

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC**

Update on Vision Zero program activities in 2024 and 2025 planned actions

Andrew Singelakis, Director, 452-6468

Chris Long, Assistant Director, Mobility Operations, 452-6013

Franz Loewenherz, Mobility Planning and Solutions Manager, 452-4077

Daniel Lai, Smart Mobility Manager, 452-6178

*Transportation Department*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY****INFORMATION  
ONLY**

Staff report on road safety trends and Safe System activities supporting Council's Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injury collisions on Bellevue streets by 2030.

**RECOMMENDATION**

N/A

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS****Background**

In December 2015, Council adopted Resolution 9035 endorsing Vision Zero, for the City to strive to achieve zero traffic deaths and serious injuries on Bellevue streets by 2030. In December 2016, Council adopted Ordinance 6334 incorporating Vision Zero amendments into the Comprehensive Plan.

In June 2020, Council adopted Resolution 9769 endorsing a Safe System approach to move Bellevue towards Vision Zero. This holistic approach to road safety bundles strategies focused on safe people, safe streets, safe speeds and safe vehicles—as well as the supporting elements of leadership, culture, partnerships and data.

In December 2020, the City Manager approved the Vision Zero Strategic Plan that articulates a coordinated approach across City departments. To keep the City's program on track and to monitor progress, a cross-departmental team develops annual action plans that are approved by the City's Vision Zero Steering Team comprised of department directors.

**Road Safety Trends**

From 2015-2024, 232 people were seriously injured and 22 people were killed in traffic collisions on Bellevue's streets. To contextualize this past decade of data: every 14 days someone was killed or seriously injured on Bellevue's streets.

Total fatalities and serious injuries ranged from as low as 16 to as high as 36 between 2015 and 2024 in Bellevue. With two fatalities and 34 serious injuries, 2024 had the highest total number of fatal and serious injury collisions in the past decade.

The City of Bellevue recognizes that current road safety trends are unacceptable and that behind the statistics are real people – friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. Every increase in fatal and

serious injury crashes reflects the pain felt by families and the community.

## **2024 Activities**

From securing approval for 20 mph local streets citywide to installing road safety countermeasures across the city, 2024 was a notable year for Safe System actions. The following are representative activities completed by the City and partners in 2024; additional details are in the 2024 Vision Zero Progress Report (available in the Council Library).

- Secured over \$15.7 million in federal and state grant funding to support safe transportation projects.
- Constructed 12,122 feet of sidewalks, 3,040 feet of multi-use path on Eastrail, and 3,377 feet of bike facilities.
- Of the 348 suggested improvements from the 8 road safety assessments conducted in Bellevue, 31% advanced by the end of 2024. This includes 33 complete, 53 that are planned in future projects, 7 in progress, and 14 evaluated and determined not recommended.
- City Council approved 20 MPH speed limits on local streets citywide.
- Working with T-Mobile and Applied Information, the City tested Cellular Vehicle-to-Everything (C-V2X) solutions to address safety concerns at slow speed zones, school zone beacons, and mid-block crosswalks. A total of 47 locations were upgraded with this technology.
- Worked with Amazon Web Services, Advanced Mobility Analytics Group, Ouster, Outsight, SCATS, and Blue-Band on the Passive Pedestrian Detection Phase Extension Pilot, which tested LiDAR sensor technology at signalized intersections to improve crosswalk safety.
- The Bellevue Police Department launched the third annual King County Target Zero “100 Safe Days of Summer” program on June 7th and 8th to prevent, intervene, and enforce the dramatic rise of impaired and distracted driving-related road incidents across Washington State. This led to the arrest of 36 individuals for impaired driving and 4 other arrests not related to DUI.

## **2025 Activities**

2025 marks the halfway point to the 2030 Vision Zero goal. To reverse the upturn in traffic fatalities and serious injuries, the City is stepping up its Safe System approach to Vision Zero in 2025. The following are representative activities detailed in the 2025 Vision Zero Action Plan (available in the Council Library).

- Work with private industry to develop and test new technology for real-time safety interventions including passive pedestrian detection for phase extensions, dynamic extension of walk, dynamic no right turn on red, and more.
- Participate in Intelligent Transportation System forums to accelerate collaboration opportunities with government-university-industry leaders in support of City smart mobility activities.
- Commence production of a Speed Safety Camera (SSC) Program Operations Guide that invites community input on the existing program and potential expansion, identifies arterial corridors where SSCs may be eligible, reviews best practices, and develops procedures to inform potential future SSC deployments.
- Complete design of speed limit reduction to 20 mph on most local streets and advance to

implementation planned in 2026.

- Evaluate each 30+ MPH arterial roadway in Bellevue to determine an engineer-recommended target speed consistent with a Safe Speeds approach.
- Conduct two road safety assessments (RSAs) that incorporate technical analysis with community engagement to identify safety concerns and potential solutions for the city's high injury network. This activity will be supported through the collection of video analytics data about traffic volumes and road user behavior at 79 intersections.
- Design and implement prioritized Safe Streets improvements identified from past RSAs leveraging Vision Zero Rapid Build Data Driven Safety Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-205), other appropriate CIP programs, and grant opportunities.
- Share educational materials on the safe use of micromobility devices with delivery companies using micromobility devices, micromobility companies, and private micromobility users.

These and other activities are funded through multiple federal, state, and local budgets. For example, the 2025-2026 adopted budget continued funding of multiple programs that support safety on city streets, including the creation of two new programs: one dedicated to advancing our Safe Speeds program and another focused on Safe Routes to School. By continuing to implement innovative strategies and fostering collaboration across departments, the City is committed to working towards the Vision Zero goal of zero traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2030.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

The City Council Vision, which guides Bellevue's policy and budget, supports this work by identifying a "safe and efficient transportation system" as one of six strategic target areas. This target area reinforces the City's commitment to "eliminate fatal and serious injury collisions through the application of the Safe System Approach" (Objective 3.2, Bellevue City Council Vision).

Furthermore, this work is supported by the following policies in the Transportation Element of the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan:

- TR-31. Monitor and implement as appropriate, emerging technologies that are intended to improve mobility, safety, efficiency and people-moving capacity on existing and planned transportation network facilities.
- TR-58. Strive to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries on Bellevue streets by 2030 in accordance with the Vision Zero Strategic Plan.
- TR-59. Update Vision Zero Action Plans annually to systemically and holistically address safety challenges using the Safe System Approach.

### **Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact from this update. Funds from the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity, and Congestion Levy (CIP Plan Nos. PW-R-198 and PW-R-199), Vision Zero Rapid Build Data Driven Safety Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-205), Vision Zero Safe Speeds Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-219), and Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program (CIP Plan No. PW-M-7) are available to implement projects in the Bellevue Vision Zero Action Plan.

## **OPTIONS**

N/A

## **ATTACHMENTS**

N/A

## **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

2024 Vision Zero Progress Report

2025 Vision Zero Action Plan