

Approved by West Hartford Town Council, 10 Jan 2023

RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTING THE VISION ZERO INITIATIVE IN SUPPORT OF SAFE, HEALTHY AND EQUITABLE MOBILITY

WHEREAS, safe, healthy, and equitable mobility is a foundation of our community; and

WHEREAS, public streets and rights of way connect our neighborhoods into one West Hartford; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council is concerned about recent roadway deaths and serious injuries on West Hartford streets; and

WHEREAS, there has been a rise in traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries in Connecticut and across the United States; and

WHEREAS, our community must come together and increase efforts to create safer and more welcoming streets for all; and

WHEREAS, proven measures exist to reduce the number of crashes on our streets with a thoughtful and data-backed mix of equitable transportation engineering, enforcement, and education; and

WHEREAS, roadway designs focused on the Complete Streets concept to prioritize reducing vehicular speeding, improve and expand pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and create safer streets for all users; and

WHEREAS, speeding, red light running, ignoring traffic signals and signs, and distracted driving are among the leading causes of motor vehicle crashes; and

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford has already achieved significant gains in traffic safety; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is a goal to achieve zero roadway deaths and serious injuries on our streets and adjacent rights of way; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero goals have been adopted by other municipalities and states around the country, and recently by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is premised on the fundamental principle that loss of life and serious injury from traffic crashes is unacceptable, yet acknowledges that while people make mistakes, our roadway network should be designed to ensure those inevitable mistakes do not result in severe injuries or deaths; and

WHEREAS, for Vision Zero to be accepted, it must be thoughtfully integrated into and embraced by multiple stakeholders, including traffic engineers, police and emergency services, Town government leaders, the business community, neighborhood and community groups, and the public at large.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL WEST HARTFORD THAT:

1. The Town of West Hartford supports the five fundamental principles of the Vision Zero Initiative, namely that:
 - a. Deaths and serious injuries caused by traffic crashes are preventable;
 - b. Human life and health should be prioritized in all transportation systems and in all aspects of transportation planning and design;
 - c. Human error is inevitable and transportation systems should be forgiving;
 - d. Transportation planning should focus on system-level changes to influence all individual's behavior; and
 - e. Speed is a highly important factor in crash severity.
2. **Adoption of a Vision Zero Initiative tailored to the Town of West Hartford.** The Town Manager is hereby directed to adopt the Vision Zero Initiative in the Town of West Hartford with the goal of eliminating fatalities and severe injuries on West Hartford streets by 2033.
3. **Establishment of Task Force.** In support of the Vision Zero Initiative, the Town Manager shall establish a Vision Zero Task Force that shall be composed of a Technical Advisory Committee and a Community Advisory Committee. Committee members shall include a variety of Town officials, experts and community members to ensure a wide range of viewpoints and expertise.
4. **Duties.** The Town Manager shall regularly report to the Town Council, or its committees, on the findings and progress of the Vision Zero Task Force, including recommendations for near term solutions that can be implemented immediately. Not later than January 10, 2024, the Town Manager, in consultation with the Vision Zero Task Force shall:
 - a. Develop and publish a Vision Zero Action Plan, which shall provide the Town Council with a comprehensive plan to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries on West Hartford roadways by 2033 and which shall propose both short-term and long-term data-driven strategies complete with measurable goals. Certain components of the plan shall include but not be limited to:
 - i. Strategies for all Town agencies to adopt and integrate the Safe Systems Approach to roadway safety in the planning, design, construction, maintenance, enforcement, and any other matters related to West Hartford's roadway network; and
 - ii. Recommendations and best practices to reduce speeding and distracted driving overall across the Town.

- b. Develop assurances that traditionally under-resourced and underserved communities shall be thoughtfully included in the plan's development.
- c. Solicit information and input for the Vision Zero Action Plan from the public.
- d. Report to the Town Council regularly on the Task Force's findings and progress.

January 10, 2023
(CANTOR)