

CITY OF ALAMEDA RESOLUTION NO. _____

ESTABLISHING A VISION ZERO POLICY TO WORK TOWARDS
ZERO TRAFFIC DEATHS AND SEVERE INJURIES

WHEREAS, according to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, each year approximately 40,000 people are killed in traffic collisions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in a study comparing 19 peer nations, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention found that the United States has the highest traffic death rate per person; and

WHEREAS, from 2011 to 2018, 16 people died and 82 suffered severe, life-changing injuries on City of Alameda's (City) streets, an average of 2 deaths and 10 severe injuries per year; and

WHEREAS, of the people who died in traffic crashes in the City during this period, two thirds were walking or riding a bicycle; and

WHEREAS, 75% of the pedestrians who died in crashes from 2011-2018 in the City were 65 years old or older, and all were 59 years old or older; and

WHEREAS, one death on City streets is one too many, and City and departmental leadership are dedicated to strategies that aim to reduce and eliminate deaths and serious injuries on City streets; and

WHEREAS, seniors, children, people of color, people with disabilities, people in low-income communities, people walking, and people bicycling face a disproportionate risk of traffic injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is a public health-based traffic safety strategy to reduce and eventually eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries using a data-driven, multi-disciplinary, and safe systems approach that also increases safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero recognizes that while human error will always occur, a combination of engineering, education, and enforcement measures can reduce collisions and can prevent collisions from causing death or severe injuries; and

WHEREAS, the City's 2017 Safety & Noise Element of the General Plan requires that the City "prioritize public safety through the implementation of a Vision Zero policy;" and

WHEREAS, increasing real and perceived safety for people walking and bicycling is a key step in enabling more people to choose these clean air modes of transportation that will support the City's 2019 Climate Action and Resiliency Plan goals; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration has made a commitment to eliminating fatalities and serious injuries on the nation's roadways using a data-driven, interdisciplinary approach modeled after Vision Zero; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has adopted the goal of moving "toward zero deaths" with a focus on using proven effective strategies and countermeasures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City declares that Vision Zero is the citywide guiding principle for transportation planning, the design of streets and sidewalks, and the maintenance of the public rights of way; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City shall plan and design its transportation system with the overriding goal of eliminating fatalities and serious injuries among all system users; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council directs the Transportation Commission and the City staff to consider safety as the highest priority when balancing competing needs and demands for space within the public right of way; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council directs the Planning, Building, and Transportation Department and Public Works Department to immediately evaluate and recommend modifications to existing standards and policies for auto travel lane widths; street width for fire access; bike lane and buffer design; crosswalk design; and rapid installation bulb-outs and other pedestrian safety facilities, with the goal of improving roadway safety for all users; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City shall convene an inter-departmental Vision Zero Task Force, to include staff from Planning, Building, and Transportation; Police; Public Works; and Fire; and which will be used to establish a shared understanding of the Vision Zero approach and integrate Vision Zero into all aspects of transportation planning, engineering, enforcement, and education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that City staff shall develop a Vision Zero Action Plan that summarizes specific changes to policies, standards, enforcement procedures, education efforts, infrastructure improvements, and other action items to be taken by City departments and that will reduce speeding, reduce collisions, and move the City towards zero fatalities and serious injuries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Vision Zero will be implemented in an equitable manner, accounting for historic inequities in transportation and safety investments across the Alameda community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City accepts the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) guides as nationally-accepted best design practices and will reference, and use as applicable, these guides in the design of all transportation projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that City staff shall develop an annual report on progress toward the Vision Zero goals, tracking process and outcome metrics, to be defined in the Vision Zero Action Plan, and shall present this report each year to the City Transportation Commission and Council.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted and passed by the Council of the City of Alameda in regular meeting assembled on the 5th day of November, 2019, by the following vote to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of said City this 6th day of November, 2019.

Lara Weisiger, City Clerk City of Alameda

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Yibin Shen, City Attorney
City of Alameda