



CITY OF SALINAS

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

DATE: JANUARY 9, 2020

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

FROM: ANDREW EASTERLING, TRAFFIC ENGINEER

TITLE: VISION ZERO POLICY

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

It is recommended that the Traffic and Transportation Commission recommend that the City Council approve a Resolution adopting a Vision Zero Policy and allocating \$8,000 as a local match to develop a Vision Zero Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

Public works staff recommends that the Traffic and Transportation Commission recommend that the City Council approve a Resolution adopting a Vision Zero Policy, and allocating \$8,000 as a local match to develop a Vision Zero Action Plan.

BACKGROUND:

“Vision Zero” is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. It is a movement that began in Europe and spread to American Cities, rooted in the philosophy that no loss of life due to road crashes is acceptable or inevitable and therefore sets the goal of reducing fatalities and severe injuries to zero. Nearby cities such as Monterey, Watsonville and San Jose have all adopted a Vision Zero Policy. Vision Zero is a multidisciplinary approach, bringing together diverse and necessary stakeholders to address this complex problem. Vision Zero acknowledges that many factors contribute to safe mobility not just roadway design, but also speeds, behaviors, technology, and policies, and sets clear goals to achieve the shared goal of zero fatalities and severe injuries.

The City already actively implements safety projects, programs and efforts consistent with Vision Zero. Additionally, planning efforts such as the Alisal Vibrancy Plan, Chinatown Revitalization Plan, and Downtown Vibrancy Pan have revealed there is a strong desire by our residents for a safer transportation system. A resolution adopting a Vision Zero Policy prioritizes safety and establishes a clear goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries.

Once the City has committed to the Vision Zero Policy, the next step is to create an Action Plan, which clearly lays out steps, timelines, and priorities. A Vision Zero Action Plan must be rooted in the understanding that traffic deaths are preventable. The Vision Zero Action Plan will use a systems-based approach using data to identify emphasis area, priorities and actionable strategies with the goal of eliminating severe injury and fatal crashes. The Vision Zero Action Plan will soon be required to be eligible for federal grant programs, which provide funding for safety improvement projects.

City staff has begun compiling collision data, which will be the basis for establishing a Vision Zero Action Plan. City staff seeks a resolution endorsing vision zero from City Council and an allocation of funds to match state funding to develop a Vision Zero Action Plan.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

Removal of an uncontrolled marked crosswalk on City street is exempt under CEQA 15301, Class 1(c) since the actions consists of operation and minor alteration of an existing City street.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

This action supports the Council's initiative of Safe, Livable Community by removing the uncontrolled marked crosswalk at said locations.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The total estimated cost to develop the Vision Zero Action Plan is \$80,000. The maximum funding contribution from the state program grant is \$72,000 with a local match of \$8,000. Funding for the local match has been requested in the mid-year budget adjustment.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Vision Zero Cities Map

Attachment 2: What is Vision Zero

Attachment 3: Vision Zero Components