

Older Driver Task Force (ODTF)

April 20, 2010

- Need to provide incentives for policies; prioritize communities with friendly Land Use policies and zoning codes (i.e. receive more funding)
- Want some kind of guarantee that transportation projects will require higher standards, especially design guidelines for older drivers (i.e. bigger letters on signs, more advanced signs, reflective marking on roadway; as well as where older drivers have major difficulties (i.e. left hand turns against on-coming traffic)... to reduce fatalities
- Acknowledge the need to work with physicians and educate families and older drivers of how critical it is to evaluate older drivers and whether they have become 'at-risk' drivers.
- Someone stated that Plan 2040 looks like the idea (actually said "Utopia") and that is not reality. He stated that the need is to educate the politicians and to get them to be more involved (in older driver safety) and make better decisions. He thought there should be some sort of 'political will' campaign. [His examples of reality were CTRAN closing down, MARTA having to cut services due to funding and support of politicians and their decisions at their level]
- Focusing on or prioritizing NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities) for funding/projects/programs. Link policies and funds... encourage alternatives to driving in these areas. [the Aging Division has these areas already identified]
- Get partnering agencies to adopt similar language (i.e. GDOT, County DOT) so that everyone has the same vision and will follow the same objectives and goals.
- Idea to have those counties (or areas) that surpass the standards (in design or any part of the planning process) given a status and sense of county pride. Reward them, use them as examples of what types of effort and action we want in the region, and promote other counties to want to be just like that great county. Maybe create certain 'above average' criteria to receive this status and have others seek out to earn this status. [referring to Douglas County who doesn't have any policies in place to enforce higher standards in road design for Older Driver safety, but they do it anyway out of always wanting to do 'the right thing']