

# Preparing for the Silver Tsunami

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TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS FOR SENIORS



# About Senior Resource Association

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- Located in Indian River County since 1974
- 501(c)3 non-profit governed by a Board of Directors
- Provides Senior Services
  - Meals on Wheels
  - Adult Daycare
  - In-Home Services
  - Guardianship
  - Transportation

# Senior Resource Association Transportation

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- Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for Indian River County and Martin County:
  - Providing Transportation since 1976
- Operates the fare-free fixed route system in Indian River (GoLine)
  - Provided 1.35 million trips in FY 23/24
- Demand Response Programs for the elderly and disabled
  - 46,000 trips in FY 23/24: Indian River County
  - 28,000 trips in FY 23/24: Martin County



# Quiz Break #1

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How did you get  
here today?

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# Transportation for Seniors

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- Efficient transportation options are vital as our population grows and ages
- Transportation should never be a barrier to someone's quality of life

# What We've Learned About Seniors

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- Isolation is a huge factor in senior health
- Researchers conducting studies on social isolation found loneliness in seniors to have as many profound health consequences as smoking 15 cigarettes a day



# Transportation Barriers

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## Mobility Issues

- Age-related physical and cognitive changes affecting driving abilities

## Limited Accessibility

- Many need to rely on family/friends

## Affordability

- High costs of vehicle ownership and public transportation services

## Inadequate Infrastructure-Especially in Rural Areas

- Poor signage, street lighting, crosswalk times, uneven surfaces

# Transit Adaptations: Multi-Modal Systems

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- Public transit involves multiple modes as well
  - Pedestrian
  - Bikes
  - Buses
  - Light Rail
  - Rail
  - Ferries
  - Transportation Networking Companies

# Safety

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- GPS location of all transit vehicles
- Live audio/visual camera feed from all transit vehicles into transit facility and the Sheriff's Real Time Crime Center



# Transit Adaptations: Bus Stop Amenities

- Bus shelters/simmmee seats
- Solar lighting
- QR codes at all bus stops provide real time bus tracking



# Transit Adaptations: Demand Response

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- Curb to Curb vs. Door-to-Door vs. Door-through-door
- Using TNCs to fill the gaps
  - First Mile/Last Mile
- Microtransit
  - Used where there are transit deserts and underperforming fixed routes



# Quiz Break #2

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How many licensed drivers does Florida have who are age 80+?

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- a) 803,252
- b) 906,949
- c) 598,672
- d) 710,405



# Quiz Break #3

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In the state of Florida, all drivers must renew their driver's licenses every eight years.

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True/False

# Driver's License

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- A Florida driver's license must be renewed:
  - Every eight years for drivers 79 years and younger
  - Every six years for drivers 80 years and older
- Drivers who are 80+ and are not eligible to renew their driver's license online are only required to pass a vision test:
  - At a driver's license service center, or by their medical doctor



Louise MIL

Senior Resource Association



# Mobility Resources

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## Find a Ride Florida

- Online listing of transportation service providers

## AARP Driver Safety

- Online refresher courses to improve driving skills

## Safe Mobility for Life Program

- FDOT initiative to improve safety and mobility for aging road users

# Find a Ride Florida

 Low Vision Users

Standard

Black/White

White/Black

Yellow/Blue

## Fill out the information below to find your transportation options in Florida

If you are a family member or caregiver, please complete the form on the rider's behalf.

Getting Started



Frequently Asked Questions



### Traveling from:

Starting location

### Traveling to: (optional)

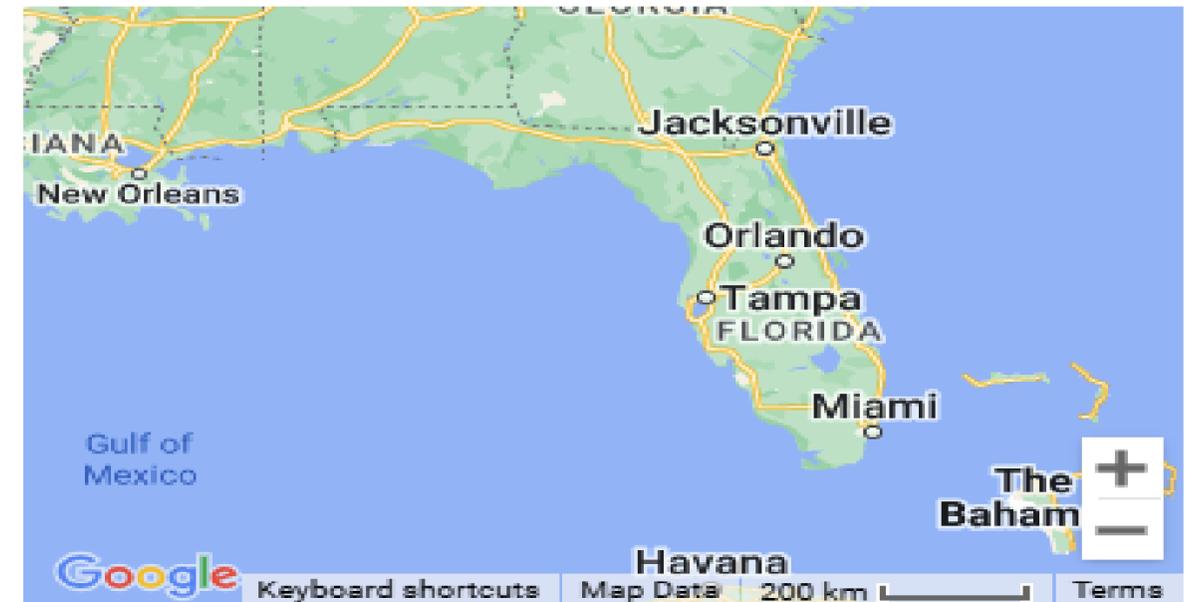
Destination

### What is the purpose of the trip?

Education  Work  Medical  Other 

### Do any of the following apply?

- Age 60 or older 
- Need escort to and from vehicle
- Need accommodation for wheelchair

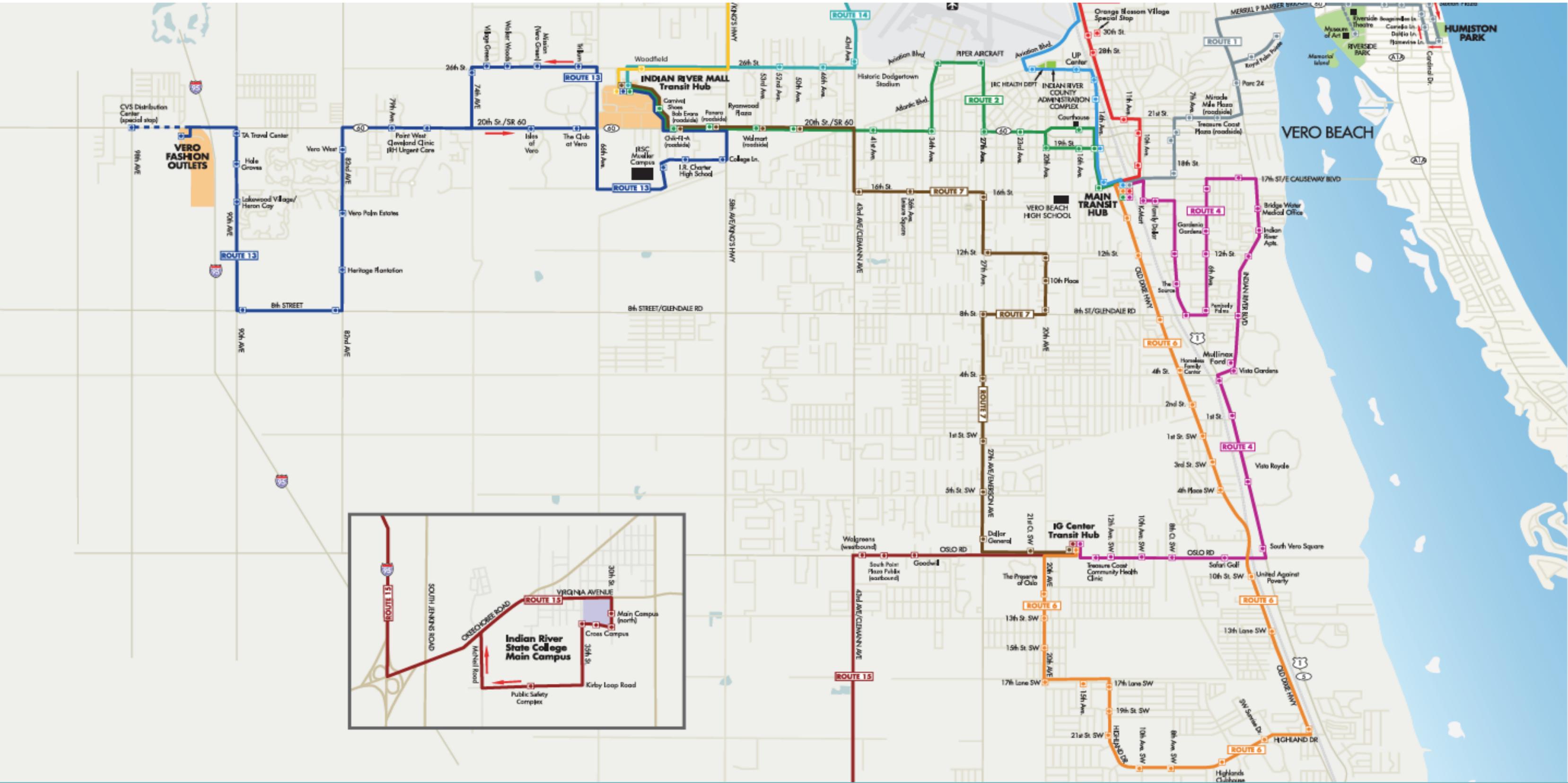


# Recommendations for Local Improvements

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- Enhanced Public Transit
- Subsidized Transportation
- Infrastructure Improvements
- Technology Integration

# Enhanced Public Transit



# SRA's Multi-Modal System

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- Pedestrian-friendly stops and routes
- Routes that connect to neighboring counties
- All buses are ADA Compliant (wheelchair lifts and ramps, low floors, voice-annunciators at stops)
- Bike racks on every bus

# Subsidized Transportation

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Local Match For Grants

Overmatch Grant Programs

Encourage Collaboration between  
Government and Private Sector

# Infrastructure Improvements



## Increased visibility

- Larger lettering on signs
- Spacing of reflective pavement markers reduced



## Pedestrian features at intersections

- More Countdown pedestrian signals
- Refuge islands
- Longer walk times



## Advance notification

- Advance street name signs
- Advance warning signs (stop, yield, etc.)

# Technology Integration

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- Real time bus locations
- Used for booking demand-response trips
- Same day trip requests
- To leave comments/contact transportation office



# Recommendations for Improvement

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## State Funding

- Increase state funding for transportation programs

## Community Engagement

- Involve seniors in planning and decision-making processes

## Legislation

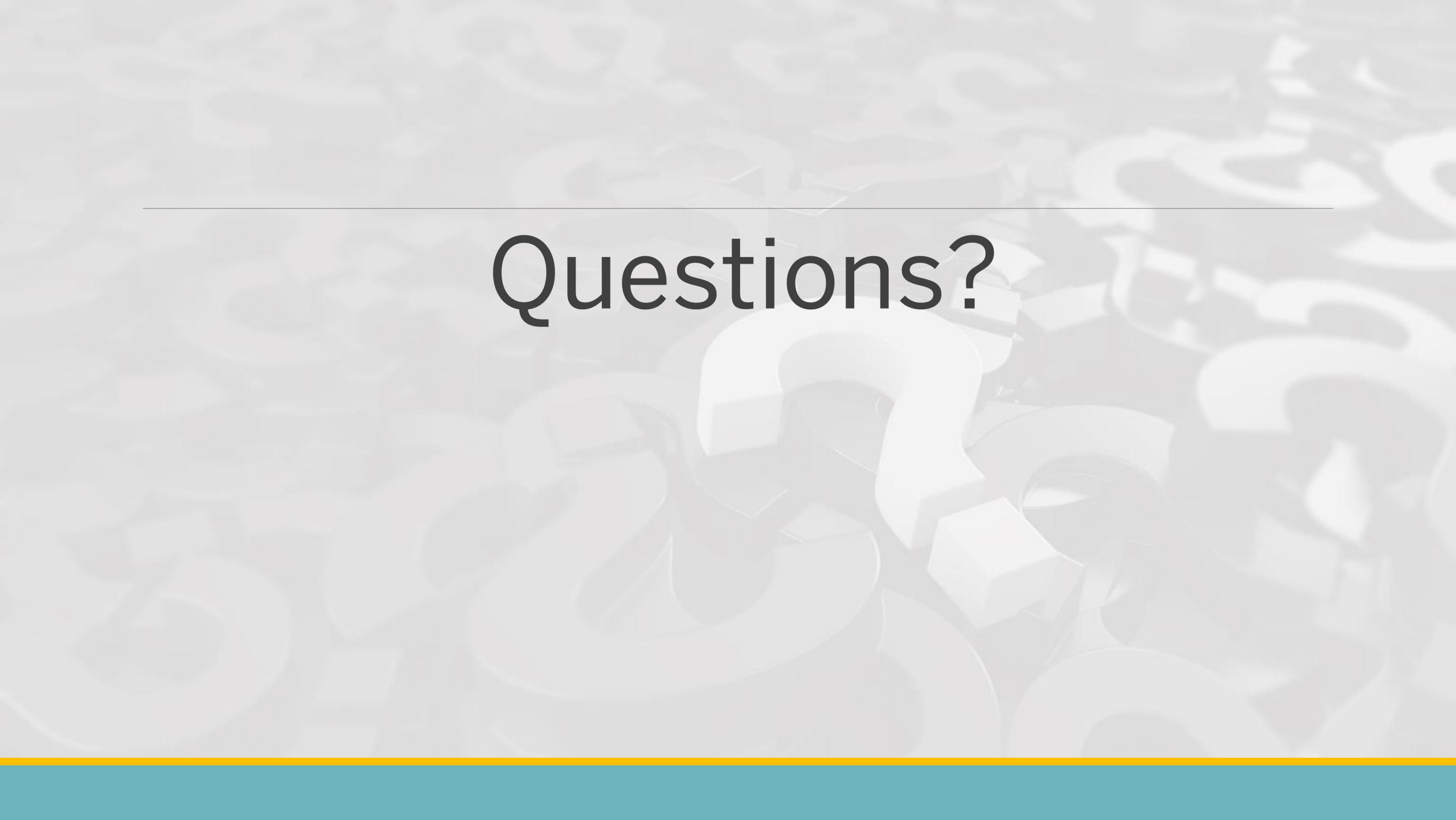
- Changing the state statute to require more robust testing of seniors 80+ years old

## Driving Course for Seniors

- Potential pilot programs through Florida Sheriff's Association

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# Questions?



# CONTACT US

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