek 90-minute program kicked off and was piloted in Michigan in 2018. The program is designed to help senior drivers understand current and evolving vehicle safety technologies, how to use them, and how they might enhance driving safety and extend driving years. AARP will continue to expand the program in Michigan.

*Lead Agency: AARP*

*Contact: Driver Safety Programs*

### ***Ongoing Activities:***

Promote transportation options, including transit, for non-emergency medical transportation. Partner with DHHS, transit agencies and associations, and mobility managers to ensure citizens have accessible transportation available.

*Lead Agencies: MDHHS, MDOT*

*Contact: Medical Services Administration, Passenger Transportation*

Continue to support and facilitate CarFit events in Michigan. Explore opportunities to expand to Northern Lower and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

*Lead Agency: Michigan Trauma Coalition (MTC), AARP, OHSP, MDOS, AAA*

*Contact: Beaumont Injury Prevent/Assoc. Director and Driver Safety Coord./Program Management/Traffic Safety Division/Communications*

AARP will continue to provide the *AARP Smart Driver Safety Course*.

*Lead Agency: AARP*

*Contact: Driver Safety Coordinator*

AARPs "*We Need to Talk*" program will continue to be promoted and utilized.

*Lead Agency: AARP*

*Contact: Driver Safety Coordinator*

AARP will continue to recruit presenters, facilitators, and trainers to offer the Smart Driver, We Need to Talk, and Smart Driver Tec Programs.

*Lead Agency: AARP*

*Contact: Driver Safety Coordinator*

Continue to identify resources available to help older drivers maintain, limit, or retire from driving, and develop recommendations on how to promote them.

*Lead Agency: Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team*

*Contact: All Participants*

The MDOS and MDOT provides information to driver's regarding local resources and contact information for alternative transportation options. A listing of Alternative Transportation Services/Transit Authorities by County is maintained and available at Michigan.gov/SOS and at Michigan.gov/MDOT/Public Transportation.

*Lead Agency: MDOS, MDOT*

*Contact: Traffic Safety Division/Passenger Transportation*

Monitor ridesharing services such as Uber and Lyft and explore options for promoting these services to the senior population.

*Lead Agency: Ingham County Medical Care Facility*

*Contact: Social Worker*

### **Provide recommendations related to senior mobility and safety legislation**

#### **Objective #6**

Make recommendations for improved legislation as it relates to senior mobility and safety.

Review other state licensing laws and explore need for policy change.

*Lead Agency: Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team*

*Contact: All Participants*

Explore opportunities to make legislative changes to Public Health Code 333.17549 and allow nurse practitioner signatures when submitting the OC-88 Driver Re-examination Form.

*Lead Agency: Beaumont Hospital – Royal Oak*

*Contact: Trauma Injury Prevention*

### **Improve communication and coordination among partners at the state, regional and local levels to enhance senior mobility**

#### **Objective #7**

Improve communication among partners and among seniors at all levels to enhance mobility for Michigan senior drivers.

#### **Short-Term (1-2 years) Activities:**

Explore the need to provide senior mobility and safety outreach materials to the Attorney General and the Judicial System.

*Lead Agency: OHSP*

*Contact: Program Coordinator*

Michigan Senior Mobility and Safety Action Plan 2019-2022  
August 1, 2018

**Ongoing Activities:**

The Michigan Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) will serve as a conduit between the aging network and statewide efforts to enhance senior mobility by sharing resources and information, relevant data, publicizing related events, and providing input on policies, practices and proposed legislation affecting senior mobility.

*Lead Agency: AASA*

*Contact: Aging and Adult Services Agency Representative*

The Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team will continue to engage public transportation providers, seniors and people with disabilities in planning efforts to enhance mobility statewide.

*Lead Agency: AAA-1B, Action Team*

*Contact: Mobility Manager/All participants*

Promote coordination and communication between transit agencies, transit associations, and MDOT to improve transit availability and access for seniors.

*Lead Agency: MDOT*

*Contact: Office of Passenger Transportation*

**Promote, support, and contribute to the Safe Drivers Smart Options strategy**

**Objective #8**

Safe Drivers Smart Options (SDSO) is a statewide strategy to support the safe mobility of Michigan's aging adults. Visit [Michigan.gov/agingdriver](http://Michigan.gov/agingdriver). The goals of the strategy are to:

- Help adults who can drive safely continue to do so;
- Help adults who are starting to have difficulties with driving transition to driving retirement;
- Support the use of community mobility options for those who no longer driver.

**Ongoing Activities:**

Provide leadership and guidance for the SDSO strategy.

*Lead Agency: MDOS*

*Contact: Traffic Safety*

Continue to administer the SDSO website with guidance from the SDSO Operating Committee.

*Lead Agency: MDOS*

*Contact: Traffic Safety Division*

## **Acronyms**

AAA	American Automobile Association
AAA1-B	Area Agency on Aging 1-B
AARP	American Association of Retired Persons
AAS	Aging and Adult Services Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
GTSAC	Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission
ICMCF	Ingham County Medical Care Facility
MCOLES	Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards
MDHHS	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
MDOS	Michigan Department of State
MDOT	Michigan Department of Transportation
MSP	Michigan State Police
NHTSA	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
OHSP	Office of Highway Safety Planning
SOS	Secretary of State
SEMCOG	Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
SHSP	Strategic Highway Safety Plan
UMTRI	University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute

## **Acknowledgements**

The Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team is comprised of members from the following organizations:

AAA Michigan  
Aging and Adult Services Agency  
American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)  
Area Agency on Aging 1-B  
Beaumont Hospital  
Central Michigan University DEER  
Elder Law of Michigan  
Federal Highway Administration  
Ingham County Medical Care Facility  
Mason County Sheriff's Office  
Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning  
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services  
Michigan Department of State  
Michigan Department of Transportation  
Michigan State Police  
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments  
University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute