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TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

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SUBJECT: Update on Vision Zero Program in 2022 and 2023 Planned Activities

On June 15, 2020, Council unanimously adopted Resolution No. 9769 approving the Safe System approach and strategies to move Bellevue towards Vision Zero. This approach to eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries from City streets by 2030 focuses on safe people, safe streets, safe speeds, and safe vehicles – as well as the supporting elements of leadership, culture, partnerships and data. Following Council’s approval of the Safe System approach and strategies, staff finalized the Vision Zero Strategic Plan in December 2020.

To keep Bellevue’s Vision Zero program efforts on track and to monitor progress, a cross-departmental team of City staff develops annual action plans that are approved by a group comprised of department directors and deputy city managers. This presentation provides an update on implementation progress from the 2022 plan and an overview of the initiatives prioritized in the 2023 plan.

2022 Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes

Although progress is being made on Vision Zero activities, 2022 crash statistics indicate that 29 people were seriously injured and two people were killed on Bellevue City streets. This compares to 25 people seriously injured and one person killed in crashes on Bellevue City streets in 2021.

The importance of Bellevue’s Safe System work was highlighted last year when – just two days after World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims – Bellevue Police Officer Jordan Jackson died after a vehicle collided with his motorcycle. This tragedy reminds us of the devastating impact of road traffic crashes to our community.

2022 Implementation Progress

The 2022 Vision Zero Action Plan included 19 actions. The primary departments working on the plan implementation were:

- City Manager's Office
- Development Services
- Human Resources
- Police
- Community Development
- Fire
- Information Technology
- Transportation

Representative Safe System accomplishments from 2022 include:

- Implemented leading pedestrian intervals (LPI) in Downtown Bellevue, a decision informed by a 2021 before/after pilot that showed a 42% reduction in the conflict rate between people driving and walking. [Note: An LPI is when people crossing the street are given the WALK sign before the adjacent vehicles are given a green light. This adjustment to traffic signal timing allows people walking an opportunity to better establish their presence in the crosswalk before people drivers are allowed to turn left or right.]
- Implemented 2.1 miles of new pedestrian facilities, 3.2 miles of new bicycle facilities [55% of these new facilities achieved a Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress (BLTS) of 1, 41% achieved a BLTS rating of 2, and the remaining 4% achieved a BLTS rating of 3], 15 rectangular rapid flashing beacons, and other safe streets projects. [Note: BLTS is an approach that quantifies the amount of discomfort that people feel when they bicycle close to traffic. LTS 1 conditions are suitable for children; whereas the LTS 4 experience is most stressful with no separation between vehicles and bicyclists, a likely utilized by the smallest segment of bicycle users (only those classified as "strong and fearless")].
- Implemented 20 mph speed limits in Eastgate; showed higher-end speeding reduced by 19 percent.
- Completed three Road Safety Assessments (RSAs) in partnership with the Bellevue School District and funded by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission. Safety issues identified through RSAs are prioritized – based on crash history, equity indicators, and other metrics – for countermeasures funded from the Vision Zero Rapid Build Safety Program (CIP PW-R-205).
- Completed a Speed Limit Setting Procedures Report that includes increased consideration of street context when conducting speed limit review.
- Secured FHWA technical support for and commenced work on a Speed Management Plan that will provide guidance to staff on safe speed projects to implement on 30+ mph arterials.
- Secured \$1.24M in federal Highway Safety Improvement Program funding for the Coal Creek Parkway Corridor Safety Improvement Project. This project will design and construct safety improvements for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists, as well

as evaluate a reduced speed limit on Coal Creek Parkway between Factoria Boulevard and SE 66th Street.

- Advanced LiDAR technology collaboration for intersection safety with Amazon Web Services, Advanced Mobility Analytics Group, and others. Before/after analysis found that high-visibility crosswalk markings result in a 56% reduction in the conflict rate per 1,000 road users.
- Bellevue Police Department participated in a High-Visibility Enforcement Campaign with the King County Target Zero Program.
- Formalized a new crosswalk design standard that increases visibility for people walking that will influence the design of all new city and developer projects at pedestrian crossings.
- Recognized by Jennifer Homendy, Chair of the National Transportation Safety Board, at a T-Mobile 5G Hub technology event showcasing the City's physical and digital road safety infrastructure solutions.

2023 Vision Zero Action Plan

The 2023 Vision Zero Action Plan primarily builds on work initiated in 2022. The plan includes advancing safe speed strategies, implementing CIP funded rapid-build bicycle and road safety projects, pursuing grant funding opportunities, establishing new technology collaborations, and continuing to work with the community to build a culture of safety. Representative Safe System actions in the 2023 plan include:

- Finalize the Speed Management Plan and, based on recommendations, complete speed studies on three High Injury Network arterials to identify recommended speed management strategies.
- Advance work to consider 20 mph speed limits on all local streets in Bellevue, following the successful launch of a third 20 mph slow zone in 2022.
- Engage Bellevue's diverse community and stakeholders in the design and prioritization of Bike Bellevue projects in the Downtown, Wilburton, and BelRed neighborhoods.
- Pursue grant funding opportunities including the United States Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All program.
- Initiate a new collaboration with T-Mobile that will use cellular vehicle-to-everything technology to generate real-time safety information sharing between vehicles, infrastructure, and pedestrians.
- Host an event honoring the 231 people involved in a fatal or serious injury crash in Bellevue over the past decade (2013-2022) on World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims in November.

Available in Council Office:

2023 Vision Zero Action Plan

