



Date: October 3, 2016
To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.H.W.*
From: *C.A.B.* Craig A. Beck, Director of Public Works
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: Update on the Vision Zero Program

The City Council passed a Vision Zero resolution on May 24, 2016 with the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries among all road users by 2026. Vision Zero is a data-driven initiative that works across departments to achieve these safety goals.

Background

In an effort to improve pedestrian safety, staff are involved in a number of activities throughout the City, including:

- The Police Department received a \$340,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety in October 2015 for special enforcement and public awareness;
- Public Works has re-timed traffic signals, installed high-visibility continental crosswalks, and installed protected bike lanes;
- Health and Human Services is completing a Pedestrian Plan for Central and West Long Beach;
- Development Services updated the Downtown Pedestrian Plan and is in the process of creating a Bicycle Master Plan.

To properly implement a Vision Zero initiative, staff requires additional support to gather data and develop a program. To cover this cost, the City recently received a \$250,000 grant from Caltrans for a Systemic Safety Analysis Report Program (SSARP). This grant will allow the City to complete engineering components of a Vision Zero program by identifying high-rate collision locations, and develop strategies to improve these locations. Additionally, the City has submitted three Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant applications to help improve pedestrian and bicycle safety. Staff expects to be notified of the grant awards by the end of 2016.

Next Steps

Staff is in the process of hiring a consultant to develop a Vision Zero Action/Strategic Plan for the City. This Plan will make recommendations for engineering, education, enforcement, and community engagement. It will also provide evaluation components to determine the success of the City's efforts. Staff will work with the consultant to identify funding opportunities to implement stated priorities.

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To improve internal communication of the Vision Zero initiative, staff is in the process of convening a Vision Zero Task Force. Participants will include representatives from the following City departments and agencies: Public Works, Development Services, Police, Fire, Public Health, Long Beach Unified School District, and Long Beach Transit. This group will act as the advisory committee to set priorities and review the consultant's work.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call City Traffic Engineer, Eric Widstrand, at (562) 570-6537.

CB:JC
TFF/VISIONZEROPROGRAM

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