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**Board of  
Directors**

October 25, 2021

Denyse Trepanier  
*President*

RE: Item 6A: Vision Zero Action Plan

Brian Fowler  
*Treasurer*

Dear Transportation Commissioners,

Cameron Holland  
*Secretary*

Bike Walk Alameda whole-heartedly supports staff's work and recommendations regarding the Vision Zero Action Plan, and hope you will recommend endorsement to our City Council, too.

Pat Potter  
*Board Member*

Cyndy Johnsen  
*Board Member*

As you know, almost 40,000 Americans are killed in traffic violence a year, and it's a leading cause of death for American children. The safety for those outside of cars is trending for the worse. The recent uptick in reckless driving is only compounding the issue. In Alameda, we've had multiple traffic fatalities this year already, and families are reluctant to let kids bike to school out of fear of being run over by a car. It's a big problem, and the concrete actions proposed in this plan will help us address it.

Tim Beloney  
*Board Member*

Lucy Gigli  
*Founder, non-voting*

For too long we've optimized streets for car speed and convenience, assuming good driving skills and our judgement would keep these oversized boxes of speeding steel from doing damage. We know we can do better, as other countries have, and as we're starting to do here in Alameda, by focusing on design to anticipate the mistakes we will inevitably make. Each collision is a design choice of some sort. We know that if we design differently, to prioritize safety, we'll get better outcomes. It's a policy choice, and one we've already made. Now we need to act on it.

This will take real work from all of us, because for many, it's also a paradigm shift: we are largely a car-centric culture, and these actions will mean a move away from what's familiar and comfortable to many of us. We'll have to make tough choices around things like easy parking, wide street widths, and other infrastructure that allows us to drive fast, without paying full attention.

Shortening the Vision Zero target from 2040 to 2035 as proposed makes the challenge even greater. But in the balance is potentially 10-20 lives and hundreds of life-altering injuries. We think it's well worth the effort, and look

forward to collaborating with the city in the years ahead in any way we can to help.

We also appreciate and would like to underscore the note about financial impacts. Without sufficient budget, other great transportation projects, currently back-logged, may suffer. Or Vision Zero may only remain a vision. We urge you to recommend that Planning and Public Works budgets for staffing and resources be increased considerably in the next budget cycle to meet the many worthy challenges these departments are taking on in order to make Alameda's streets safe.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bike Walk Alameda Board