CHARLOTTE - A new report says North Carolina ranks fifth in the nation for traffic fatalities involving an older driver.

The report released Tuesday by TRIP, a national non-profit transportation research group based in Washington, D.C., says fatalities involving drivers 65 or older has increased nationwide.

The group says in 2016, 285 people were killed in North Carolina crashes that involved at least one driver 65 or older.

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According to the TRIP report, an estimated 46 million Americans are 65 or older, accounting for 15 percent of the total population, and the number is growing.

TRIP said improvements are needed to the nation's transportation system to improve traffic safety for older Americans.

"Wider lane striping, larger sign lettering, and more prominent milepost signage are just a few of the strategies that benefit older road users as well as all motorists and first responders," said said Rudy Malfabon, director of the Nevada Department of Transportation and chair of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.