OLDER DRIVERS
Speaker: Bette LaCombe, Zone Coordinator of Southern Nevada for AARP Driver Safety

What can we do as individuals to better traffic safety in Nevada? That is the question.

Older Drivers are typically safer drivers:

• When did we become mortal?
• Tend to be more cautious
• Top violations:
  o Yielding the right of way
  o Left hand turns
• Rarely have road rage: FIDO
• What are things that happen to us as we age in regard to driving:
  o Slow down our processes including driving
  o Aren't as flexible as we used to be
  o Can't see as well - cataracts, glaucoma, macular degeneration
  o Can't hear as well - get a light for the dashboard
  o Reaction time slows down
  o Drugs - too many prescription drugs

• So what can be done by everyone - the Fifth E:
  o Exercise
  o Have eyes and ears checked
  o Come to an AARP Driver Safety Class

Before I talk about the AARP Driver Safety Class, I have a captive audience - NDOT and people involved with traffic safety. What can you do to help:

• Paint the lines on the road in bright white paint. Keep the markings clear.
• Finish installing the flashing yellow arrow - it works
• Talk to people about taking a class on driving safely
• Make sure that the trees don't grow over signs
• Love the rumble strip up the 95 towards Reno
• Replace the "15 mile per hour when children are present" sign with flashing lights.
• Have more walk lights with the countdown
And now about the class - Nevada AARP and Nevada's DMV worked together as a team to make the class 4 hours packed full of information. I would like to highlight some of the topics covered and in some cases give everyone a short detailed update.

- Updates driving knowledge
- Teaches defensive driving skills, such as:
  - Scanning
  - Three second rule
  - Mirror adjustment to make your blind spot smaller
  - Handling intersections
  - Reviewing Yield rules
  - Reviewing the left hand turn rules

- Our driving partners:
  - Trucks, Buses and RVs
  - School bus rules
  - Emergency Vehicles and the "Move over law"
  - Pedestrians
  - Motorcycles
  - Bicycles

- Knowing the Roads
  - Signage
  - Lights
  - Yellow versus white lines
  - Driving on interstates
  - Driving on rural roads

- Your car
  - How to make sure all the safety features work
  - How to sit in the driver's seat
  - Maintaining your vehicle
• When it is time to retire from driving - reality
  o Talk about how you know it is time
  o How to help others know when it is their time
  o What you can do to get around

So if you are 55 and older come to one of our classes. If you have a friend, loved one, colleague who is 55 or older, tell them about it. Tell everyone - the Fifth E

You and they will be a much safer drivers and besides that you will get a discount on your insurance.

I have given you a handout on the classes with the phone number to call. Make sure that you pass the information along to someone - everyone!

Our State Coordinator, Bill Perry, is next on the agenda and will talk about younger drivers.