Vision Zero
Moving from Vision to Action
Lifesavers   |   April 22-24, 2018
79 people die in crashes on Austin streets in the average year
Vision Zero Timeline

- Summer 2014: City Council adopts Complete Streets Policy
- Nov 2015: City Council creates Vision Zero Task Force
- Jan 2016: Vision Zero Task Force convenes
- Spring: Fatality Review Board established
- Summer: Redesigning Streets Report released
- Fall: NACTO Designing Streets Conference in Austin
- Education campaign launched
- Winter 2017: Vision Zero in Action launches
- Vision Zero Program Manager hired
- Pedestrian Program established
- Pedestrian Safety Action Plan launched
- Dynamic Speed Display Device Program established
- May: City Council adopts Action Plan
- Winter 2016: Draft Vision Zero Action Plan reviewed by Boards & Commissions

Amendment made to the Imagine Austin Plan to include Vision Zero

Continuing Implementation
Vision Zero Task Force

Representation from community groups, governmental agencies, and non profits, including advocates for the most vulnerable road users
Policy added to Comprehensive Plan

Oct. 2015

Action Plan adopted by City Council

May 2016
Action Plan Vision

**safe mobility as the top priority** for the transportation network by setting the goal of zero deaths & zero serious injuries while traveling

builds on multiple existing safety initiatives, facilitates greater **collaboration**, leverages limited resources between City departments, agencies, and community partners
Focus Areas

Evaluation

Enforcement

Engineering

Education

Policy
Cross-Agency Data Sharing: APD and ATD gained access to TxDOT’s Crash Records Information System (CRIS) in late 2016. This access to a single database for crash records is helping staff across agencies to evaluate crashes and to better coordinate safety improvements going forward.
Focus Area: Evaluation

Vision Zero Input Tool:
Over 7,000 comments, covering all of Austin. These comments will be used in planning efforts, including the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan.
Focus Area: Evaluation

**Evaluation of Top Crash Locations:** ATD evaluated crash data to identify the high-crash intersections with the greatest potential to be made safer through re-design. Metrics used to review and prioritize the intersections included the frequency, rates and severity of crashes. 5 intersections were selected for immediate work in 2016.
Focus Area: Enforcement

No Refusal: APD has increased the number of No Refusal events, including extending enforcement around holidays and events. During No Refusal events, officers have a bench warrant allowing blood draws for suspected drunk drivers who refuse to take a breathalyzer or blood draw test for intoxication. APD had an estimated 117 No-Refusal Nights in 2016.

In 2017 – Had estimated 142 No-refusal Nights

2018 YTD – 41 no refusal nights
Focus Area: Enforcement

BUS OPERATIONS:
2016 – 753 CITATIONS/ 83 WARNINGS
2017 – 561 CITATIONS/ 78 WARNINGS
2018 – 90 CITATIONS/ 100 WARNINGS

DOWNTOWN OPERATIONS:
2017 – 2,783 CITATIONS/ 530 WARNINGS
2018 – 426 CITATIONS/ 116 WARNINGS

2017 TOTAL HANDS FREE CITATIONS – 9,713

Safe Driver Initiative: In 2016, APD started the Safe Driver Initiative to enforce the City’s Hands-Free Ordinance. Officers positioned on a Capital Metro bus observed whether drivers on Interstate 35 (IH-35) were using handheld devices and alerted motorcycle officers to issue citations. In 2016, APD conducted 9 operations, resulting in 753 citations and 83 warnings for hands free violations.
Focus Area: Engineering

Action 22: Conduct speed studies at locations with speeding issues as identified in collision analysis. Study crash-prone locations where right-on-red or left turn movements were factors. Identify locations with pedestrian safety issues using collision analysis maps and consider traffic control devices to allow safer crossings.

Fatality Review Board: The Fatality Review Board was created in fall 2015, with membership from ATD, APD, APH, and PAZ. Following crash investigations by APD and ATD, the Board reviews all fatal crashes on a monthly basis and determines whether there are engineering solutions that may be applied to prevent future crashes at those locations.
Focus Area: Engineering

Action 20: Direct engineering, enforcement, and education resources to high injury and fatal crash hotspot locations. Implement at least five safety engineering projects annually at top crash prone locations. Implement low-cost high impact safety improvements throughout the roadway network within the City of Austin based on safety engineering studies.

Top Crash Intersections

Locations completed and underway since 2016:

- Hwy 183 at Cameron Road – 57% Reduction
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. at IH-35 – 61% Reduction
- Lamar Blvd. at Parmer Lane – 43% Reduction
- Lamar Blvd. at Rundberg Lane – 22% Reduction
- Slaughter Lane at Manchaca Road – In progress
- Pleasant Valley/Elmont
- South Congress/Oltorf
- Slaughter/South 1st (including Slaughter/Alice Mae)
- I35/Braker
- Red River/45th
- Riverside/Tinnin Ford/Burton
Focus Area: Engineering

Street Design: Over 40 complete streets safety and mobility projects have been installed since the adoption of the Vision Zero Action Plan, covering nearly 30 miles of streets throughout the City of Austin. Projects included adding pedestrian refuge islands, improving traffic signals by adding lead pedestrian intervals, protected bike lanes, left turn protection, traffic calming and other crash reduction strategies.
Focus Area: Education - Internal

Action 32: Lead by example by adopting Vision Zero policies for City fleets and through education and training targeting public and private employers. This should include an online safety training program for all modes that includes the existing “Drive Kind, Ride Kind” video to help ground transportation drivers understand how to interact safely with vulnerable road users.

Action 42: Incorporate Vision Zero for all modes into City’s defensive driving classes and curriculum.
Focus Area: Education - External
Table Events/General Outreach

In 2017...
• Participated in 60 events, either tabling or giving presentations
• Estimated reach of over **21,000 people**
• We have received over 900 pledges, and the pledge is now online!
  
  http://www.austintexas.gov/online-form/vision-zero-online-pledge
Focus Area: Education - External

Action 30: Create a targeted bilingual social media and mass media campaign with appropriate traffic safety messages.

**TOTAL TV Impressions:**
1,031,644 Adult 18+ Impressions

**Total Radio Impressions:**
3,083,952 Impressions
High drive times AM/PM rush hour
**Focus Area: Education**

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**Smart Trips:** Smart Trips Austin is an active transportation encouragement program that aims to improve health and manage congestion by increasing walking, biking and public transit use to access work sites, schools, recreation, shopping and medical facilities. The City of Austin’s Smart Trips Program in Central Austin saw a 6% increase in transit and a 3% increase in walking with a 2% decrease in single occupant vehicle trips. The 2017 program recently wrapped up and is currently gathering data on its impact.
Focus Area: Policy

Speed Management: Responding to Austin City Council Resolution 20160519-049 of May 2016, staff researched academic literature and best practices to make a recommendation to the City Council Mobility Committee on Dec. 7, 2016 and the full City Council on Dec. 15. Council voted to:

1. Support state legislative efforts in 2017 to lower the prima facie speed to 25 miles per hour;
2. Incorporate target design speeds into plans and manuals;
3. Systematically evaluate arterial speed limits citywide for appropriateness; and
4. Establish a neighborhood slow zone pilot.
Incorporating Vision Zero into CodeNEXT, the Austin Street Design Guide, and the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan.
Focus Area: Policy

Action 54: Research and consider the impact of limiting the number or density of alcohol-serving establishments in certain areas.

Action 55: Research and consider the effect of increasing the liquor tax.
What can you do **today** on the road to ZERO?

- **watch for people**
  - crossing the street & yield the right-of-way

- **stay off your phone**
  - drivers who text are 2X more likely to crash

- **make eye contact & wave**
  - a little friendliness goes a long way

- **slow down!**
  - a person hit at 20 mph has a 90% chance of surviving, but at 40 mph, those odds reverse

- **look twice**
  - before turning or changing lanes

- **never drink & drive**
  - drunk driving accounts for about half of fatal crashes
Thank You!

Ashley Bischoff, Vision Zero Education Coordinator
Ashley.bischoff@austintexas.gov
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