

RESOLUTION COMMITTING TO VISION ZERO

WHEREAS, motor vehicle-related crashes in the City of Durham resulted in 145 fatal crashes reported in the last six years since the original Vision Zero resolution was passed in 2017; and

WHEREAS, death and injury on our streets is unacceptable and preventable; and

WHEREAS, traffic deaths and serious injuries in the United States have disproportionately impacted people of color, low-income households, older adults and youth, people with disabilities, and households with limited motor vehicle access; and

WHEREAS, streets and transportation systems have traditionally been designed primarily for maximum motor vehicle capacity and mobility, rather than the safe accommodation of all modes and users; and

WHEREAS, measures to make Durham's streets safer will encourage Durham residents and visitors to take more trips by walking, bicycling, and multiple modes such as walking to transit; and

WHEREAS, residents embracing multiple transportation modes will contribute to the City of Durham's ability to foster thriving, livable neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is the commitment to reduce traffic deaths to zero and increase roadway safety using a Safe Systems approach; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, the Safe Systems approach was founded on the public health principles that humans make mistakes, that human bodies have limited ability to tolerate crash impacts, and that when mistakes lead to a traffic crash, the impact on the human body does not result in a fatality or serious injury; and

WHEREAS, the human body can only sustain so much force before injury occurs, and a Safe Systems approach that focuses on measures which decrease the amount of force in traffic crashes, such as physical separation between modes of travel and vehicle speed reduction, must be applied; and

WHEREAS, the Safe Systems framework requires safety is placed first and foremost in road system investment decisions, and injury prevention and risk management are prioritized at the population level; and

WHEREAS, while road users are responsible for following the rules for using the road, transportation system designers are responsible for the design, operation and use of the transportation system and are thereby responsible for the level of safety within that system; and

WHEREAS, a commitment to Vision Zero means prioritizing safety over other transportation objectives like decreasing traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, successful Vision Zero programs are a result of a complete government approach and community support of Vision Zero objectives; and

WHEREAS, creating safer communities together and a thriving and vibrant environment are key tenets of the City of Durham's Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Durham seeks to provide a safe, accessible, multimodal transportation system for all road users in its area; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the City introduced an Accident Reduction Program to identify and treat high accident intersections; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Mayor William V. “Bill” Bell accepted the Mayor’s Challenge for Safer People and Safer Streets issued by US Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx; and

WHEREAS, the City participated in the Watch for Me NC, a bicycle and pedestrian safety program, for ten years since 2012;

WHEREAS, the City of Durham Vision Zero resolution, signed in 2017, reflects the formal commitment to end traffic deaths and serious injuries; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero Durham provides an additional framework for reducing traffic deaths and serious injuries to zero, while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DURHAM THAT:

1. The Durham City Council adopts Vision Zero Durham and the Safe Systems approach to reduce traffic deaths and serious injuries by 50% by 2035 and achieve the goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries on Durham roadways by 2045.
2. The City Council directs the City Manager to form an interdepartmental working group to develop a Vision Zero Durham Action Plan based on a comprehensive analysis of transportation data and informed by public health practices that prioritize injury prevention and risk management.
3. The City Council directs the City Manager to ensure that the Vision Zero Durham Action Plan addresses the inequity in traffic deaths and serious injuries through a Safe Systems and public health approach. The Action Plan shall prioritize policies and infrastructure design which prevent injury at the population level and outline strategies for achieving safety over maximizing vehicle mobility.
4. The City Council directs the City Manager to engage community stakeholders in the development and implementation of a Vision Zero Durham Action Plan.
5. The City Council directs staff to provide an annual report on the implementation of the Vision Zero Durham Action Plan including progress toward eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries on an annual basis.
6. Repeal. The following Resolution is repealed: Resolution #10049, adopted September 18, 2017, titled RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT VISION ZERO DURHAM.
7. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.