

**Action Team: Senior Mobility and Safety**  
**Report for Period: April 2009 – December 2009**  
**Ms. Kimberly Lariviere**

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**Please describe activities and accomplishments that took place for each strategy/objective listed in your action plan.**

1. Promote and Sponsor Research in Michigan on Senior Mobility Issues
  - a. Central Michigan University has completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 3 year project sponsored by MDOT on *Senior Transportation Education and Awareness Toolkit*
  - b. MDOT advertised a research project for *Low-Cost, High-Impact Measures to Meet the Transportation Needs of Michigan's Aging Population*. This project will start in Fiscal Year 2011, and has been awarded to UMTRI.
2. Plan for an Aging Mobility and Transportation Dependent Population
  - a. Members of the SMWG will be participating with the Healthy Kids/Healthy Michigan Complete Streets initiative to make sure seniors issues are also taken into account with complete streets designs.
  - b. The SOS established the Medical Advisory Board in Feb. 2009, the Physician's Statement of Examination, Vision specialist's statement and substance abuse evaluation forms have all been revised.
3. Promote roadway design and operational features that better accommodate the special needs of older drivers and pedestrians
  - a. AARP hosted a National webinar in June, in which Dave Morena was the featured speaker
  - b. MDOT, in response to a survey has determined the status of the recommendations out FHWA Highway Design Handbook for Older Drivers and Pedestrians and what we have already implemented, what we are not going to implement. Of the 30 recommendations we have already adopted 15 of them, some of them before older drivers were an issue, as we felt they were safer alternatives prior to the publication of the book. None were adopted specifically as an older driver countermeasure. We also have adopted some countermeasures, ie. Box span signal installation, pedestrian countdown signals, clearview font guide signs, fluorescent yellow sheeting on warning signs, and diagrammatic signs that are not covered in the handbook.
  - c. Kim & Dave worked on a sidebar article that will appear in an upcoming edition of the Public Roads magazine, which discusses a number of items Michigan has implemented to improve senior mobility.
4. Promote seniors' use of alternative transit services
  - a. Michigan's Transportation Voucher Project lessons learned: There were a total of 6 demonstration projects, in this 3 year program, which was funded with a grant from MDCH to the Developmental Disability Council. There is a Transportation voucher Replication Handbook available as a result of these projects, available at <http://transportationallies.goolepages.com/vouchers.htm>

A critical component in demonstrating not only the need, but the impact the voucher program provides, is sharing the success stories or personal testimonies of program participants. Some examples:

A woman who lives in Baraga has been able to maintain a full time job because she has been able to reimburse co-workers for rides to and from work.

A woman lives independently and owns a car. By using the voucher program she was able to attend Mary Free Bed Hospital's driving assessment program in Grand Rapids, MI, complete and pass a drivers training course and a road test and was reissued her driver's license.

5. Encourage safe transportation options
  - a. SOS continues to offer transportation options information at the branch offices.
  - b. There were 13 CarFit events held in Michigan this year. All SOS Driver Analyst are trained in CarFit and the facets are included in driver reexaminations. TIA workshops also include CarFit facets, and all their instructors are trained in CarFit also.
  - c. AAA1-B is training for call center resource mobility options counseling, through a grant from United Way.

**Challenges and/goals for the upcoming reporting period.**

- To promote the senior mobility action plan and all that the action team is working on with other agencies and potential partners in the state of Michigan.
- Challenges and barriers seniors face in public transportation.
- Additional older adult mobility engineering improvements.