



EXECUTIVE ORDER

CITY OF STAMFORD VISION ZERO INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, our streets form the foundation of our community, connect our neighborhoods into one City, and provide mobility to our residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, roadway deaths and serious injuries on Stamford's Streets have altered the lives of and caused significant harm to many of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, there has been a national rise in traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries in the United States and Stamford; and

WHEREAS, our most vulnerable roadway users – pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists – are disproportionately harmed by roadway crashes; and

WHEREAS, we, as a community, can no longer continue with the status quo of death and injury on our streets, and therefore we must come together to create safer and more welcoming streets for all; and

WHEREAS, proven measures exist to reduce the number of crashes on our streets with a thoughtful and data-backed mix of roadway engineering, enforcement, and education; and

WHEREAS, roadway designs focused on the Complete Streets concept prioritize reducing speeding, improve and expand pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and create safer streets for all users; and

WHEREAS, speeding, red light running, and distracted driving are among the leading causes of motor vehicle crashes; and

WHEREAS, the City's collaborations with the Transportation, Traffic & Parking Department, Police Department, and the Office of Public Safety, Health, and Welfare have already achieved significant gains in traffic safety; and

WHEREAS, systematic and thoughtful education is an important component of roadway safety; and

WHEREAS, the Safe Systems Approach integrates and expands upon the concept of Engineering, Enforcement, and Education and takes a systematic and redundant approach to roadway safety; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is a goal to achieve zero roadway deaths on our streets; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero goals have been adopted by other cities and states around the country, and recently by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is premised on the fundamental principle that loss of life and serious injury from traffic crashes is unacceptable, yet acknowledges that while people make mistakes, our roadway network should be designed to ensure those inevitable mistakes do not result in severe injuries or deaths; and

WHEREAS, Stamford Vision Zero will be based on the five fundamental principles from the Vision Zero Network, that:

1. Deaths and serious injuries caused by traffic crashes are preventable;
2. Human life and health should be prioritized in all transportation systems and in all aspects of transportation planning and design;
3. Human error is inevitable and transportation systems should be forgiving;
4. Transportation planning should focus on systems-level changes about influencing individual behavior; and,
5. Speed is the single most important factor in crash severity; and

WHEREAS, for Vision Zero to be accepted, it must be thoughtfully integrated into and embraced by multiple stakeholders, including traffic engineers, police and emergency services, City government leaders, the business community, neighborhood and community groups, and the public at large;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Caroline Simmons, hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT**:

1. **Adoption of a Vision Zero Initiative tailored to the City of Stamford.** There shall be established a Vision Zero Initiative in the City of Stamford with the goal of eliminating fatalities and severe injuries on Stamford’s Streets by 2032. The City of Stamford formally adopts the Vision Zero Initiative with the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries on Stamford roadways by the year 2032.
2. **Lead Department.** The Transportation, Traffic & Parking Department shall be the lead department responsible for this initiative and shall work closely with the departments under the Office of Public Safety Health and Welfare as well as other City agencies, departments, boards, and commissions in executing this initiative.
3. **Structure.** The Vision Zero Task Force shall be composed of a Technical Advisory Committee and a Community Advisory Committee. Committee members shall include a wide range of City officials and community members to ensure a wide range of viewpoints and expertise.

4. Duties. The Vision Zero Task Force shall:

- a. Not later than one year from the effective date of this order, develop and publish a Vision Zero Action Plan, which shall provide policy makers with a comprehensive plan to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries on Stamford roadways by 2032 and which shall propose both short-term and long-term data-driven strategies complete with measurable goals. Certain components of the plan shall include but not be limited to:
 - i. Strategies for all City agencies to adopt and integrate the Safe Systems Approach to roadway safety in the planning, design, construction, maintenance, enforcement, and any other matters related to Stamford’s roadway network.
 - ii. Recommendations to reduce speeding overall across the city and identify best practices for speed reduction for implementation.
- b. Develop assurances that traditionally under-resourced and underserved communities shall be thoughtfully included in the plan’s development.
- c. Solicit information and input for the Vision Zero Action Plan from the public.
- d. Report to my office quarterly on the Task Force's findings and progress.
- e. Not later than November 1, 2022 create a public Vision Zero website, which shall include data on crashes, severe injuries, and fatalities, and provide regular updates on the Action Plan's progress as well as provide a feature to solicit feedback from the public on traffic safety concerns.
- f. Meet once per month or as required for status updates and to share new information.

5. Other immediate actions to be undertaken by the City of Stamford

- a. The Transportation, Traffic & Parking Department shall aggressively pursue grants and other funding opportunities for roadway improvement projects that improve traffic safety.
- b. Not later than April 1, 2023 develop a comprehensive public outreach and education campaign targeting all roadway users.
- c. Pertinent City agencies shall work with the University of Connecticut, Stamford Board of Education, and other educational institutions in Stamford on education and outreach measures related to transportation safety.
- d. Effective immediately, the Stamford Police Department shall put a high priority on enforcement in high traffic areas with a focus on curbing aggressive driving, speeding, red-light enforcement, distracted driving, drivers not yielding to pedestrians, and enforcement against Operating Under the Influence of alcohol or drugs.
- e. Not later than April 1, 2023 develop a comprehensive City-wide crash map and identification of high crash roadways and intersections, that need safety improvements based on the latest crash and traffic data, in Stamford.
- f. Further implementation of “quick-hit” roadway safety projects consisting of low-cost materials such as paint, signs, and delineators.

6. **Cooperation with City Departments and Agencies.** The Transportation, Traffic & Parking Department and the Office of Public Safety, Health, and Welfare and all City departments and agencies shall cooperate with the work of the Task Force to the degree possible and permitted by law.

This order shall take effect immediately.



Caroline Simmons
Mayor

Date: 9/20/2022