

- (a) Transportation Commission Recommendation to Initiate a Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) into the 2016 CPA Work Program, for Policies within the Transportation Element informed by the Vision Zero Initiative.

City Manager Miyake introduced the presentation of a recommendation from the Transportation Commission regarding the Vision Zero initiative. He recalled that the Council passed a resolution in December that endorsed the Vision Zero concept as a way to achieve zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries in Bellevue by 2030. The resolution directed the Commission to determine whether any additional policies or revisions were warranted to address this objective.

Transportation Commission Chair Scott Lampe said the Commission recommends a Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) to implement Vision Zero policies. Resolution No. 9035 adopted by the Council on December 7, 2015, endorsed the program's approach. The Commission reviewed Comprehensive Plan policies related to the Vision Zero program during its January and February meetings. He said Bellevue's existing safety programs contribute to a relatively low collision and injury rate compared to other cities in the region. However, the Commission determined that more work is needed to achieve the Vision Zero goal.

Mr. Lampe said there have been approximately 40 collisions per year over the past 10 years in Bellevue that resulted in injuries to pedestrians, 30 collisions per year that resulted in injuries to bicyclists, and approximately 400 collisions annually that resulted in injuries to occupants of vehicles. Of those, 15 have resulted in a fatality. The Transportation Commission determined that additional steps could be taken to reduce serious injury and death. Mr. Lampe said that the documentation of injury collisions is not in a format that is readily searchable.

Transportation Commission Vice Chair Janice Zahn said the Commission heard from the community and worked with staff during two study sessions. The Commission identified many effective programs already in place in Bellevue including the neighborhood traffic safety program and the accident reduction program. However, a review of the Vision Zero policies indicates that the City can and should do more. Ms. Zahn said Vision Zero provides a framework based on six categories of action for traffic safety, known as the Six E's: Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Engineering, Equity, and Evaluation.

Ms. Zahn said the Commission recommends the development of a Vision Zero Action Plan, with the goals of understanding where and why accidents are occurring and of using the data to improve safety. She noted that there could be budget implications related to the future implementation of Vision Zero elements. Ms. Zahn said she attended a national conference and heard what other cities, including Seattle, San Francisco and Washington, D.C., are doing with their Vision Zero initiatives.

Kevin McDonald, Senior Transportation Planner, thanked the Transportation Commission for their thorough and timely review of transportation policies. He recognized City staff Darcy Akers, Transportation Engineer, and John Murphy, Associate Planner, for their research and work to support the Commission as well.

Mr. McDonald requested that the Council direct staff to initiate Vision Zero policies as part of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) package. If approved to move forward, staff will work with the Planning Commission as well and report back to the Council later in the year.

Mayor Stokes noted that staff's recommendation is outlined in Attachment B to the agenda memo in the meeting packet. Mr. McDonald said the key element of the CPA is to initiate the development of the Vision Zero Action Plan. This would be an interdepartmental, and potentially interagency, plan to use data in developing projects and funding priorities to address Vision Zero objectives.

Councilmember Wallace, liaison to the Transportation Commission, said there was significant discussion about the appropriate language for the Comprehensive Plan policies. He said he is unclear about exactly where this is heading, although the recommendation looks at revising only a few policies of the existing 150 Transportation Element policies. He said the City already prioritizes safety. However, he acknowledged that this will provide an enhanced focus on traffic safety. Mr. Wallace said it will be helpful to learn what other cities are doing with their Vision Zero program in determining what makes sense for Bellevue.

Ms. Zahn said the input she has heard so far from other cities indicates that the implementation of the Vision Zero program is a community process. She said two of the Six E's that strike her as particularly important for Bellevue are equity and evaluation.

Councilmember Slatter concurred with a focus on equity and involving the community. She questioned the data to be collected and how it will be used. Ms. Zahn said Transportation staff is already working with the Police Department to obtain data and to translate it to helpful information for policy development.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak expressed support for developing the Vision Zero Action Plan. He said the City hears from residents about their desire for enhanced pedestrian connections and safety.

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to initiate a Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) proposal into the 2016 CPA Work Program to revise the Transportation Element consistent with the Vision Zero program, as recommended by the Transportation Commission. Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

Councilmember Robertson said this item will be forwarded to the Planning Commission, which will hold a public hearing, and will return to the Council for formal action. She looks forward to a more intentional focus on safety. She said this is consistent with the City's existing policies regarding safety and overall quality of life. Councilmember Robertson thanked the Transportation Commission for its work.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

**VISION ZERO
BELLEVUE**



**TOWARD ZERO FATALITIES AND SERIOUS INJURIES
ON BELLEVUE STREETS**

Transportation Commission Recommendation for 2016 Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Initiated by Motion of the City Council on March 7, 2016

Transportation Element – Vision Zero Policy Amendments

Roadways Chapter

Roadways - *Policies that address design and management of the city's street system to meet community mobility needs and safety expectations.*

- **TR-A.** Strive to achieve zero traffic deaths and serious injuries on Bellevue streets by 2030.
- **TR-B.** Develop a programmatic approach to Vision Zero that integrates components of Education; Encouragement, Enforcement; Engineering; Equity; and Evaluation.
- **TR-C.** Design and manage streets to foster safe and context-appropriate behavior of all roadway users.
- **TR-53.** Maintain and enhance safety for all users of the roadway network, regardless of demographics and geography.
- **TR-55.** Maintain a collision reduction program to identify high collision locations, evaluate and prioritize potential safety improvements and implement recommended changes.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Chapter

Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation - *Policies that address increasing the opportunities to provide people with safe, comfortable, protected and connected pedestrian and bicycle facilities in Bellevue.*

- **TR-D.** Strive to provide separation between motorized vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists, as feasible, reasonable and appropriate to the context.

Accompanying Narrative in the Transportation Element

Vision Zero

Bellevue City Council Resolution 9035 (December 17, 2015) endorsed Vision Zero – recognizing that death and serious injury on city streets is unacceptable and preventable. Policies related to Vision Zero are integrated throughout the Transportation Element to support implementing context-appropriate traffic safety measures for all travel modes and to emphasize protecting the most vulnerable users. In a comprehensive, coordinated and programmatic manner, Bellevue will maintain, enhance and monitor progress in a citywide effort to achieve zero traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2030.

WHAT IS VISION ZERO?

Vision Zero is an approach to traffic safety that has the ultimate goal of ending traffic deaths and serious injuries. It is a framework for a multi-faceted approach to create a transportation system that is safe for all users. Components of a Vision Zero programmatic approach to safety include several categories of actions: Education; Encouragement; Enforcement; Engineering; Equity; and Evaluation.