

Vision Zero

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Vision Zero Goal and Premise

■ Goal

- Eliminate all fatal and serious (long term disabling) traffic injuries

■ Premise

- Preserving human life should be highest priority for transportation system
- Human life more important than:
 - Time saving, trading life for time is not moral
 - Convenience/mobility
 - Capacity/congestion relief

Vision Zero History

- Created in Sweden in 1997
- Sweden has reduced fatalities and serious injuries by over a third at a time when overall miles driven in the country has gone up
- Attainment goal originally 2020, now 2050

Who has Vision Zero programs?

- Norway, The Netherlands, United Kingdom
- New York
- Philadelphia and Pittsburgh
- Boston
- Chicago
- Denver
- Seattle
- Portland
- In California: Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Jose, San Diego, Long Beach, San Mateo, Fremont

Vision Zero Hallmarks

- Attainment year for zero fatalities/serious injuries
- All government departments (transportation, police, public health, etc.) and other stakeholders actively pursue goal
- Strategic plan emphasizing prevention
 - System design: Providers and regulators of the road traffic system share responsibility with users
 - Road traffic systems should take human fallibility into account and minimize the opportunities for fatal errors
 - Whenever someone is killed or seriously injured, steps must be taken to avoid a similar event

Why Vision Zero

- 33,000 annual traffic fatalities (635 per week) in U.S.
 - 1 in 65 deaths from traffic crashes
 - Leading cause of death for those age 1-34
 - Traffic crashes rank third in causes (after heart attacks and strokes) of lost life expectancy
- Human suffering from loss of life and long term disability
- Deaths not routinely tolerated in other endeavors: aircraft crashes, crane collapses or the workplace

Why Vision Zero

- U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted Vision Zero resolution
- Council Member Hansen asked city to review Vision Zero Program for its applicability
- WalkSacramento working with city and county on south Sacramento Vision Zero program through California Endowment
- Need for cultural change

How Vision Zero is related to cycling

- Bicyclists are disproportionately the victims of vehicle crashes
- Safety concerns are a major reason adults don't bike for transportation or recreation
- Safety is a major reason parents don't let their kids bike to school
- More people bicycling for transportation (and less driving) reduces risk of fatal traffic crashes

Vision Zero Recommendations

- SacBAC advise the Sacramento City Council and Sacramento County Board of Supervisors to adopt a Vision Zero program
 - Send letters to both council and board
 - Make requests in person before council and board
 - Copy letters to Sacramento police, CHP, city and county managers, city and county transportation and planning departments and county public health department