

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin, Members of City Council and City Staff
FROM: Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC)
DATE: October 14, 2020
RE: BPAC recommendation on Vision Zero

Background

At the Committee of the Whole Meeting on January 21st, Council was provided with a presentation and communication from the Urbana Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission on the topic of Vision Zero. **Vision Zero** is a strategy to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries among all road users, and to ensure safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. Newer council members may wish to review the background material provided in the packet from that meeting: <https://www.urbanaininois.us/node/8260> The video link for the presentation and discussion is also available here:

https://www.city.urbana.il.us/Scripts/CouncilVideo/Video.asp?v=/_Video/City_Council/2020/20200121/08_Discussion_Vision_Zero.mp4

After discussion, Council directed BPAC to bring back a Council resolution for adoption. BPAC voted at its September meeting to recommend the attached resolution for Council. Members of BPAC will be available at the COW meeting October 19th to provide updates and answer questions.

Attachment:

Vision Zero Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-10-049R

**A RESOLUTION SETTING AS OFFICIAL POLICY THE VISION ZERO GOAL OF
REDUCING LOSS OF LIFE OR SERIOUS INJURY TO ZERO ON OUR
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM BY 2030**

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana aspires to reduce the number of fatal and serious injury crashes on its streets to zero; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Long-Range Transportation Plan Report Card indicates worsening traffic crash statistics for the Metropolitan Planning Area in recent years, with Urbana city limits including the University of Illinois having one bike and ten pedestrian deaths among the 20 traffic fatalities in the ten years 2008-2017, compared to five bicycle/pedestrian deaths among the 12 traffic fatalities in the ten years previous to that (1998-2007); and

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana supports and encourages the efforts by our regional partner agencies to prioritize safety improvements for people walking, bicycling, and using mobility devices and to eliminate deaths and serious injuries on our entire transportation network including all motor vehicle transportation; and

WHEREAS, children, seniors, people of color, people with disabilities, and people in low-income communities face a disproportionate risk of traffic injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, the local Safe Routes to School program works to ensure that thousands of Urbana school children are able to walk and bike to school safely; and

WHEREAS, traffic related deaths and serious injuries are preventable; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is a traffic safety policy that takes a systems approach to achieving safety for all road users that has been adopted in more than 30 U.S. cities and in countries throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana has adopted the 2016 Bicycle Master Plan, which includes Vision Zero and with an “ultimate goal being zero transportation-related deaths or serious injuries in Urbana”, and has adopted the 2020 Pedestrian Master Plan, which includes “Develop and adopt a Vision Zero Plan” as a strategy under safety (goal #3); and

WHEREAS, the Champaign-Urbana Urban Area Safety Plan (December 2019) has a long-term vision of zero fatalities due to roadway crashes; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois, as stated in the Illinois Strategic Highway Safety Plan (ILSHSP), has a Vision Zero goal to reduce roadway crash fatalities to zero; and

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana departments including Public Works, Police, and Fire are actively employing programs to optimize safety and response time; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero builds upon those existing programs to help meet the Council's adopted performance measure to achieve a reduction in the number of fatal and serious injury crashes to zero;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1.

The City of Urbana hereby adopts the Vision Zero strategy as a comprehensive and holistic approach to eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries by 2030.

Section 2.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission shall establish a Vision Zero Task Force to develop a Vision Zero Plan for the City of Urbana.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this ____ day of _____, _____.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINED:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this ____ day of _____, _____.

Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor