



Florida Department of Transportation

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December 2, 2016

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Florida Observes Older Driver Safety Awareness Week

~Promoting lifelong safe mobility for aging road users~

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) established the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition to help improve the safety, access, and mobility of Florida’s aging road users. The statewide coalition consists of representatives from FDOT and Florida State University’s Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy, along with 28 national, state, and local aging and safety organizations.

“Through collaboration and dedication, the coalition is addressing every aspect of transportation safety and mobility,” said Trey Tillander, P.E., FDOT Director of the Office of Traffic Engineering and Operations. **“Their comprehensive approach will ensure Florida’s aging population can maintain independence and remain active within their communities even after they transition from driving.”**

“The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles’ (DHSMV) top priority is ensuring all motorists Arrive Alive,” said DHSMV Communications Director Beth Frady. **“DHSMV is a proud partner of the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition, which prepares, educates and ultimately empowers Florida’s senior drivers. This week, and beyond, I encourage senior drivers to use DHSMV’s Florida GrandDriver program resources, including CarFit services and Florida Licensing on Wheels (FLOW) mobile [events](#).”**

The coalition has created a positive safety message to help empower Florida’s increasing aging population to attain lifelong safe mobility as drivers, passengers, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit-riders, and motorcyclists. As we age we can experience physical, visual, and cognitive changes, but when and how varies from person to person. To help compensate and be prepared it is important to learn tips to staying safe and mobile.

Safety Tips:

- Understand the impact that aging has on driving skills.
 - Talk to your doctor about conditions and medications that may affect your driving.
- Learn how to stay proactive about your driving.
 - Take a certified drivers safety course and attend a CarFit safety event.
- Plan for a safe transition from driving.
 - Learn the transportation options that are available in your community.

The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. (AOTA) establishes Older Driver Safety Awareness Week (ODSAW) every year in December to promote the importance of older driver safety and mobility. The coalition endorses AOTA's national efforts through education with information being shared across the state from December 4-10. This includes displaying safety tips at local driver license offices, CarFit safety events, social media messaging, promoting our latest revision of "Florida's Guide for Aging Drivers," and a Safety is Golden Mobility Fair at the Volen Center in Boca Raton on Tuesday, December 6.

The Safe Mobility for Life Coalition is a nationally recognized FDOT program and a 2015 National Roadway Safety Award winner for Program Planning, Development, and Evaluation. The efforts of the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition will continue beyond this week as they work together to develop and promote resources to benefit Florida's aging road users.

For more information visit: www.FLsams.org/ODSAW2016.htm.

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