



Transportation Commission Agenda Memo

DATE: January 10, 2019

TO: Chair Wu and Members of the Transportation Commission

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SUBJECT: Bellevue Vision Zero Action Plan

DIRECTION REQUESTED

Action

Discussion

Information

Staff provides Commission this agenda memo as a status update on the tasks and schedule to complete a Vision Zero Action Plan (hereinafter identified as VZAP).

Staff seeks Commission concurrence on the proposed [Safe Systems](#) framework that holistically considers Safe Speeds, Safe People, Safe Vehicles, and Safe Streets as coordinated solutions to reach Vision Zero. Further, staff seeks input on the supportive strategies for the Safe Systems framework. Although staff will reference actions that support the Safe Systems framework and strategies, Commission is not asked to determine which of these candidate actions is appropriate to promote or eliminate from consideration at this time.

Commissioners interested in learning more about actions that support the Safe Systems framework are encouraged to attend the Bellevue Vision Zero Summit on February 13, 2019. This event will bring together safe streets specialists from the USA and Canada to exchange ideas and share best practices (see attached event program). If you are available to attend the Vision Zero Summit please register soon at the [eventbrite link](#) (note: attendance is limited to 125 people and breakfast/lunch is provided at Overlake Medical Center).

Staff will return to the Commission on March 28, 2019 to seek concurrence on the Safe Systems strategies informed by the Bellevue Vision Zero Summit.

Background

Staff is preparing a VZAP that advances the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries on city streets by the year 2030. In 2015, the City Council passed [a resolution](#) providing a framework to achieve this goal. It states: "the life, safety and health of residents, employees and visitors to Bellevue is the City Council's highest priority." In 2016, the City Council passed [an ordinance](#) adopting Vision Zero amendments into the city's Comprehensive Plan.

The Transportation Department is advancing the VZAP in "One City" collaboration with other City departments to promote coordinated solutions in engineering, education, encouragement, evaluation, equity, and enforcement. Together we will:

- Consider Vision Zero best practices – including policies, programs, and strategies – that are successful elsewhere and applicable to Bellevue.
- Coordinate with existing road safety efforts underway in Bellevue and Vision Zero initiative elsewhere.
- Engage community stakeholders in setting the priorities for investment in Vision Zero strategies.
- Propose Vision Zero strategies through 2030, and required financial and staffing resources necessary, for a phased implementation in the 2019 to 2022 timeframe.
- Identify partnership opportunities with public, private, and non-profit organizations to advance Vision Zero strategies in Bellevue.
- Refine existing and propose new metrics to track plan progress and foster a One City commitment towards Vision Zero.

The VZAP approach is based on the Vision Zero Network's [Guidelines for an Effective Vision Zero Action Plan](#) outlining long-term goals, short-term action items, indicators to track success, public outreach, technical input (such as best practices), meeting preparation and support, meeting facilitation, and preparation of written documents. Consistent with this guidance staff is undertaking the following VZAP activities:

- **Community Engagement:** Staff intends to use the development of the VZAP to foster a "safety culture" wherein everyone is encouraged to make a commitment towards safe streets. It is in this spirit of "shared responsibility" – in how we travel, establish policies, design our streets, and enforce our traffic laws – that the development of the VZAP includes multiple engagement opportunities with the City Council, Transportation Commission, community stakeholders, and partner agencies.
- **Assessment of Collision Data:** Staff will leverage its 2006-2017 collision database and geographic information systems to produce charts and maps reflecting key takeaways about roadway characteristics and behavioral and environmental factors that may have contributed to people being Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI).
- **Assessment of Existing Policies, Programs, and Practices:** In assessing its existing policies, programs, and practices, the staff will arrive at an understanding of the current stage of

maturity of its Vision Zero initiative (see Vision Zero Network's [Moving From Vision to Action: Fundamental Principles, Policies, and Practices to Advance Vision Zero](#)).

- **Best Practices Assessment:** As a High Performance Organization (HPO), the City of Bellevue leverages the best technologies and innovative tools that are successful elsewhere and applicable to Bellevue. Of particular interest is a determination of how to institutionalize a *safe system based* approach to road safety as articulated in the National Safety Council's [The Road to Zero: A Vision for Achieving Zero Roadway Deaths by 2050](#) and the International Transport Forum's [Zero Road Deaths and Serious Injuries: Leading a Paradigm Shift to a Safe System](#).
- **VZAP Goals and Strategies:** Strategies will be informed by collision data, an understanding of current policies, programs, and practices, proven best practices, and a determination of applicability to the City and consistency with the update to the [Washington State 2016 Target Zero Plan](#). Staff will engage the City Council, Transportation Commission, and Community Stakeholders in assessing how best to prioritize road safety efforts.

Staff intends to complete the above tasks and prepare a VZAP report by March 31, 2019.

Attachment: Bellevue Vision Zero Summit Event Program