



Lori Droste
Berkeley City Councilmember, District 8

CONSENT CALENDAR

January 29, 2019

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Councilmember Lori Droste, Mayor Jesse Arreguín, Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani, and Councilmember Susan Wengraf

SUBJECT: Vision Zero: eliminating pedestrian, bicyclist and traffic injuries and fatalities

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Create an official Vision Zero Task Force (or Leadership Committee) to lead the planning and implementation effort for Vision Zero. The Task Force should include, at a minimum, representatives from the City Manager's office, Police, Public Works (Transportation and Engineering Divisions), Fire, and Public Health (visionzeronetwork.org).
- 2) Request that the City Manager hold community events to encourage equitable outcomes, cooperation and collaboration from community stakeholders to set shared goals and focus on coordination and accountability. Representatives from various commissions, including but not limited to Transportation, Disability, Aging, and Health, should be encouraged to attend and provide input.
- 3) Request that the City Manager hold a worksession where a Vision Zero Action Plan is presented for eliminating fatal and severe traffic injuries. Subsequent to the worksession, request that biannual informational updates on Vision Zero progress are reported to Council. The Action Plan should establish clear

strategies, owners of each strategy, interim targets, timelines, & performance measures (visionzeronetWORK.org).

BACKGROUND:

In March of 2018, Berkeley City Council resolved to make Berkeley a Vision Zero city and referred the policy and implementation plan to the City Manager. Since that time, City Council rated this Vision Zero legislation as its number one priority for the year. This item is to help guide the process so we can take measurable action to prevent fatalities and injuries on Berkeley streets.

Approximately three people are killed and 31 people are severely injured each year in traffic collisions on Berkeley streets (City Council work session report, 2017).

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](#)).

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.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONTACT

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