

## **Older road users - the role of government and the professions**

Venue and date: Royal Society of Arts, London, 19 November 1993

To mark the European Year of Older People and Solidarity between Generations, the AA Foundation hosted a major conference in London on 19 November 1993, which looked at how to promote the independence and mobility of older road users. It focused on the problems faced by all senior citizens - pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and those who use public transport.

Central to the theme of the conference was the official estimate that the number of elderly motorists in Britain is set to climb from 7 million in 1993 to around 16 million by 2030.

Speakers, who are listed below, presented papers on the effects of this dramatic increase and how they needed to be handled. The then Minister of State for Public Transport, Roger Freeman MP, gave the keynote speech and the event was attended by 200 guests drawn from central and local government, research and professional institutions.

### **Setting the scene**

#### **The role of government**

The Rt Hon Roger Freeman MP  
Minister of State for Public Transport

#### **AA Foundation research programme and its application**

Barbara Sabey ISO  
Technical Advisor to the AA Foundation

#### **Growing older, wish to travel**

Philip Bly, PhD  
Research Director, Transport Research Laboratory

#### **Traffic accidents and other accidents**

Andrew Evans PhD  
London Transport Professor of Transport Safety, University College and Imperial College London

#### **The role of the professions**

#### **The role of town and country planning**

Peter Headicar MSc (Eng)  
Reader in Transport Planning  
School of Planning, Oxford Brookes University

#### **The role of highway engineering**

Michael Kendrick CEng  
Director of Planning and Transportation, Northamptonshire County Council

#### **The role of health education**

Sir Donald Maitland GCMG OBE  
Chairman, Health Education Authority

#### **The role of the doctor**

James Bevan BA MB BChir

#### **The role of the bus planner**

David Bayliss OBE  
Director of Planning, London Transport

## **Consumers' needs**

### **Older people, their independence and mobility**

Lady Sally Greengross OBE  
Director, Age Concern England

## **Summary**

Sir Peter Baldwin KCB  
erstwhile Chairman  
AA Foundation for Road Safety Research

The report of the proceedings is available from the AA Foundation and copies of the individual presentations are available free of charge from the same source.

A direct result of this conference was a contract with the University of Manchester for a study into when and why older drivers give up driving (FDN17).

In addition, the working group of the AA, the Medical Commission on Accident Prevention (MCAP) and the AA Foundation reconvened with the intention of issuing revised advice to older drivers, doctors, opticians and others closely involved with the elderly on assessing whether it might be appropriate to give up driving.

An advice leaflet for Older Driver entitled "Getting there safely" was produced in 1999.

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