

Making Driving Easier — And Safer — For Senior Drivers

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Did you know the projected number of Americans age 55 to 74 will double by 2030? And to accommodate this significant niche in the automobile population, would you believe automakers are researching how to make driving easier and more comfortable for the senior road warrior?

As part of the research and development for this burgeoning group, AAA has partnered with the National Older Driver Research & Training Center at the University of Florida to identify and recommend a gaggle of senior-friendly features that make sense to pursue when you become an active new-car buyer. Of course, this includes my personal favorite, stability control, which helps prevent loss of control during a turn.

Another sure bet for the senior buyer is antilock brakes. Also, there are large/wide-angle mirrors available as well as adjustable foot pedals and power-operated seats. Here are some others: active head restraints; four doors, rather than two, which make entering and exiting much easier; tilt/telescoping steering wheels; and side-to-side curtain airbags that protect the torso and head.

Your best bet is to download a copy of the "Smart Features for Mature Drivers" brochure published by AAA and UF. For more information, visit www.aaa.com/seniors. Good luck!