

## Chapter 4: Ensuring Safe and Comfortable Traffic Conditions

### Section 1: Traffic Accidents in 2011

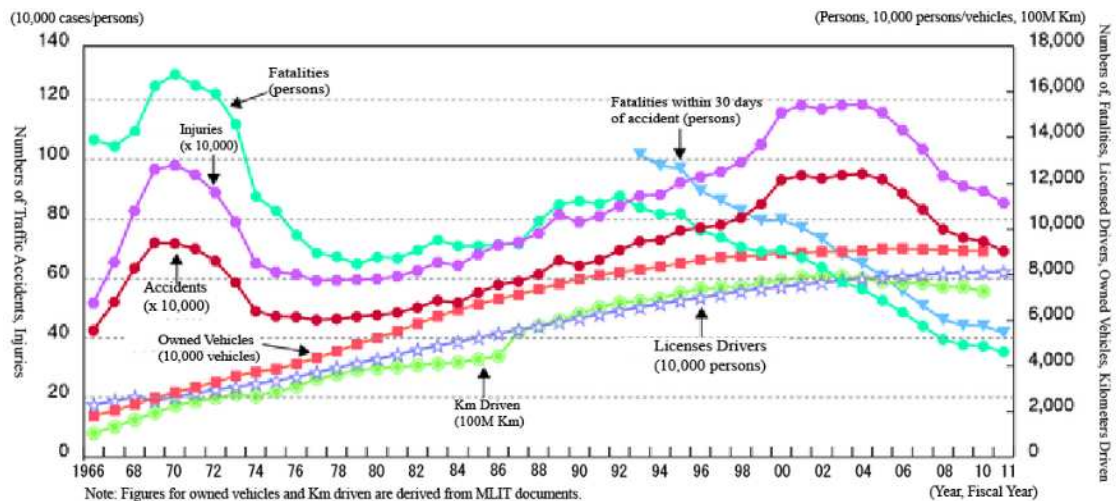
The number of fatalities from traffic accidents in 2011 fell for the eleventh consecutive year to 4,612. The number of accidents and injuries also fell for the seventh consecutive year, falling below 700,000 for the first time in nineteen years.

### 2 Traffic Safety Education and Activities

In 2011, the number of elderly fatalities in traffic accidents accounted for almost half of all traffic accident fatalities.

In addition, of the elderly fatalities in traffic accidents, about 70% occurred while walking or

Trends in Numbers of Traffic Accidents, Fatalities, Injuries, Licensed Drivers, Owned Vehicles, Kilometers Driven (1966 - 2011)



### Section 2: Boosting Traffic Safety Awareness

#### 1 Police Initiatives to Eradicate Drinking and Driving

The number of traffic accidents due to drinking and driving in 2011 fell for the eleventh consecutive year to 5,029. As well as actively informing the public about the dangers of drinking and driving and the facts about accidents caused by drinking and driving, police are promoting safety education through participation, hands-on experience and practice using driving simulators and other equipment. In addition, in cooperation with private sector organizations and other associations, police are working to “create a society that does not tolerate drinking and driving” by appealing to related industries to implement initiatives to prevent drinking and driving and calling for widespread participation in the “Handle Keeper” (designated driver) campaign and other activities. Furthermore, police are continuing to conduct strict enforcement toward eliminating drinking and driving.

riding a bicycle and about 80% of these persons did not possess driver’s licenses.

In order to provide opportunities for traffic safety education to elderly persons who do not possess driver’s licenses, police are cooperating with related agencies and other organizations to implement measures such as individual guidance through home visits and enlightenment activities and traffic safety education in facilities such as hospitals and care facilities.

Traffic safety guidance through home visits to the elderly



### Section 3: Driver Measures

Opportunities for driver education have been systematically placed along every stage of the driver's license qualification process and every stage after the candidate has received a driver's license, and police are working to enhance education for persons seeking to acquire a driver's license as well as education after a driver's license has been awarded.

**Column:** Measures to prevent accidents by persons with illnesses that may interfere with driving cars and other motor vehicles safely

Traffic accidents causing multiple fatalities and injuries occurred in Kanuma City, Tochigi Prefecture in April 2011, and in Kyoto City, Kyoto Prefecture in April 2012. With these accidents, it was later revealed that the drivers did not declare illnesses that trigger seizures accompanied with impairment of consciousness when they applied to renew their driver's licenses. In order to prevent accidents caused by persons with illnesses that may interfere with the safe operation of motor vehicles, police are taking measures such as promoting awareness of Driving Aptitude Consultation Desks and enhancing responses to persons seeking counsel. However, with regards to the accurate assessment of the condition of a disease at the time a driver's license application, etc. is submitted, police initiated meetings of the "Review Committee of Experts on Driver Licensing System in relation to Specific Illnesses" from June of the same year to discuss this issue with due consideration to requests and other matters from bereaved family members and related agencies and to review measures to increase viability.

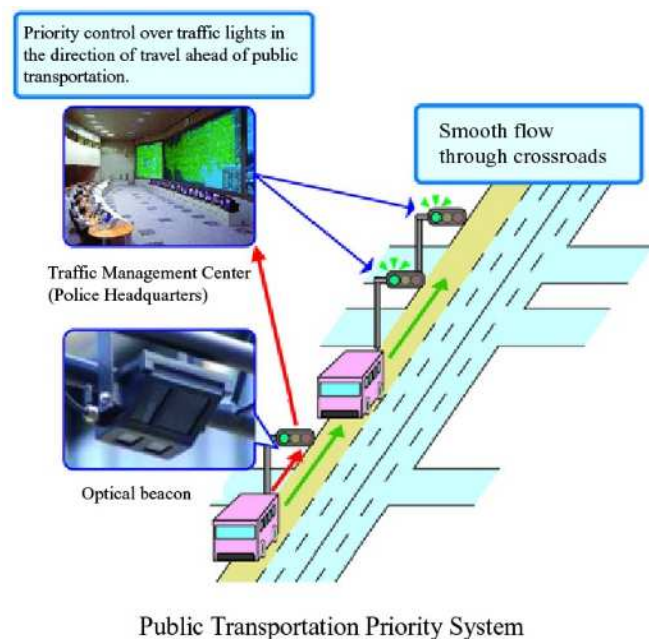
### Section 4: Traffic Environment Improvement

#### 1 Developing Safe and Secure Traffic Environments

Police are working to improve traffic safety facilities such as traffic lights and roads signs. In addition, as well as striving to achieve well-ordered traffic flow through traffic control systems, police are providing the data they gather and analyse as traffic information to facilitate the alleviation of traffic congestion and pollution.

#### 2 Utilizing IT for Road Traffic

In order to optimize traffic management using the latest information and communications technologies, police are promoting the development and improvement of new traffic management systems including the Public Transportation Priority System (PTPS), which controls traffic lights to give priority to buses and other mass public transportation systems by exploiting the functions of optical beacons.



#### 3 General Parking Measures

As well as exacerbating traffic congestion and obstructing safe passage, illegal parking harms the living environment of local residents and has a significant impact on life in general.

In order to ensure good parking order, police are continuously reviewing current parking regulations. In addition, police are applying well-organized enforcement to illegal parking based on guidelines that have been formulated and announced with the views of local residents taken into consideration.

#### Section 5: Maintaining Road Traffic Order

Police are striving to crack down on traffic violations with an emphasis on highly malicious and dangerous violations that lead directly to traffic accidents such as driving without a license,

drinking and driving, excessive speeding, ignoring traffic lights, etc. and violations that are causing repeated demands for enforcement from local residents. During 2011, police dealt with 7,844,013 violations of the Road Traffic Act.