

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2016

**Report Type:** Consent

**Report ID:** 2016-00250

**Title:** Vision Zero Sacramento - Eliminate Traffic Deaths in Sacramento

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Pass a Motion directing the City Manager to 1) develop a Vision Zero Action Plan toward eliminating traffic deaths in Sacramento; and 2) establish a Vision Zero Task Force to assist in developing and implementing the Vision Zero Action Plan.

**Contact:** Hector Barron, City Traffic Engineer, (916) 808-2669, Department of Public Works

**Presenter:** None

**Department:** Public Works Department

**Division:**

**Dept ID:**

**Attachments:**

1-Description/Analysis

2-Background

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**City Attorney Review**

Approved as to Form  
Gerald Hicks  
3/4/2016 1:48:19 PM

**Approvals/Acknowledgements**

Department Director or Designee: Jerry Way - 2/25/2016 3:11:39 PM

## **Description/Analysis**

**Issue:** During the five-year period from 2010-2014, 130 people died in traffic crashes in Sacramento (26 deaths per year) including 48 pedestrians and 13 bicyclists. Additionally, approximately 450 crashes during this period resulted in severe injuries. Furthermore the State of California, Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) has ranked the City of Sacramento number 1 of 13 (1 is the worst) in the category of over-all traffic safety between 2008-2011 when compared to California cities with a population greater than 250,000. The OTS ranked the City number 3 of 13 in 2012 and 6 of 14 in 2013.

Vision Zero is a multi-national road traffic safety initiative, which aims to achieve a roadway system with no fatalities or serious injuries. Vision Zero is a traffic safety philosophy that rejects the notion that traffic crashes are simply “accidents,” but instead preventable incidents that can and must be systematically addressed.

Development of a Vision Zero Action plan will allow the City of Sacramento to identify policy recommendations and measures toward eliminating traffic deaths and severe injuries in Sacramento. The plan will be developed for City Council approval in partnership with key internal and external stakeholders (Vision Zero Task Force) including but not limited to WALKSacramento, Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA), Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), Sacramento Police Department, Sacramento Fire Department, and the Department of Public Works.

**Policy Considerations:** The following Sacramento 2035 General Plan policies support the proposed action:

M 1.1.2 Transportation System – The City shall manage the travel system to ensure safe operating conditions.

M2.1.4 Cohesive and Continuous Network – The City shall develop a pedestrian network of public sidewalks, street crossings, and other pedestrian paths that makes walking a convenient and safe way to travel citywide. The network should include a dense pattern of routes in pedestrian-oriented areas such as the Central City and include wayfinding where appropriate.

M2.1.6 Pedestrian Awareness Education – The City shall continue pedestrian safety outreach to the public through the City’s website and develop partnerships with local organizations to develop educational materials and programs that promote pedestrian awareness.

M2.1.7 Safe Pedestrian Crossings – The City shall improve pedestrian safety at appropriate intersections and mid-block locations by providing safe pedestrian crossings.

M2.1.9 Safe Sidewalks – The City shall require pedestrian facilities to be constructed in compliance with adopted design standards.

M 5.1.5 Motorists, Bicyclists, and Pedestrian Conflicts - The City shall develop safe and convenient bikeways, streets, roadways, and intersections that reduce conflicts between bicyclists and motor vehicles on streets, between bicyclists and pedestrians on multi-use trails and sidewalks, and between all users at intersections.

M 5.1.13 Public Information and Education – The City shall promote bicycling through public information and education, including the publication of literature concerning bicycle safety and the health and environmental benefit of bicycling.

**Economic Impacts:** None

**Environmental Considerations:**

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):** The proposed actions are not subject to environmental review. Any projects identified through the Vision Zero Action Plan process will be subject to environmental evaluation under CEQA guidelines and possibly NEPA requirements.

**Sustainability:** The development of a Vision Zero Action Plan is consistent with the mobility and connectivity strategy and measure to improve multi-modal options. This strategy and measure aim to create a connected multimodal transportation network that increases the use of sustainable modes of transportation (i.e., walking, biking, and transit) and reduces dependence on automobiles.

**Commission/Committee Action:** None

**Rationale for Recommendation:** The proposed action will allow the City of Sacramento to work toward eliminating traffic deaths and severe injuries in Sacramento.

**Financial Considerations:** Development of a Vision Zero Action Plan will be done by City staff. No additional funding is requested at this time.

**LBE:** None

## **Background**

Vision Zero is a multi-national road traffic safety initiative, which aims to achieve a roadway system with no fatalities or serious injuries. The initiative began in Sweden and implemented by their parliament in October 1997. Vision Zero works to instill a new way of thinking about traffic fatalities, that they are not inevitable. Vision Zero is a traffic safety philosophy that rejects the notion that traffic crashes are simply “accidents,” but instead preventable incidents that can and must be systematically addressed.

In the United States, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has committed to the vision of eliminating fatalities and serious injuries on our Nation's roadways. FHWA refers to this approach as Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) vision. Several cities throughout the United States have adopted the Vision Zero goal including: New York, Seattle, Portland, Chicago, San Francisco, San Jose, San Diego, Los Angeles, and others. Many include a 10-year goal reflecting the urgency for taking actions to make our streets safer.

### **Need for Vision Zero in Sacramento:**

During the five-year period from 2010-2014, 130 people died in traffic crashes in Sacramento (26 deaths per year) including 48 pedestrians and 13 bicyclists. Additionally approximately 450 crashes resulted in severe injuries.

Furthermore the State of California, Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) ranks cities compared to other comparable sized incorporated cities for various types of collisions and over-all traffic safety. Over the six-year period from 2008-2013, in the category of over-all traffic safety, when compared to cities with a population greater than 250,000, the City of Sacramento ranked 1 of 13 in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011, 3 of 13 in 2012, and 6 of 14 in 2013. According to the OTS, a ranking of 1 is considered the highest or worst while a ranking of 13 or 14 is considered lowest or best.

Based on the concepts of Vision Zero that one traffic death is one too many, it is important that the City is committed to safer streets. A well-implemented Vision Zero initiative would prioritize street safety and ensure all road users whether they walk, bike, drive or ride transit, are safe. Thus, a Vision Zero initiative would accomplish the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries and potentially save 26 lives a year in Sacramento.

### **What will it take to Accomplish Vision Zero?**

The City of Sacramento will need to adopt Vision Zero as a policy and develop a Vision Zero Action Plan aimed at eliminating traffic deaths and severe injuries in Sacramento. The approach will employ proven countermeasures, integrating application of education,

enforcement, engineering, and emergency medical and trauma services (the “4Es”). Eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries requires an interdisciplinary and comprehensive approach to give the City control over the safety of its own streets. The City will need to make a renewed commitment to improve street safety with strict enforcement against unsafe moving violations like speeding and failing to yield to pedestrians, street designs to improve safety, broad public outreach, and a legislative agenda to increase penalties for irresponsible drivers.

Policy recommendations and development of the Vision Zero Action Plan will be developed in partnership with key internal and external stakeholders (Vision Zero Task Force) including but not limited to WALKSacramento, Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA), Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), Sacramento Police Department, Sacramento Fire Department, and the Department of Public Works.