



Lori Droste
Councilmember, District 8

CONSENT CALENDAR
March 27, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Lori Droste, Mayor Arreguín, and Councilmembers Susan Wengraf and Kate Harrison

Subject: Vision Zero

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Adopt a resolution in support of a Vision Zero policy to eliminate all traffic-related fatalities in Berkeley by 2028 through engineering, education, and enforcement strategies.
2. Refer specific Vision Zero policy and implementation plan development to the City Manager and Transportation Commission.

BACKGROUND:

According to the information from the Council work session in December 2017, approximately three people are killed and 31 people are severely injured each year in traffic collisions on Berkeley streets. Pedestrians and bicyclists are involved in only 7% of overall crashes but represent roughly one-third of all traffic fatalities. High vehicle speeds, violation of "Pedestrian Right of Way", and alcohol/drug intoxication are the primary causes of severe and fatal collisions. Under a Vision Zero approach, traffic safety efforts would focus on reducing these primary causes of severe and fatal collisions (City Council work session report, 2017).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Currently staff time will be needed to develop a policy and implementation plan with input from the Transportation Commission and staff. Future financial implications will depend on the actions and policies pursued by the commission and adopted by Council.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

Vision Zero policies are consistent with several provisions of the City of Berkeley's Climate Action Plan. Significant positive environmental impacts (e.g. increased pedestrian and bicycle trips resulting in lower greenhouse gas output) arise when cities prioritize walking and bicycling infrastructure and safety.

CONTACT PERSON:

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Attachments and Links

1. Resolution to Support Vision Zero
2. City of Berkeley work session report from December 7, 2017.
https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2017/12_Dec/Documents/2017-12-07_WS_Item_02_Vision_Zero_Traffic_Safety_Policy.aspx

RESOLUTION NO. ##-###-N.S.

IN SUPPORT OF VISION ZERO

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley wants a safe and healthy city where we do everything possible to avoid traffic-related injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley City Council adopted the Berkeley Strategic Transportation (BeST) Plan in 2016 which included a recommendation that the City develop a Vision Zero policy that strives to eliminate the number of fatal and severe traffic injuries; and

WHEREAS, cars and trucks produce greenhouse gas emissions when they burn gasoline or other fossil fuels, which contributes to human-made climate change; and

WHEREAS, transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions are increasing in Berkeley and now accounted for 56% of Berkeley's greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley's vulnerabilities to climate change include sea level rise and flooding, heat waves, damage to local ecosystems, and risks to the city's transportation and water infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley's Climate Action Plan supports measures that increase walking, transit ridership, ridesharing and bicycling to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals; and

WHEREAS, according to the December 2017 Council work session report "Development of a Vision Zero Traffic Safety Policy," pedestrians and bicyclists are the most vulnerable road users and account for 29-36% of all traffic deaths in Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, approximately three people are killed in traffic collisions on Berkeley streets per year and thirty-one people are severely injured; and

WHEREAS, the California Office of Traffic Safety consistently ranks Berkeley as having more pedestrian and bicycle injuries than other California cities its size; and

WHEREAS, many more people choose to walk, bike, and take transit in Berkeley than in most other cities in California and the United States; and

WHEREAS, measures to make Berkeley's streets safer for vulnerable road users will further encourage people to walk, bike, and take transit; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley adopted a Pedestrian Plan in 2010 and Bicycle Plan in 2017 to reduce serious or fatal pedestrian and bicyclist injuries and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all

WHEREAS, Vision Zero road safety goals are accomplished through a combination of engineering, education, and enforcement measures; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero was first implemented in Sweden, which now has one of the lowest annual rates of road deaths in the world; and

WHEREAS, Chicago and New York are among large US cities which have set Vision Zero goals; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley Transportation division collaborates with other City departments to support policies, programs, and initiatives that promote safer streets such as the Traffic Calming Program, Safe Routes to School program, and Pedestrian and Bicycle Plans.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Berkeley City Council supports the Vision Zero goal of reducing traffic deaths to zero and severe injuries by 50% by the year 2028; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Berkeley City Council endorses Vision Zero initiatives and intends to provide support by making traffic safety a priority in transportation and outreach activities, in coordination with other City agencies.