

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 15, 2017

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: MATT MELKERSON, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #5 – VISION ZERO UPDATE

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**ISSUE:** Staff update to Transportation Commission on Draft Vision Zero Action Plan

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Transportation Commission hold a public hearing on the Draft Vision Zero Action Plan.

**BACKGROUND:** On January 24, 2017, the City of Alexandria adopted Vision Zero with the goal of eliminating all traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2028. City Council directed the City Manager to form an interdepartmental working group to develop a Vision Zero Action Plan for future consideration by Council, based upon a comprehensive analysis of traffic deaths and injuries in Alexandria, which would identify associated funding needed for the City to reach this goal. Staff began development of this effort immediately, launching the development of the Draft Vision Zero Action Plan (the Action Plan). For more information, please visit: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/VisionZero>

In May and June, City staff and consultants held eight unannounced “pop-up” events in the community to engage people in conversations on traffic safety, including their concerns, and increase awareness of Vision Zero. Over 500 surveys, in both English and Spanish were completed and 2,000 postcards distributed during the eight pop-up events to direct people to an AlexEngage and online data crowd-sourcing map. There were over 500 responses to the online survey and over 300 issues reported using the interactive map. This community input was used to inform strategies in the Action Plan.

The project team reviewed best practices in traffic safety; summarized existing plans, program, and policies related to traffic safety; and finalized the crash analysis. The team used this information to craft the strategies and action items in the plan.

Following the Transportation Commission meeting in September 2017, staff updated the strategy and timeline for gathering input from the Commission and provided the draft Vision Zero strategies to the Transportation Commission Vision Zero Subcommittee for review in October. The subcommittee comments were incorporated into the version of the plan that was released to the public.

**DISCUSSION:** The Draft Vision Zero Action Plan (the Action Plan) was released to the public on November 8, 2017<sup>1</sup>. The Action Plan outlines the elements involved in developing the plan and the action items that will help the City achieve zero fatalities and severe injuries by 2028. The Action Plan was built through a collaborative process that included input from the community, expertise from an interdepartmental work group, an analysis of crash data and a study of best practices.

The Alexandria Office of Performance and Accountability (OPA) conducted an analysis of traffic data provided by the Alexandria Police Department (APD) from the Traffic Records Electronic Data System (TREDS). Their findings, as well as those by the consultant team, were used to develop strategies and action items in the plan. Some key findings from the data showed that:

- Killed or severely injured (KSI) crashes have trended down since 2011
- Pedestrians and cyclists are disproportionately represented among KSI crashes
- Older and younger people have a higher risk of serious injury or fatality if involved in a crash

The data also provided helpful insight into where crashes are occurring and highlight a “high injury network” of corridors as well as areas where more KSI crashes are occurring. The data, as well as the input from the public and best practices around the county were used to craft action items that will get the City to zero. [Click here](#) to view their full data analysis<sup>2</sup>.

Four major themes emerged in the development of specific strategies and action items. The themes were then broken down into more specific strategies, each with associated action items:

1. BUILD SAFE STREETS FOR EVERYONE
  - Improve delivery and implementation of safety treatments
  - Develop and implement infrastructure policies to reduce KSIs
2. PROMOTE A CULTURE OF SAFETY
  - Inform the public of Vision Zero efforts
  - Create a network of Vision Zero partnerships
  - Craft a public education campaign
  - Encourage city staff to incorporate Vision Zero into everyday practices
  - Strengthen traffic safety enforcement policies and practices
3. IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION AND EVALUATION
  - Enhance data collection and coordination efforts
  - Make information easily available to the public
  - Evaluate success of existing and planned programs to determine ways to improve allocation of resources for change
4. ENHANCE CITY PROCESSES AND COLLABORATION
  - Support and encourage statewide legislative efforts to implement stricter traffic safety laws
  - Evaluate City policy and administrative guidelines to improve safety outcomes

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/tes/info/Action%20Plan%20Final%20Draft.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/tes/info/Memo%20and%20Report%20for%20Website.pdf>

The details of the action items that fall within each of these areas is detailed in Appendix C of the report where more information can be found regarding implementation timeline, funding and departments responsible for implementation. Staff is developing a three-year work plan that provides greater detail and will help break the action items into measurable milestones. The action items outlined in the Action Plan are intended to begin within the first five years of the Vision Zero Program. As progress is made on the action items, new trends will emerge with traffic crashes in Alexandria and as new technology is developed, staff will reevaluate the program to determine the effectiveness of the implemented measures and new strategies that should be considered.

A Vision Zero dashboard will be created to report the City's progress as we work toward zero. Additionally, City Staff will provide an annual report to the Transportation Commission detailing the status of the action items and in conjunctions with the annual Complete Streets program update.

Staff will seek the Transportation Commission's endorsement of the Final Plan at the December 6, 2017 meeting. The Action Plan will be brought before City Council for adoption during their public hearing scheduled for December 16, 2017.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Many of the action items are funded through existing resources, but additional capital and operating money will be required to implement them in the recommended timeframe. Many of the short-term action items (1-2 years) are funded through FY 2018 dollars that were included in the Complete Streets budget. Many of the action items will require significant staff time and are dependent on resources. However, the projects conducted through the Complete Streets program and identified in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan will address a number of the engineering action items. To fully implement this plan in an expedited timeframe, up to an additional \$200,000 of operating funding and \$1,300,000 annually will be required over the next three to five years. Funding beyond that will be identified after the third annual report is produced and an assessment of new trends in traffic crashes as well as the status of the initial action items is complete. Staff will continue to seek grants to fund larger infrastructure projects such as intersection and corridor redesigns.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Vision Zero Strategies Table