



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 10, 2019

DATE: August 27, 2019
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager
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THROUGH: David Solaro, Interim County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve a resolution endorsing the Vision Zero Truckee Meadows (VZTM) Action Plan and submittal of an application for recognition as a Vision Zero Community. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The VZTM task force is a regional partnership focusing on pedestrian safety in our community. The task force has set the goal to eliminate pedestrian traffic fatalities by 2030 and has created an action plan with objective to make this goal reachable.

Over the last 10 years, there have been 87 pedestrian fatalities and 327 traffic fatalities in Washoe County. The foundation of the VZTM is to explore a different approach to eliminate pedestrian fatalities in Washoe County. The task force, with the support of local leaders, has made a commitment to take action to bring the number of fatalities on our roadways to zero.

There are three main components to the action plan, 1) Programmatic/Task Force Collaboration; 2) Street Design/Infrastructure Improvement; and 3) Community Engagement/Outreach. The task force established the Plan by creating equitable, data-driven, and transparent actions and decisions to improve safety throughout our community. By working together to make roads and sidewalks safer for pedestrians, we make our roads safer for everyone.

The application to be recognized as an official Vision Zero Community will be submitted to the Vision Zero Network in September. The VZTM task force is seeking resolutions from the RTC Board, City of Sparks and Reno City Councils, and Washoe County Commission in order to demonstrate the region's commitment to improving safety throughout our community. The Vision Zero Network works to advance Vision Zero across the U.S. with the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries among all road users. The Vision Zero Network helps communities learn about what Vision Zero is and how it differs from the traditional approach to traffic safety. It also helps communities move from vision to action through its core principles:

AGENDA ITEM # _____

- Traffic deaths are preventable
- Integrate human failing in approach
- Prevent fatal and severe crashes through a systematic approach
- Saving lives is not expensive

County Priority/Goal supported by this item: Safe, Secure, and Healthy Communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

There has been no previous action on this item.

BACKGROUND

The VZTM task force began in October 2017. To date, the membership includes staff from the Cities of Reno and Sparks; Federal Highway Administration; members of the public; Nevada Department of Transportation; Nevada Highway Patrol; Office of Traffic Safety; Reno Bike Project; Reno & Sparks Chamber of Commerce; Renown Hospital; University of Nevada, Reno; University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Washoe County; Washoe County School District; and members of the public.

In compiling the VZTM Action Plan, the task force utilized regional crash data including in-depth pedestrian fatality and serious injury data within the focus areas; of Downtown Sparks, University of Nevada, Reno, Midtown and West 4th Street. The goal of the task force is to use data from these four focus areas and apply them to other areas within the Truckee Meadows. Pedestrian survey data that was collected in 2018-2019 was also was utilized to create measurable outcomes in the Plan.

The Vision Zero Truckee Meadows Action Plan includes three main components:

- Programmatic/Task Force Collaboration
 - Growing the regional task force and being accountable for the Action Plan and website
- Street Design/Infrastructure Improvement
 - Working regionally to address pedestrian safety with an approach that will improve safety for all road users
- Community Engagement/Outreach
 - Expanding our culture of safety through community education and awareness.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with the Board of Commissioners.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve a resolution endorsing the Vision Zero Truckee Meadows (VZTM) Action Plan and submittal of an application for recognition as a Vision Zero Community.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board of County Commissioners agree to the recommendation, a possible motion would be “approve a resolution endorsing the Vision Zero Truckee Meadows (VZTM) Action Plan and submittal of an application for recognition as a Vision Zero Community.”