Advanced Technology and Older Drivers

David W. Eby, PhD
Director, M-CASTL

NTSB Public Forum on Safety, Mobility, and Aging Drivers

November 9, 2010
The presence and use of advanced technology in vehicles continues to increase:

- Original manufacturer
- Nomadic

The US population is aging and more people are beginning to experience functional declines that can impact safe driving.

Advanced technologies have the potential to increase safety and quality of life for older adults.
There are several types of technology already available.

- Route Guidance
- Night Vision Enhancement
- Crash Warning
- Automatic Crash Notification
Research Findings

- Older drivers like advanced technologies.
- Older drivers use these technologies as much as drivers of other ages, in some cases more often.
- Older drivers report that many of these technologies make them feel more confident and less stressed while driving.
- Older drivers report more difficulty understanding symbols and warnings than younger people.
- Older drivers report more difficulty using advanced technology.
- Older drivers would not purchase technology labeled for “old people.”
Research Findings

• Advanced Technology:
  – Needs to affordable;
  – Needs to easy to use (intuitive);
  – Should enhance safety;
  – Should not increase distraction in the long term;

• The technology should recognize and accommodate how older adults drive and self regulate:
  – e.g, co-driving.

• Older drivers take longer to learn how to operate/use advanced technologies.