

A PRIMER ON VISION ZERO

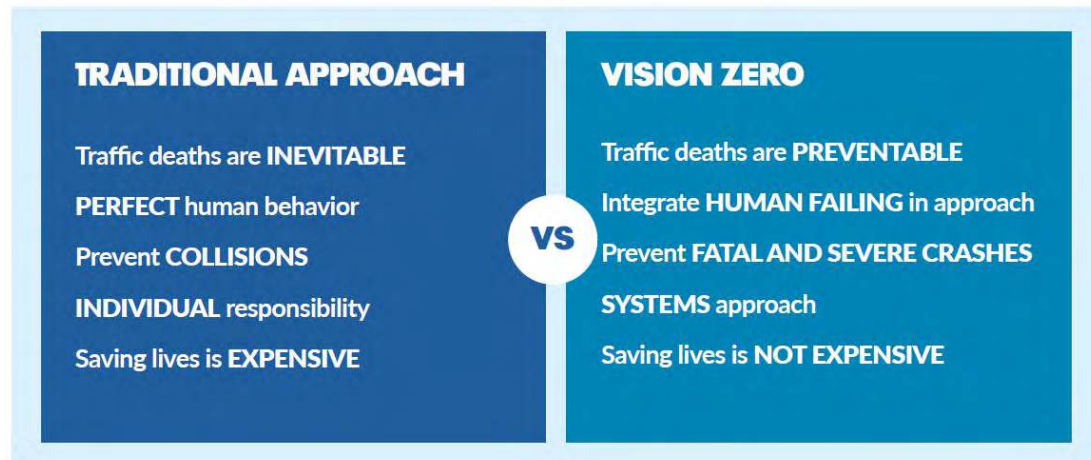
Advancing Safe Mobility for All

What is 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. First implemented in Sweden in the 1990s, where traffic deaths have been cut in half even while the number of trips increased, Vision Zero is gaining momentum across the globe, including in many U.S. communities.



Each year in the U.S., more than 40,000 people — an average of 100 people per day — are needlessly killed, and millions more are injured, in traffic crashes. While often referred to as “accidents,” the reality is that we can prevent these tragedies by taking a proactive, preventative approach that prioritizes traffic safety as a public health issue.



Changing the Status Quo - A New Vision for Safety

Vision Zero starts with the ethical belief that everyone has the right to move safely in their communities, and that system designers and policy makers share the responsibility to ensure safe systems for travel.

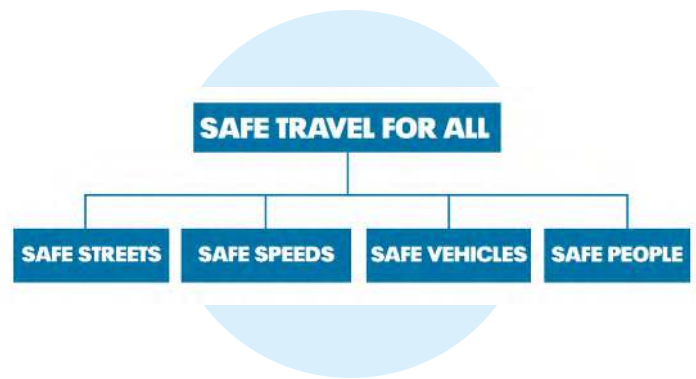
The Vision Zero approach recognizes that people will sometimes make mistakes, so the road system and related policies should be designed to ensure those inevitable mistakes do not result in severe injuries or fatalities. This means that system designers and policymakers are expected to improve the roadway environment, policies (such as speed management), and other related systems to lessen the severity of crashes.

Vision Zero Ethical Platform



What a Commitment to Vision Zero Means

Vision Zero is not a slogan, not a tagline, not even just a program. It is a fundamentally different way to approach traffic safety. Communities that want to succeed at Vision Zero need to acknowledge that business as usual is not enough and that systemic changes are needed to make meaningful progress. Effective communities will recognize and commit to core Vision Zero principles and strategies.



Committing to Vision Zero will take the following strategies:

- » Building and sustaining leadership, collaboration, and accountability – especially among a diverse group of stakeholders to include transportation professionals, policymakers, public health officials, police, and community members;
- » Collecting, analyzing, and using data to understand trends and potential disproportionate impacts of traffic deaths on certain populations;
- » Prioritizing equity and community engagement;
- » Managing speed to safe levels; and
- » Setting a timeline to achieve zero traffic deaths and serious injuries, which brings urgency and accountability, and ensuring transparency on progress and challenges.

Key among Vision Zero priorities are managing speed, centering equity, and engaging the community.



Managing Speed

Speeding kills more than 10,000 people each year in the U.S. – on par with drunk driving – yet, the act of speeding does not carry the same social consequences as drunk driving. Vision Zero calls on communities to prioritize safe speeds through safe street design, automated speed enforcement (or safety cameras), and setting safe speed limits.



Centering Equity

Safe mobility is a basic right, and Vision Zero is based on the premise that *all* people have the right to move about safely. Vision Zero communities should invest in proven safety strategies with a focus on ensuring equity. This includes identifying communities or populations that are disproportionately impacted by traffic deaths and serious injuries, and prioritizing roadway safety investments in these areas. It also means that *if* police are involved in Vision Zero, the community should make a public commitment to fair and equitable enforcement and ensure transparency and accountability on this commitment.



Engaging Communities

When it comes to experience and knowledge of how a neighborhood works, no one knows better than the people who live there. Assessing which needs are greatest requires complementing a data-driven approach with robust community engagement. The Vision Zero Network recommends working with and supporting community based organizations who have established trust and relationships with residents.

Find out more about Vision Zero and the nonprofit advocacy work of the Vision Zero Network at www.visionzeronetwork.org.