



Baby boomers driving into their Golden Years

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Looking northward from the J.J. Kelley Memorial Drive overpass in Des Peres, traffic on Interstate 270 moves southbound in the evening rush hour Thursday, Dec. 27, 2007. Christian Gooden, cgooden@post-dispatch.com

While traffic fatalities are down across the country, older drivers still account for a “disproportionately high share” of the casualties.

That was one of the findings of a recent report by The Road Information Program and the American Association of State and Highway Transportation Officials. The issue is a significant one as the Baby Boom generation enters its golden years.

Consider this: One in every five drivers will be 65 or older by the year 2025, the report found.

During 2010 in Missouri, there were 154 fatalities in crashes that involved drivers age 65 or older. That was the 12th largest number of fatalities among the states, the report found.

The report’s recommendations included improving lighting and street signs to improve visibility, widening lanes where needed and adding rumble strips. The report also suggested training and education for older drivers.

How this plays out will be worth watching because mobility remains a significant challenge as people age.