

City of
Bellevue



Transportation Commission Agenda Memo

DATE: March 28, 2019

TO: Chair Wu and Members of the Transportation Commission

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SUBJECT: Bellevue Vision Zero Action Plan: Proposed Safe Systems Strategies

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 Action Plan) by this Summer.

At its March 28 meeting, staff seeks Commission concurrence on proposed [Safe Systems](#) strategies that holistically consider Safe Speeds, Safe People, Safe Vehicles, and Safe Streets as coordinated solutions towards Vision Zero. The staff presentation will focus on the proposed strategies in the [DRAFT Current and Best Practices Assessment Technical Memo](#).

Note: Additional hyperlinks in this memo reflect staff's work arriving at the proposed Safe Systems strategies. Due to time constraints it will not be possible to review these materials at the March 28 meeting. Staff offers to meet with Commissioners in advance of the meeting.

Background

Staff is preparing an Action Plan that advances the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries in Bellevue by 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 Action Plan in “One City” collaboration with other City departments to promote coordinated solutions in engineering, education, encouragement, evaluation, equity, and enforcement. The cross-departmental Vision Zero Core Team is overseeing a consultant [scope of work](#) that commenced in October 2018.

The Action Plan 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 Action Plan activities:

- 1. Community Engagement:** Staff is using the development of the Action Plan to foster a “safety culture” wherein everyone – both the community and staff – 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 Action Plan includes multiple engagement opportunities.

Community engagement activities include:

- [Indian Association of Western Washington](#): North Bellevue Community Center presentation on 1/10/19.
- [Coordination Meeting with WSDOT & WTSC Staff](#): Olympia meeting on 12/17/19.
- [Bellevue Network on Aging](#): North Bellevue Community Center presentation on 12/6/18.
- [YouthLink Council](#): Bellevue City Hall presentation on 11/7/18.
- [English Language Learners Alliance](#): Crossroads Mall presentation on 10/24/18.
- [Vision Zero pledge photo engagement](#): Multiple locations and dates.
- [Online Community Questionnaire](#): Available for the public to submit comments from January 8 through February 11, 2018. During that time, 1,730 respondents shared their input.
- [Wikimap Online Community Engagement](#): Available for the public to submit comments from 8/26/15 through 11/1/15. During that time, over 700 respondents placed more than 1,600 points on the map to identify safety issues they have experienced while walking or bicycling in Bellevue.

Staff engagement activities include:

- [Bellevue Vision Zero Summit](#): Overlake Medical Center event on 2/13/19. Experts from across the nation shared expertise with staff. We had over one hundred attendees despite a record setting snowstorm. Video recordings are available from the [morning session](#) and [Safe Vehicles](#), [Safe Speeds](#), [Safe People](#), and [Safe Streets](#) panel sessions.
- [Bellevue Staff Questionnaire](#): Staff from multiple City departments offered comments about their familiarity with and commitment to the Vision Zero initiative, helping to understand our organization’s current culture and areas for development. The questionnaire was administered from 1/14/19 through 2/3/19. During that time, 236 Bellevue staff shared perceptions on how we can work together towards safe streets.

- 2. Assessment of Collision Data:** Understanding when, where, and why collisions are most likely to occur can help target road safety improvement strategies. Staff leveraged 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). The results of this technical analysis are reflected in the [Assessment of Collision Data Technical Memo](#) and the [High Injury Network Technical Memo](#).
- 3. Assessment of Current and Best Practices:** The City is reviewing the road safety strategies it presently employs in engineering, education, encouragement, evaluation, equity, and enforcement. The City is also interested in leveraging the best technologies and innovative tools that are successful elsewhere and transferable to Bellevue. Consistent with Commission guidance, staff is striving to institutionalize a “safe systems” approach to road safety to advance strategies from multiple angles: street designs that emphasize safety, predictability, and the potential for human error, targeted education, and data-driven enforcement efforts. The results of this task are reflected in the [DRAFT Current and Best Practices Assessment Technical Memo](#).

At its March 28 meeting, staff seeks Commission concurrence on proposed Safe Systems strategies shared at the Summit as well as other industry best practices applicable to Bellevue. The staff presentation will reference the proposed strategies identified in the [DRAFT Current and Best Practices Assessment Technical Memo](#). Although staff will reference actions that support the proposed strategies, Commission is not asked to determine which of these potential actions is appropriate to promote or eliminate from consideration at this time.

Next Steps

Following the March 28 Commission meeting, staff will work with its consultant team in developing a technical memo deliverable recommending actions consistent with Safe Systems strategies. The technical memo – to be finalized in May – will identify the required financial and staffing resources necessary for phased implementation, the lead department responsible, potential funding sources, partnership opportunities, barriers to success, and corresponding target performance measures and benchmarks to monitor progress.

Staff will return to the Commission on July 11, 2019 with the DRAFT Action Plan report document. The report will reflect key takeaways from this scope of work, providing a clear path forward that the City can begin action on immediately and building on over the coming years. As an action plan, the focus is on steps that can be taken in the 6-month, 2-year, and 5-year time frames, but it all relates back to the goal of realizing a safe system with zero deaths or serious injuries on Bellevue streets by 2030.

Staff will continue to engage the Transportation Commission and then seek its concurrence on the Action Plan report this Summer. After which, staff will seek City Council acceptance of the report in the Fall recognizing that many of the actions identified will necessitate additional rounds of Commission/Council consultation and approval processes.