







# VISIONZERO COLUMBÚS DRIVE SAFE, WALK SAFE, BIKE SAFE.

DEDICATION



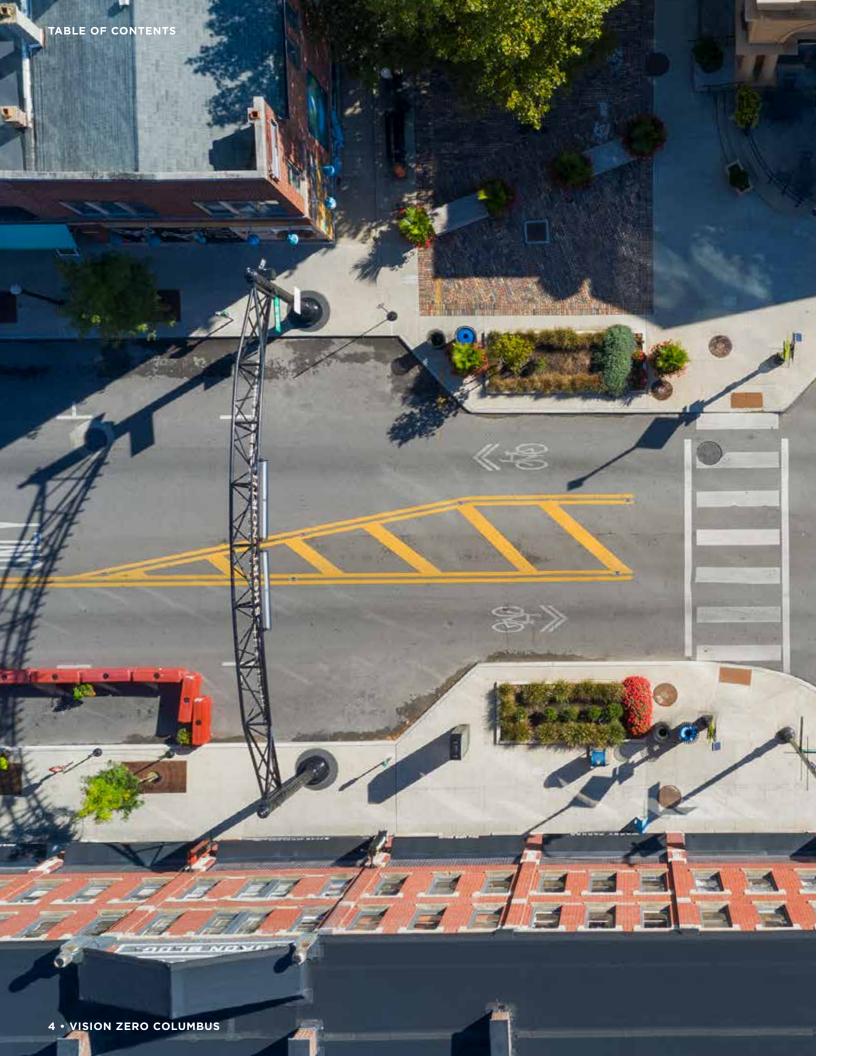






The Vision Zero Columbus Action Plan 1.0
is dedicated to all the moms and dads,
daughters and sons, spouses, siblings, and
friends affected by serious traffic crashes.
We commit to protecting lives above all else
on our city transportation system.





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A CALL FOR CHANGE



















# A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR ANDREW J. GINTHER

Our community has heard me say it — mobility is the great equalizer. The overall well-being of our residents depends on access to jobs, education, healthcare, and other necessary services. Health, safety and equity must be front and center when residents use our transportation system. Every person, in every city neighborhood, has the right to get to their destination safely — whether driving or biking to work, walking to school or the corner store, or taking the bus.

Sadly, this isn't always the case. Not including freeways, there were over 1,800 fatal or serious injury crashes on Columbus streets in the last five years, for an average of one per day. In 2019, 54 lives were lost in crashes on our city streets. Families grieve and are forever altered in the aftermath. The loss of one life is one too many.

The City of Columbus is committed to ending traffic crash fatalities and serious injuries to make it possible for all residents to drive safe, walk safe and bike safe when getting to and through our neighborhoods.

Safety has always been a priority in our transportation infrastructure projects. Neighborhood investments, for example, have added sidewalks and bike lanes to support mobility options. Upgraded ADA curb ramps, traffic signals and street lights have made intersections safer. Yet, more needs to be done. Our community is preparing for tremendous population growth in the coming decades. The time is right to join the Vision Zero movement. Our two-year Action Plan is a decisive first step toward achieving the Vision Zero Columbus goal of no crash-related deaths and serious injuries on our city streets. These crashes are preventable, not inevitable.

This initial Vision Zero Columbus Action Plan lays out equitable solutions, attainable goals, and accountability to residents for the next two years. The realities of impacts caused by COVID-19 have modified our planning timeframe but in no way lessened our resolve to progress toward zero crash-related fatalities and serious injuries over the coming years.

People who use our transportation system sometimes make mistakes. With Vision Zero, we will provide a system where human error doesn't result in fatal or life-altering crashes. We are making protection of human lives the cornerstone of our transportation system, over speed or other factors. Together, we can protect lives and ultimately realize zero deaths on our transportation system.

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**VISION ZERO COLUMBUS COMMITMENT VISION ZERO COLUMBUS COMMITMENT** 



### **VISION ZERO COLUMBUS COMMITMENT**

The Vision Zero Columbus Executive Advisory Committee pledges to incorporate the Action Plan actions, principles, and values into the work of our departments, agencies, and organizations. We commit to implementing these strategies toward the pursuit of zero traffic-related fatalities and life-changing injuries occurring on City of Columbus streets.

### A MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR JENNIFER GALLAGHER

It is a genuine honor to lead Vision Zero Columbus and present our first Action Plan with specific strategies that make protecting your life the number one priority of our transportation system.

This two-year Action Plan strengthens our focus on achieving zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries on city streets. No loss of life is acceptable on our streets. No matter where you live in our community, or how you travel in it, Vision Zero Columbus is committed to ensuring your safety. We can all play a part, starting with this first Action Plan.



**Deputy Chief David Baugh** 

Columbus Division of Fire

**Dr. Talisa Dixon** 

Superintendent • Columbus City Schools



Council Member • Columbus City Council



Jennifer Gallagher

Director

Columbus Department of Public Service



**David Harrison** 

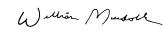
President

Columbus State Community College



### Michelle May

Highway Safety Program Manager Ohio Department of Transportation



**William Murdock** 

Executive Director

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

### Joanna Pinkerton

President/CEO • Central Ohio Transit Authority



**Chief Thomas Quinlan** 

Columbus Division of Police



### Dr. Mysheika Roberts

Health Commissioner Columbus Department of Health



Stephen Sayre

City of Columbus Mayor's Office



Vice President • Protective Services, OhioHealth



Carla Williams-Scott

Director

Columbus Department of Neighborhoods



**Toby Tomlin** 

Associate Vice President Office of Corporate Strategy Nationwide Insurance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



IN 2019, 54 DEATHS OCCURRED IN
49 FATAL CRASHES ON OUR CITY STREETS

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**During the past decade, our city has seen impressive population growth**. We have added more than 100,000 additional drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists to our streets. Columbus residents logged millions of miles on our streets, sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails.

In 2019, 54 deaths occurred in 49 fatal crashes on our city streets — a 40% increase from five years ago. Each year, more lives are lost due to traffic violence. This is unacceptable. Every person has the right to safely return home for dinner at night.

We are launching our Vision Zero Columbus Action Plan 1.0 in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic. This Action Plan is a living document, to be continually updated as new data becomes available and as new strategies prove to be successful in making our streets safer.

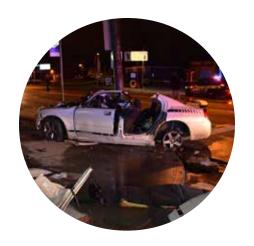
This initial Action Plan lays out an ambitious set of two-year actions to begin to work toward the goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on our transportation system by 2035.

These actions will be undertaken by numerous city departments and divisions — Public Service, Public Utilities, Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the City Attorney in cooperation with agency partners such as the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA), Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and with community partners including Nationwide, OhioHealth, and Columbus City Schools.

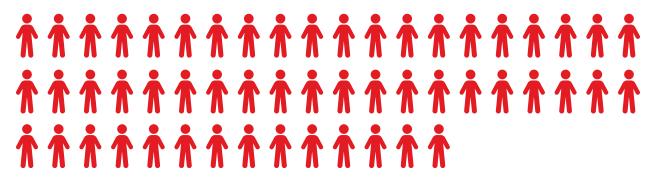
Vision Zero is an approach to transportation safety that aims to eliminate serious injury and fatal crashes. It distinguishes itself from traditional road safety approaches by focusing on eliminating these serious crashes through acknowledging human error — and changing the built environment so when people do make mistakes, the outcome isn't fatal or life-altering. Eliminating these worst crashes is a shared responsibility between our transportation system users, designers, and decision makers.

Vision Zero will require the ongoing support and commitment of all Columbus residents who use our streets to walk, bike, roll, board transit, and drive. Achieving Vision Zero requires a true culture change. From one where lives lost or severely harmed is an accepted daily occurrence, to one where deaths and serious injuries are unacceptable outcomes of simply using our streets.

# WHAT IS VISION ZERO COLUMBUS AND WHY DO WE NEED IT?



Each year, more than 35,000 people — the population of a small city — are needlessly killed on American streets, and thousands more are injured due to traffic violence. For too long, traffic deaths and severe injuries have been considered an inevitable side effect of modern life. While often referred to as "accidents," the reality is we can prevent these tragedies by taking a proactive, preventive approach that prioritizes traffic safety as a public health issue.



More than 50 people die in traffic crashes each year on Columbus streets. As Columbus continues to grow, we cannot allow the number of crash fatalities to grow with it. We must do something new, something bold.

Vision Zero began in Sweden in 1997. It has spread to cities, counties, and countries across the globe, including more than 50 U.S. cities. Many have experienced great success since implementing Vision Zero action plans. Oslo, Norway — a city comparable in population to Columbus — had just one fatal traffic crash in 2019. Even with growing traffic volumes, Sweden has reduced fatal crashes by over 30%. By acknowledging that serious injury and fatal crashes are preventable, making safety the top priority for transportation users, and utilizing data to identify trends and target solutions, Columbus can and will eliminate all serious injury and fatal crashes.

WHAT IS VISION ZERO COLUMBUS AND WHY DO WE NEED IT?

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### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF VISION ZERO**



Traffic deaths and severe injuries are acknowledged to be **preventable** 



Human life and health are prioritized within all aspects of transportation systems



Speed is recognized and prioritized as the fundamental factor in crash severity



Safety work should focus on systems-level changes above influencing individual behavior



**Equity** guides the principles of this plan



**Human error is inevitable** and transportation systems should be **forgiving** 

The faster a car is driving, the more likely it is that a pedestrian will die if hit. Increased vehicle speed also narrows a driver's field of vision and slows their reaction time.



Driver field of vision at 20 MPH. A pedestrian's risk of death is 10% if hit at this speed.



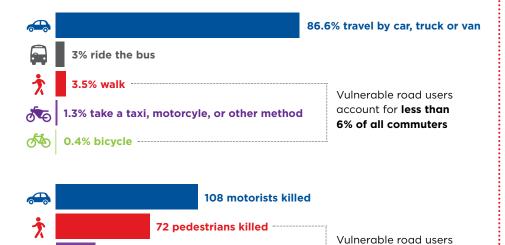
Driver field of vision at 30 MPH. A pedestrian's risk of death is 40% if hit at this speed.

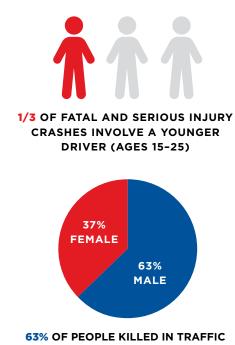


Driver field of vision at 40 MPH. A pedestrian's risk of death is 80% if hit at this speed.

### **COLUMBUS CRASH STATISTICS**

HOW COLUMBUS COMMUTES TO WORK (2019 ACS CENSUS) VS. FATAL CRASHES BY MODE (2015-2019)





**CRASHES WERE MALE** 

### **ANATOMY OF A DANGEROUS STREET**

6 bicyclists killed

30 motorcyclists killed



account for 50% of all

crash fatalities

Currently includes data from 2015–2019. Does not include freeways or crashes outside the city corporation limits where the city has limited authority to make any changes. Includes all fatal or serious injury crashes. Includes all Vulnerable User crashes of any severity.

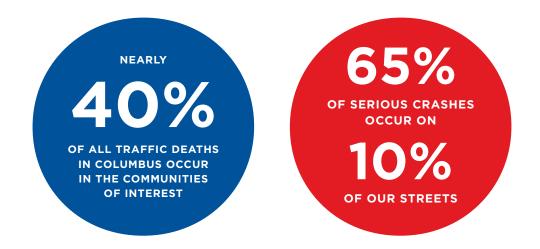
# COLUMBUS HIGH INJURY NETWORK (HIN) AND COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST (COI)

The Vision Zero High Injury Network (HIN) guides the city's investments in infrastructure and programs, and ensures that Vision Zero projects support those most in need.

**High Injury Networks (HIN)** are corridors consisting of a higher density of fatal, serious injury, and/or vulnerable-road-user crashes per half-mile segment.

**Vulnerable Road Users** are pedestrians, bicyclists, or motorcyclists — individuals inherently more at risk of injury when involved in any traffic crash.

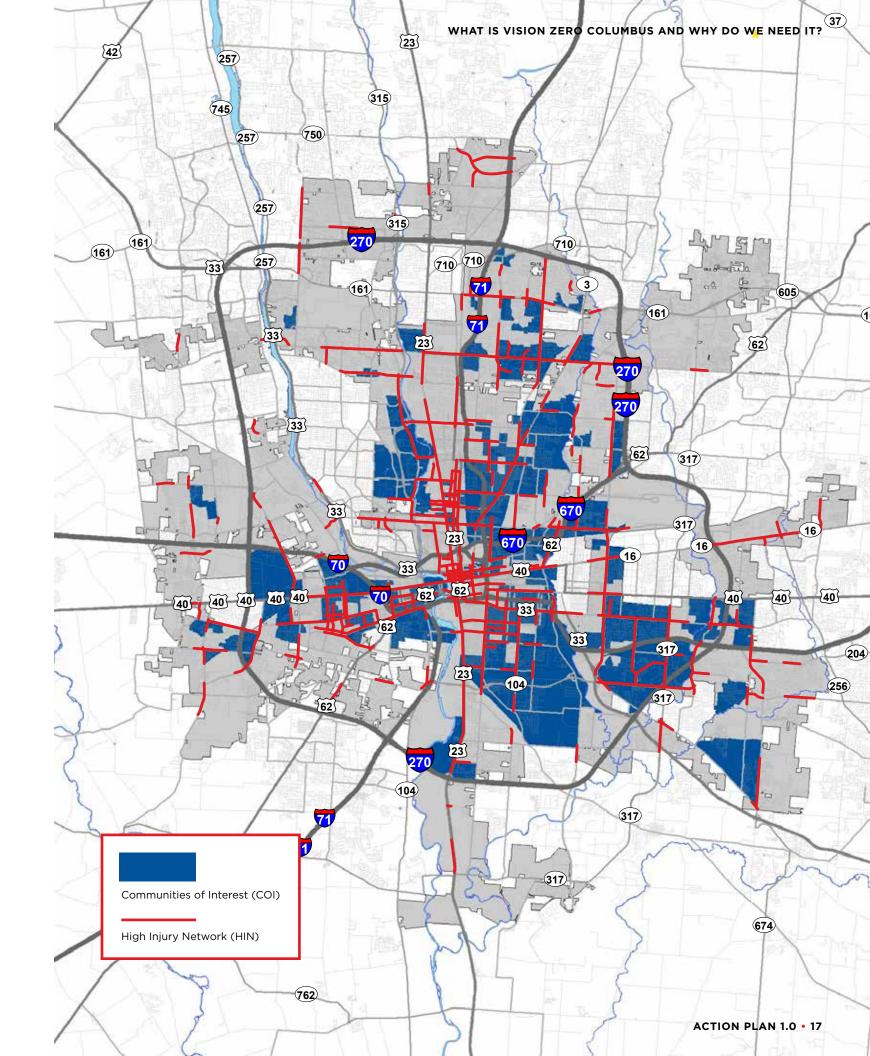
**Communities of Interest (COI)** are areas with populations that have a higher density of seven equity indicators: people of color, low-income households, people with disabilities, people with low English proficiency, children, elderly adults, and poor vehicle access.



### **OUR EQUITY AGENDA & FOCUS**

Equity is a core principle of the Vision Zero Columbus Action Plan. It acknowledges that everyone in our community can use our streets, and that our transportation system must be safe for all. We must develop and implement our Action Plan with an equity lens to achieve just outcomes and save lives.

Our Action Plan seeks to equitably engage all people and neighborhoods, fully recognizing that past actions when building our streets have disproportionately hurt minority and low-income communities. We will invest in Communities of Interest in our city because, compared to other neighborhoods, people living in them may have fewer choices about how, when, and where they travel, putting them at higher risk as they move around.



CURRENT SAFETY EFFORTS

CURRENT SAFETY EFFORTS

# CURRENT SAFETY EFFORTS

We work daily to address transportation safety throughout the city. Yet we know we can do better.

This Action Plan not only builds upon the ongoing work in Columbus, it also provides the framework to expand upon it. New strategies for eliminating traffic violence on our streets will augment our current initiatives and efforts. We've highlighted several current activities this Action Plan will advance.

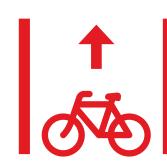
Continue to participate
in Safe Routes to
School Program





Continue to advance delivery of \$4 million in pedestrian improvements throughout the city

Advance completion of 150 transit stop improvements



Continue to build infrastructure proven to decrease speeds and separate vulnerable road users



Continue patrols focusing on impaired driving, speeding, and aggressive driving



Advance connected vehicle technology to understand impacts to driver behavior and improve transportation safety



Continue to advance interconnectivity of traffic signals and cameras to advance safety

ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

# ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Vision Zero Columbus prioritizes protecting human lives above all else on our city streets. All Action Plan items, as well as transportation network investments and policy changes, will be held to this standard.

Developing this Action Plan was a team effort. The Vision Zero Coordinator and Core Team, comprised of city planning, engineering, and communications staff, established working groups to focus on the goals of achieving Safe People, Safe Speeds, Safe Streets, and Safe Vehicles in Columbus.

The working groups met monthly to review data and collaborate on ideas and strategies focused on their goals. The Action Plan was developed with valuable working group participation from a cross section of stakeholders — city departments, transportation planning and consulting partners, education institutions, health and insurance industry leaders, advocates, neighborhood leaders, and residents.



**Safe People:** Vulnerable transportation users (bicyclists, pedestrians, transit users, motorcyclists) of every age, ability, and income can travel on Columbus streets comfortably and safely.



**Safe Speeds:** The City of Columbus will pursue actions that will slow speeds of motor vehicles to protect all road users.



**Safe Streets:** Columbus streets must be designed and built to eliminate fatal and serious injury crashes and promote safe mobility for all users.



**Safe Vehicles:** All vehicles must be equipped, operated, and maintained to prioritize the safety for all road users.

ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**



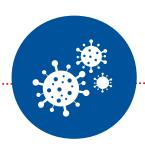
### **PLANNING**

The Vision Zero Columbus Core Team began outreach and engagement in late 2019 to prepare for launching Vision Zero Columbus in early 2020. Vision Zero Coordinator Maria Cantrell met with staff at several city departments and divisions, and with our transportation planning partners at ODOT, COTA, and MORPC to participate in this bold safety initiative.



### KICK-OFF

We officially kicked off Vision Zero Columbus on March 12 — just as the coronavirus was gaining a foothold in our country.



### PANDEMIC BEGINS

Gov. Mike DeWine issued a stay-at-home order, effective on March 23. With schools closed, students began distance learning from home and employers, including the City of Columbus, issued work-from-home directives for employees able to perform job functions remotely.

# Residents were encouraged to visit the website and provide critical input by:

- Using the crowdsourced map to mark specific locations where they saw or experienced near misses and other transportation safety risks — informing opportunities to proactively address locations where crashes may be likely to occur; more than 800 locations were marked
- Taking the transportation safety survey to provide useful demographic and other data to inform our Action Plan developmen; to date, nearly 1,600 surveys have been completed

### **Survey results:**

46%

of respondents know loved ones involved in a life-altering crash

1/3

of respondents feel less safe driving, walking, biking, or riding a motorcycle than they did 5 years ago **62%** 

of respondents admit to driving over the posted speed limit

**87%** 

of respondents say they have used a phone or handheld device while traveling (driving/walking/biking)



DISTRACTED DRIVING IS PERCEIVED AS A TOP SAFETY PROBLEM



### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

As COVID-19 spread and group gatherings were prohibited, we lost opportunities to garner community engagement at large annual events.

Public input for developing this Action Plan needed to pivot from in-person outreach activities.

Our "new normal" for community engagement in unprecedented times became virtual interactions and meetings to present Vision Zero's goals, and online outreach events to capture community input.

### Core Team outreach efforts included:



City area commission meetings live streamed and coordinated by the Department of Neighborhoods



Sustainable
Columbus meeting



Four virtual town hall meetings covering each city quadrant



Columbus Public Health's Safe Communities Group



MORPC's Transportation Advisory Committee, comprised of all central Ohio municipalities and stakeholders



Meetings with advocacy groups



Women in Transportation seminar



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Social media advertising and posts shared by our Vision Zero partners



### **OUTREACH CONTINUES**

When possible and with COVID-19 safety protocols in place, informational postcards were shared through in-person meetings, Recreation and Parks summer camp packets, door-todoor drops in Linden, and the city's Mask + Kindness campaign. Paper surveys were requested and distributed to the Milo-Grogan area. Columbus Public Health approved safety protocols in September 2020 that allowed in-person survey outreach to occur at heavily used COTA bus stops.



### WEBSITE + SURVEY LAUNCH

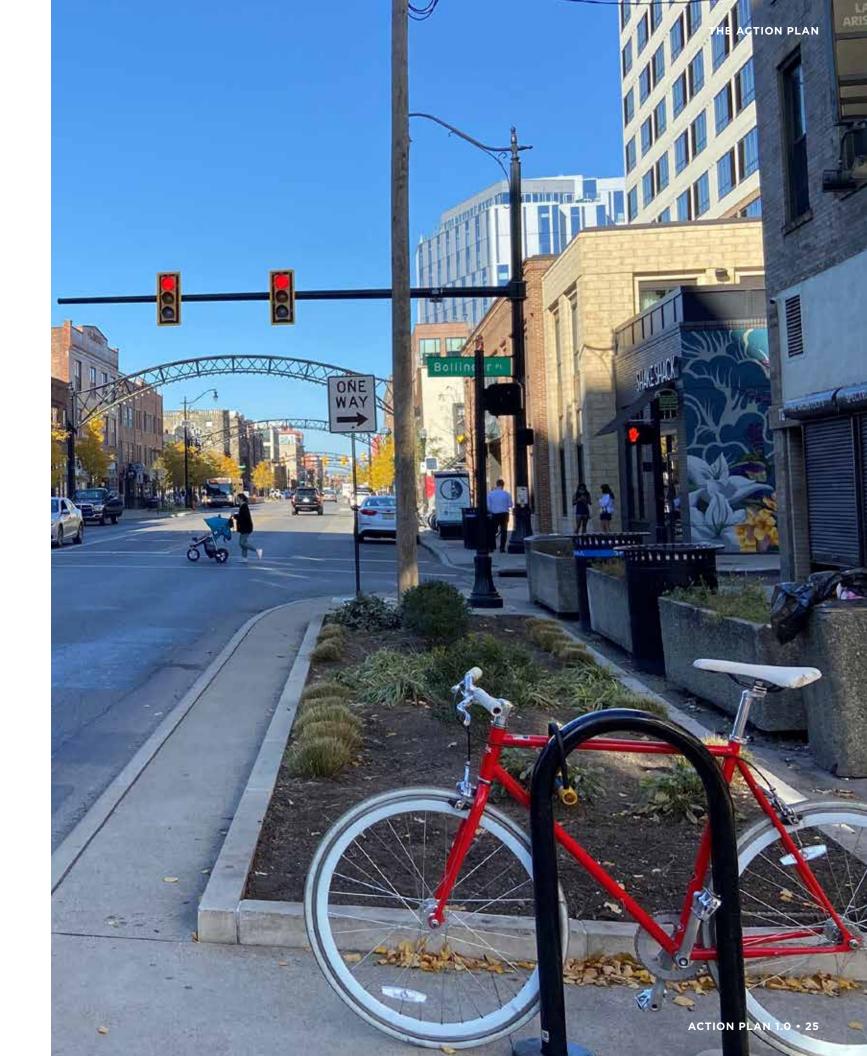
To reach a broad audience and gain community input, the Vision Zero Columbus website was launched at columbus.gov/VisionZero and promoted through social media channels by city departments and our Vision Zero partners. The website's map and survey were promoted by Orange Barrel Media on IKE interactive kiosks, by Councilmember Shayla Favor on 106.7 FM, and by OhioHealth in a Medical Minute video.

We want to ensure engagement from residents in all city neighborhoods to better understand and improve transportation safety issues. We are mindful of equity and factors that impact mobility in our Communities of Interest, where options may be less car-centric and more reliant on walking, biking, or using transit.

More engagement opportunities will arise. The Action Plan is just the start of our work to promote a culture change for safe transportation. Our team is committed to community-wide education about Vision Zero and will seek to identify virtual and safe in-person engagements to educate residents about our Action Plan.

# THE ACTION PLAN

The Vision Zero Columbus Action Plan 1.0 features data-driven, multidisciplinary, and multi-agency commitments to specific actions and strategies focused on eliminating fatal and serious injury crashes on Columbus streets. Mayor Ginther and City Council champion this coordinated approach and are committed to demonstrating that Vision Zero is a new way of doing business — a refocusing of existing programs in a shared citywide priority.



THE ACTION PLAN

### **STRATEGIES**

During the next two years, our partners have committed to diligently pursuing the efforts listed in this section. Some will be easy for the public to see — like bus stop and crosswalk improvements, changing downtown speed limits, and testing new infrastructure products to help reduce speeds.

Other less visible strategies will have true widespread and long-lasting impacts on all future work as design standards and processes are updated and memorialized to focus on providing safe and comfortable streets for all users. Along with these physical changes, spreading the Vision Zero message will be imperative to sustaining momentum and building success.

### **GOALS**

The actions and strategies are organized in four goals that cut across agency boundaries and get to the heart of eliminating serious and fatal crashes:









These goals capture the concerns and priorities the community has expressed — through our surveys, working groups, Executive Advisory Committee, and staff — during the development of this Action Plan.

### **FOUNDATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

To deliver, evaluate effectiveness, and report on the progress of the Action Plan strategies, foundational activities must take place. These efforts form the foundation upon which the strategies will be developed and help to establish an understanding of:

- The city's crash data and other demographic information for affected transportation users
- Infrastructure assets what the city has, where it is, and the condition it is in
- Policies, practices, and legislation that impact how the transportation system is planned, designed, built, and used

### To accomplish this during the first Action Plan, Vision Zero Columbus will:

- Publish an annual summarized report of fatal and serious injury crashes on our website
- Create and annually update a High Injury Network to illustrate where high volumes of crashes occur
- Deploy an asset management program to include sidewalk condition assessments that affect safety
- Develop criteria to prioritize projects along the HIN and in Communities of Interest
- Provide data to demonstrate Vision Zero equity efforts and provide transparency in the data being used to drive decisions
- Implement a traffic and mobility monitoring program to capture mobility patterns
- Review and incorporate the crowdsourced map as part of the criteria to help choose some short-term project locations
- Incorporate technology and innovation into delivering the Action Plan strategies
- Formulate policy recommendations

THE ACTION PLAN

**STRATEGIES** 

help reduce speeds.

During the next two years, our partners have committed to diligently pursuing the efforts

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### PLAN AND BUILD SAFE STREETS FOR ALL USERS

Action Strategy	Measurement	Completion Date	Lead Agency
Complete and implement Ohio Multi-Modal Design Guide (MMDG)	Publish the MMDG	Q3, 2021	ODOT
Complete Chapter 6: Pedestrian and Bike Facilities and Chapter 9: Traffic Control of the City Roadway Design Manual to provide consistent minimum standards to provide protection to all users in the right of way	Consultant onboard to assist with creating manual	Q2, 2021	Dept. of Public Service
	Complete chapters	Q1, 2023	
Deliver updated Transit Stop Design Guide to include Vision Zero Safety Considerations	Publish updated Transit Stop Design Guide	Q2, 2021	СОТА
Crosswalk Improvements *COI  Review crosswalk evaluation procedures in consideration with industry best practices and research  Install and/or enhance crosswalks, emphasizing the HIN and/or COI	Publish updated process for future inclusion in design manual	Q4, 2021	Dept. of
	Install/enhance minimum 60 crosswalks (significantly complete)	Q4, 2022	Public Service
Intersection Improvements *COI  • Evaluate sight distance policy and improve visibility and sight lines at intersections within the HIN or other problematic locations  • Rebuild intersections to improve safety conditions including but not	Update policy	Q4, 2021	
	Evaluate the number of intersections reviewed and sight line improvements per year	Q4, 2021 and 2022	Dept. of Public Service
limited to installation of signal back plates, Accessible Pedestrian Signals, ADA ramp improvements  Convert remaining "night flash" operation signalized intersections to	Complete 15 intersection improvements	Q1, 2023	
radar detection	Convert all "night flash" signals	Q1, 2023	
Corridor Improvements *COI  Select (#) locations on the HIN to pilot and evaluate a variety of temporary infrastructure products focused on speed reduction  Study one (1) corridor each year for lane reconfiguration to include more modes of transportation (e.g. adding protected lanes)	Complete evaluation of speed-reducing pilots	Q1, 2023	Dept. of Public Service
	Complete two studies	Q4, 2021 and 2022	
	Implement lane configuration changes for at least 1 corridor	Q4, 2022	
Set all speed limits in the Downtown area to 25 mph	Journalize/document the revised speed limits and post new signage	Q1, 2023	Dept. of Public Service
	Hire a consultant to study the downtown signals for retiming	Q3, 2021	
Change speed study process to address how speed (reducing) zones are established in cities *COI	Update process	Q2, 2022	ODOT
Implement the Slow Streets program in the Linden and Hilltop neighborhoods and use findings to inform strategic citywide deployment *COI	Complete Linden implementation Complete 50% of Hilltop implementation	Q1, 2023	Dept. of Public Service
	Develop memorandum summarizing findings and recommending future action	Q1, 2023	

# Q

### IDENTIFY AND COMMIT RESOURCES

Action Strategy	Measurement	Completion Date	Lead Agency
\$5 million of dedicated gas tax and capital funds per year to fund VZAP strategies <b>*COI</b>	Commit funding in 2021 and 2022 CIB	Q4, 2021 Q4, 2022	City Council
Reallocate, align, or add positions to advance Vision Zero Action Plan strategies	Reallocate, align, or add 5 positions over 2 years	Q4, 2021 - 2 positions Q4, 2022 - 3 positions	Dept. of Public Service

\*COI: These strategies have potential to focus attention in our Communities of Interest



Action Strategy	Measurement	Completion Date	Lead Agency
Develop and launch multi-lingual educational campaign that focuses on topics that contribute the most to serious injuries and fatal crashes *COI	Develop a two-year campaign  Opportunities:  Encourage the use of "crash not accident" to City Staff and reach out to media to use this term  Socialize the Vision Zero Columbus Video: websites, email  Create multi-lingual brochures	Ongoing	Lead - Public Service All Agencies to support
Include annual transportation safety curriculum/refresher for all students *COI	Explore and select transportation safety curricula for various grade levels	Q1, 2022	Columbus City Schools
	Implement transportation safety curricula to all grade levels	Q3, 2022	
Add pedestrian safety messaging to buses on routes on HIN streets *COI	Identify HIN stops and create safety messaging	Q1, 2021	СОТА
	Implement safety messaging on bus routes — one corridor per quarter beginning Q2, 2021	Ongoing	



### DO IT BETTER: ENHANCE PROCESSES & COLLABORATION

Action Strategy	Measurement	Completion Date	Lead Agency
stablish a Rapid Response team to quickly evaluate the badway characteristics of severe-crash and near-miss hot spots to ecommend any possible immediate improvements, as well as any arger capital improvements *COI	Form team	Q1, 2021	Dept. of Public Service
	Establish a crash review process/checklist	Q2, 2021	
	Visit each fatal crash site	Begin Q2, 2021	
upport Statewide Senate Bill 285 Distracted Driving Law	Pass Senate Bill 285 statewide	Q1, 2023	Lead - Nationwide Support - City Council & Mayor's Office
ncorporate Vision Zero principles into MORPC-led regional plans, onvenings, and federal transportation funding process, and increase ublic policy advocacy for Vision Zero efforts <b>*COI</b>	Update and adopt Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan with Vision Zero principles	Q1, 2023	
	Hold Annual Regional Safety Forum with focus on Vision Zero work and examples delivered	Q4, 2021	MORPC
	Increase advocacy on regional public policy agenda's support for Vision Zero principles	Q2, 2021 (ongoing)	
	Adopt criteria in MORPC's federal transportation funding process to elevate Vision Zero safety principles	Q1, 2022	
ollaborate with the Division of Traffic Management and Columbus olice when planning and optimizing safe school bus stop locations <b>*COI</b>	Create a checklist process for optimizing school bus stop locations	Q1, 2023	Columbus City Schools Support - Dept. of Public Service and CPD
xplore income-based traffic-related penalties so as not to isproportionately impact people with lower incomes by requiring nem to attend traffic court in order to get a reduced fine <b>*COI</b>	Determine and document what barriers exist to implementing graduated fines based on income and placing this information upfront on the fee schedule as well as exploring what barriers exist to creating an online adjudication system to allow for income information to be submitted without appearance in court	Q3, 2022	City Attorney
	Determine and document what barriers exist to allowing a transportation training course in lieu of fines without having to attend court for permission	Q3, 2022	

TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

# TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

### Our transparency and accountability will exemplify our commitment to Vision Zero.

Traditionally, many cities make transportation investments based on a reactive process that attempts to balance neighborhood feedback, regional priorities, political priorities, crash response, pavement condition, and vehicle capacity. This methodology creates an opaque decision-making process with multiple, and frequently competing, priorities, making accountability difficult.

Vision Zero is different. Its sole priority is safety for all transportation system users: pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and drivers. It collects and analyzes a wide range of data including community feedback, driver behavior, demographics, crash type, roadway geometry, and asset condition to better understand who is being seriously injured or killed, where and why, and how resources can be focused to address and prevent these crashes. The focus on safety will provide a transparent decision-making process to develop our list of transportation investments.

### THROUGH THE VISION ZERO COLUMBUS ACTION PLAN 1.0, THE CITY WILL:

- Draw on available data
- Rely on proven safety practices
- Prioritize community input
- · Hold ourselves accountable through regular reporting

As we implement the Action Plan, evaluating its impact toward eliminating fatal and serious injury crashes is important to maintaining accountability, identifying opportunities to improve, and ensuring success. By working to improve and measure success, we can see if our investments are producing expected results. We can pivot and change course more readily as we closely monitor our results. If future investments do not reduce serious crashes, we will change course. The reporting will be essential to highlight success and identify what is not working. Our focus will be both targeted and intentional.

As we look to crash data to drive our decisions, we will ensure quantitative data is supported by qualitative assessments to understand the relationship between human behavior and highinjury crashes. For example, do changes make the street feel less stressful for Vulnerable Road Users to navigate?

### **DATA IS NOT ALWAYS PERFECT**

- Vulnerable Road User crashes may be underreported
- Language used by investigators and reporters to describe crashes often includes bias and victim blaming
- Injuries often become worse later, but this isn't tied back to the crash report

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ACTION PLAN 1.0 • 29

TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY
TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

To better understand our fatal and serious injury crash problem, the city will continue to work with partners at the state to improve data collection and processing in support of the highest level of analytics and reporting. Where crash data alone does not tell the whole story, the city will engage with trauma centers, police records, and other partners to assess the performance of the system.

The city is implementing an Asset and Performance Management Program to allow for inventories of our transportation system's physical assets. Inventories will include the asset's condition to monitor the "health" of the system and to validate the investment strategies that will lead to predictable outcomes. For example, we are working to ensure we identify the location of all existing city sidewalks and assess their conditions.

Using asset and performance information along with crash information can help prioritize where we should invest to prevent fatal and serious injury crashes.

### We will hold ourselves accountable

To ensure transparency in delivering our Action Plan, the Vision Zero Columbus website will track the progress toward performance measures and actions outlined in this plan. Data and other information will be readily available on the website. Households without reliable internet access can get online at libraries or contact the Department of Public Service for paper copies of Vision Zero publications.

The partnership between Vision Zero Columbus and the public will allow for a more equitable assessment and strategic investment in vulnerable communities. We are committed to continually engaging with our residents and seeking input that informs, contextualizes, and drives a safety culture.

We will continue to improve the data gathering and analysis needed to ensure communities along the HIN are evaluated from an engineering perspective and a socioeconomic perspective. Eliminating crashes on the HIN will go a long way toward eliminating fatalities and serious injuries in the city.

Our strategies need to work for everyone, and be accountable to everyone, for all modes of travel. Monitoring our performance tied to our accountability pledge will allow for the transparency needed to solidify the collective efforts toward zero traffic deaths in Columbus.



PROTECTING HUMAN LIVES
IS OUR #1 PRIORITY

A CALL TO ACTION

A CALL TO ACTION







Fatal and serious injury crashes on Columbus streets are preventable, not inevitable. The Vision Zero Columbus Action Plan 1.0 makes protecting human lives the #1 priority of our transportation system — above all other objectives.

Vision Zero Columbus is even more important as the region prepares to expand by 1 million people by 2050. We must take the initiative now to flatten the curve of fatalities and serious injuries and ultimately bend it downward to realize Vision Zero. The City of Columbus is committed to ending traffic violence and making it possible for residents to drive safe, walk safe, and bike safe when getting to and through our neighborhoods.

Vision Zero Columbus will not achieve our goals without the commitment of residents, businesses, and institutions to eliminate life-altering crashes. This can only be accomplished with your support. Beginning with a tweak of the language we use — saying CRASH instead of accident — is one simple step toward shifting to a culture focused on transportation safety. "Accident" implies the collision couldn't be avoided and diminishes accountability of the vehicular violence. And of course, each of us modeling safe transportation behavior can help begin to achieve our Vision Zero goals.

Visit our website at columbus.gov/VisionZero and join the Vision Zero Columbus movement. Play a part in helping our community achieve zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries.



















ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

# **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

This Vision Zero Columbus Action Plan 1.0 is the result of a one-year planning, partnering, and engagement process.

Thank you to our community members, corporate and agency partners, and staff. We appreciate the time and dedication from everyone who participated as we worked through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic to continue to make Vision Zero Columbus a priority for our city.

### LEADERSHIP AND EXECUTIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor Andrew J. Ginther

City Council President Shannon G. Hardin

Public Service Director Jennifer L. Gallagher

Deputy Chief David Baugh Columbus Division of Fire

Dr. Talisa Dixon
Columbus City Schools

David Harrison

Columbus State Community College

Michelle May

Ohio Department of Transportation

William Murdock

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Joanna Pinkerton

Central Ohio Transit Authority

Chief Thomas Quinlan
Columbus Division of Police

Dr. Mysheika Roberts

Columbus Department of Health

Stephen Sayre

City of Columbus Mayor's Office

Todd Wickerham

OhioHealth

Carla Williams-Scott

Columbus Department of Neighborhoods

**Toby Tomlin** 

Nationwide Insurance

### **VISION ZERO CORE TEAM**

Kim Baillieul

Mandy K. Bishop

Randy Borntrager

Debbie Briner

Maria Cantrell

Michael Liggett

Ryan Lowe

Tim Nittle

David Shipps

Scott Ulrich

Andrew Williams

## VISION ZERO WORKING GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

AAA Ohio

Age Friendly Columbus

Burgess & Niple

Center for Disability Empowerment

Center for Urban and Regional Analysis

at The Ohio State University

Central Ohio Transit Authority

City of Columbus Fleet Management

Clintonville Area Commission

Columbus City Council

Columbus City Schools

Columbus Department of Development

Columbus Department of Neighborhoods Columbus Department of Public Safety/

Division of Fire/Division of Police

Columbus Department of Public Service

Columbus Department of Public Utilities/

Division of Power

Columbus Department of Recreation And Parks

Columbus Metropolitan Library

Columbus Partnership

Columbus Public Health

Columbus South Side Area Commission

**Downtown Special Improvement Districts** 

**Epic Small Consulting** 

Far West Side Area Commission

Franklin County Engineer's Office

Friends and Families for Safe Streets Columbus

German Village Society

Lvft

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

MurphyEpson

Ohio Department of Transportation

OhioHealth

Open Columbus

Osborn Engineering

Radio One Columbus

Remember Us Urban Scouts

Sustainable Columbus

The Ohio State University Department

of Psychology

The Ohio State University Department of Traffic Management

or marrie managemen

The Risk Institute at The Ohio State University

Fisher College of Business

Toole Design Group

Transit Columbus

University Area Commission

Weinland Park Community Civic Association

West Scioto Area Commission

Yay Bikes!

Yellow Cab of Columbus

