May 3, 2022

Subject: Discussion on Becoming a Vision Zero Community  (City Wide)

Issue – Mayor Regina Romero requested a discussion on the consideration of developing a Vision Zero program within the City of Tucson. A Vision Zero program focuses on preventing traffic fatalities and serious injuries by managing speeds, designing roadways for safety, and equity. Vision Zero Communities are those that are recognized by the Vision Zero Network, a nationally recognized organization that helps communities reach their goals of Vision Zero -- eliminating all traffic fatalities and severe injuries -- while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. As a nonprofit project, the Vision Zero Network is committed to defining, building momentum, and advancing Vision Zero in communities across the U.S.

City Manager's Office Recommendation – Mayor and Council are requested to direct staff to develop a draft Vision Zero Action Plan and return to Mayor and Council in 60 days with a recommendation whether to apply for Vision Zero Community status through the Vision Zero Network.

Background – Vision Zero is a strategy to decrease the amount of roadway deaths and severe injuries, while ensuring safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.

The Vision Zero Network (https://visionzeronetwork.org/) is a nonprofit member organization helping communities reach their goals of Vision Zero and promotes a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.

The Vision Zero Network promotes the following strategies:

- Building and sustaining leadership, collaboration, and accountability – especially among a diverse group of stakeholders to include transportation professionals, policymakers, public health officials, police, and community members;
- Collecting, analyzing, and using data to understand trends and potential disproportionate impacts of traffic deaths on certain populations;
- Prioritizing equity and community engagement;
- Managing speed to safe levels; and
- Setting a timeline to achieve zero traffic deaths and serious injuries, which brings urgency and accountability, and ensuring transparency on progress and challenges.

Membership
The Vision Zero Network recognizes “Vision Zero Communities” as those which are taking demonstrable and significant actions to advance the core principles of Vision Zero and the Safe System approach. Communities interested in recognition can apply for membership through an online application. The application asks about actions taken to date in your community and establishes baseline data. It also helps interested communities learn about expectations and best practices related to a meaningful Vision Zero commitment.
In order to be recognized as a Vision Zero Community the following tasks and commitments need to be made:

- Setting a clear goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries among all road users within an explicit timeframe (i.e., 10 years);
- The Mayor (or top elected official) publicly, officially committing to Vision Zero within the set timeframe and directing appropriate city staff to prioritize the work;
- A Vision Zero Action Plan or Strategy is in place, or the Mayor and key departments have committed to creating one in a specified time frame and which includes a focus on being data driven, equitable, and including community input.
- Key city departments, including Transportation, Public Health, Mayor’s Office, and Police, are actively engaged as leaders and partners in the process of developing the Vision Zero Action Plan, implementing it, and evaluating and sharing progress;
- A Vision Zero Task Force (including the agencies listed above, as well as key community stakeholders, and others) meets regularly to lead and evaluate efforts.

A key component in the development of a Vision Zero Action Plan is comprehensive involvement with internal and external stakeholders. These stakeholders typically include:

- Mayor and City Council
- Police Department
- Transportation Department
- Transit Agencies
- Fire Department
- Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Universities
- School Districts
- Public Health Agencies
- Regional Hospitals
- Metropolitan Planning Organization
- State Department of Transportation
- Community Organizations (AAA, AARP)
- Pima County
- Business Improvement Districts

The Vision Zero Network Application includes providing documentation of current efforts, many of which are being addressed through the current 5-Year Traffic Safety Plan and Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (see below). These efforts include:

- 5-Year Traffic Safety – Completed (updated every five years)
- Pedestrian Safety Action Plan - Completed
- Traffic Safety Working Task Force (TPD & DTM) – Completed
- Identification of High Injury Network (Pedestrians) – Completed
- System Wide Network Screening Using Predictive Modeling - Ongoing
- System in Place to Query Crash Data - Completed
- Complete Streets Policy - Completed
- Public Outreach and Education Efforts - Ongoing
- Safe Routes to School Education Program - Ongoing
Present Consideration(s) – In 2018, the City Manager authorized the creation of the position of Traffic Engineering Safety Manager in the Department of Transportation and Mobility (DTM). As a result, DTM created a 5-Year Traffic Safety Plan which will be updated in 2023. Many elements of this plan were developed using Vision Zero recommended goals.

Also in 2018, with the assistance of a consultant, DTM developed a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP). This effort included external stakeholders including the Tucson Police Department and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The plan was finalized in April 2020 and includes many strategies and recommendations to address pedestrian safety in the community.

If Vision Zero status were pursued many elements contained in the 5-Year Safety Plan and PSAP would be incorporated into the Vision Zero Action Plan. Additionally, the City of Tucson could consider working with the Complete Streets Coordinating Council to create a Vision Zero Subcommittee to address the need for a Vision Zero Task Force.

In summary, the City of Tucson has made great strides in developing a plan to decrease traffic related deaths and serious injuries. Many of these current efforts were created with Vision Zero guiding principles in mind. The creation of a Vision Zero Action Plan will allow the city to take a comprehensive look at both current and future efforts to eliminate traffic related deaths and ensuring the City of Tucson becomes a Vision Zero Community.

Plan Tucson Consideration(s) – This item relates to the Element of Land Use, Transportation, & Urban Design and is supported by:

LT22 – Participate in efforts to develop a coordinated regional, multi-modal transportation system that improves the efficiency, safety, and reliability of transporting people and goods within the region and to destinations outside of the region.

Financial Considerations – Staffing and Consultant Support

To facilitate pursuit of Vision Zero status the city will need to:

- Commit at least one full time employee to manage the effort
- Commit approximately $150,000 for consultant service support to develop the action plan

It is estimated that average cities similar to the size of Tucson commit approximately $2 million annually to execute the projects called out in the action plan. It should be noted the City of Tucson already designates some funding for traffic safety in its current operating and capital budgets. However, if Proposition 411 passes, the City of Tucson will have the capacity of approximately $14.8M annually for ten years on roadway safety elements. Pending the outcome of Proposition 411, the City could have the necessary funding to become a Vision Zero Community.

As an alternate funding source, the city may compete for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL); also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program funds. A call for proposals for this funding opportunity has not been made at this time but is anticipated to be announced over the next two months.
Legal Considerations – None at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Transportation and Mobility