



North Carolina Coalition for Older Adult Transportation

Member Handbook

Updated May 2025

ncseniordriver@office.unc.edu

About the NC Coalition for Older Adult Transportation



The NC Coalition for Older Adult Transportation (NC COAT) was formed in 2004 to harness the collective knowledge of professionals and research institutions working in the field of older driver safety. The Coalition also serves as the North Carolina Executive Committee for Highway Safety (ECHS) Older Driver Working Group (ODWG) charged with recommending strategies for reducing traffic-related deaths and injuries in the state involving older drivers.

Mission: To collaborate on methods for improving safety among older drivers and to advance awareness of viable transportation alternatives when driving is no longer an option.

Meet the Coalition Co-Chairs

Kristel Robison

Senior Research Associate, UNC Highway Safety Research Center
robison@hsrc.unc.edu

Kristel has been a member of the Coalition since 2016. She earned a Master of Social Work from UCLA in 2002 and has an extensive background in behavioral research. Kristel has served as the lead author on the Older Driver chapter of Countermeasures That Work and is an Event Coordinator for the CarFit program.

In addition to older drivers, Kristel also works on topics related to child passenger safety and teen drivers. Kristel is a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician Instructor and a member of the National Child Passenger Safety Board. Outside of work, Kristel enjoys camping, knitting, and spending time with her family.



Elizabeth Pinyan

Junior Research Associate, UNC Highway Safety Research Center
pinyan@hsrc.unc.edu

Elizabeth has been a member of the Coalition since 2022. She has her Masters in Health Education and Health Communication from Johns Hopkins University. Elizabeth is a CarFit Event Coordinator, an active member of the Gerontological Society of America, and is passionate about collaborating to improve transportation safety for older adults.

In addition to her work with senior drivers, Elizabeth is a Child Passenger Safety Technician and interested in health communications and health equity in transportation safety. Outside of work, Elizabeth enjoys exploring North Carolina on her motorcycle, reading, and working on projects at the makerspace.



Membership

Safe roadways are a shared responsibility among federal, state, county, and local governments, community-based organizations, interdisciplinary professionals, and community members. The NC Coalition for Older Adult Transportation includes professionals from engineering, enforcement, safety, health, education, transportation, and aging agencies and organizations.

Current Member Organizations



NCDHHS



Roles and Responsibilities

The NC Coalition for Older Adult Transportation is a collaborative group committed to improving mobility and safety for older adults across the state. Members contribute their time, expertise, and unique perspectives to help guide the Coalition's efforts and implement meaningful change through programs, partnerships, and policy.

Coalition members are expected to:

- Attend quarterly Coalition meetings and actively participate in discussions.
- Serve as a liaison to their member organization.
- Join working groups when the topic aligns with their expertise or interest.
- Support coalition-led efforts through planning, coordination, or promotion.
- Advocate at all levels for effective policies that are proven to improve safety and mobility, with an emphasis on older drivers.
- Promote the Coalition's mission whenever possible.

Quarterly Meetings

The Coalition meets quarterly through virtual meetings and active participation is essential to maintaining a collaborative and productive environment.

To support open, respectful dialogue, the Coalition follows these meeting ground rules:

- Come prepared to participate, ask questions, and share your experiences
- Respect each person's speaking time and allow for a variety of voices
- Respect differing personal views and professional perspectives
- Maintain confidentiality around member input and information



Current Initiatives

In 2025, the Coalition is advancing two key initiatives through focused working groups:

Expanding CarFit 1:1 in North Carolina

This initiative builds on a successful pilot of the CarFit 1:1 model in NC. The focus is on embedding trained technicians at regular host sites—especially in rural or underserved areas—by partnering with organizations such as senior centers. The goal is to integrate CarFit 1:1 into existing services in a sustainable, resource-efficient way.

Creating a Law Enforcement Resource

This initiative addresses the critical role law enforcement plays in identifying safety concerns among older drivers. A quick-reference cue card is being developed to guide officers in recognizing cognitive or physical impairments—using tools like DOSCI—and in making appropriate referrals. Input from law enforcement outreach and field testing will inform content and usability.



Communications

Coalition meeting details and information, such as upcoming events, trainings and guest speakers will be delivered via listserv at ncseniordriver@office.unc.edu. Additionally, coalition members are encouraged to use the listserv to share updates, relevant content, ask questions, and more. This channel will be organized and monitored by the UNC Highway Safety Research Center.



Upcoming Events

National Older Americans Month

May 1st-31st

Centralina Area Agency on Aging Webinar - Evidence-Based Health Programming and How it can Flip the Script on Aging

May 21st 10-11AM

CarFit Event at the Passmore Center in Chapel Hill

June 3rd, 10-12PM

NC COAT Quarterly Meeting

July 24th, 1-3PM

NC COAT Quarterly Meeting

October 23rd, 1-3PM

Have an upcoming event you are hosting? Let us know
ncseniordriver@office.unc.edu.