




TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Kurtis D. Kingsolver, P.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer 
COPY: Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee
Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Environmental Services Director/Executive Liaison
PRESENTER: Carrie Wilhelme, Senior Transportation Planner, Public Works
SUBJECT: Vision Zero Action Plan and Speed Reduction Study Update
DATE: November 17, 2021

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

Public Works staff will present an update on the Vision Zero Action Plan and Speed Reduction Study. The presentation will include an overview of the Vision Zero Action Plan scope-of-work and the proposed process for considering reducing the speed limit in Tacoma.

BACKGROUND:

Each year, more than 40,000 people are killed on streets in the United States as a result of traffic collisions. In cities in Western Washington, the rate of fatal and serious injury crashes increased about 5.4 percent from the five-year period before 2014 to the five-year period following 2014. In Tacoma, the crisis of traffic safety is even more stark and the reality more grim. Between 2014 and 2018, there were approximately 17,000 reported collisions on Tacoma's streets, with 7,700 possible injuries resulting in:

- Fatal and serious collisions twice as high as the statewide average, with an increase of 11.9 percent
- Over 400 fatalities and serious injuries
- 187 school-aged bicyclists or pedestrians (ages 0 to 19) involved in a collision

Recognizing that the rising numbers from traffic collisions needed to be addressed, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 40559 committing to Vision Zero and to eliminating serious and fatal traffic collisions by 2035. The Resolution also directed the City Manager to take the action required to join the Vision Zero Network. This included the creation of a Vision Zero Action Plan, the formation of a task force and an internal working group.

Safety over speed is a critical component of Vision Zero. The link between speed and injury severity in crashes is consistent, direct and especially critical for more vulnerable roadway users. As part of City Council Resolution No. 40559 and Vision Zero, staff is proposing a process for considering reduced speed limits, starting with residential and neighborhood business districts.

ISSUE:

While the City cannot fully control all of the factors which contribute to collisions, such as distraction, impairment, and aggressive driving, and indeed cannot eliminate risk, the City can help change some factors which contribute to roadway safety and can help take a leadership role to encourage the changes which will result in progress to the goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries by 2035. This presentation will inform the Committee and seek Committee input regarding



Vision Zero and speed reduction in Tacoma. The discussion will include the consultant scope of work, community engagement activities, and methodology for speed reduction in residential and business districts.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.