

Resolution No.: 18-390
Introduced: January 19, 2016
Adopted: February 2, 2016

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsors: Councilmembers Berliner, Elrich, and Riemer
Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Leventhal, Navarro, Floreen, Rice, Katz, and Hucker

SUBJECT: Resolution to adopt Vision Zero in Montgomery County and urge the State of Maryland to also adopt Vision Zero

Background

1. Road safety is a top public safety issue in Montgomery County. Every year, there are a significant number of crashes resulting in serious and fatal injuries to drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. In 2014 alone, the last year for which complete data is available, 74 pedestrians suffered severe injuries in crashes, with nine of them succumbing to their injuries. Just in the past three months, at least four pedestrians and bicyclists have been killed on the roads.
2. Montgomery County has taken previous diligent steps to address road safety issues. In 2002, County Executive Duncan convened a Blue Ribbon Task Force on pedestrian safety issues. In 2007, County Executive Leggett launched the county's pedestrian safety initiative. The Council has subsequently passed legislation to adopt a new urban road code and to fund pedestrian safety activities. Despite these efforts, there are still too many fatalities on the roads.
3. Vision Zero is an international movement to put an end to fatal traffic crashes that relies on data-driven approaches to improve the engineering of roads, to conduct targeted education and enforcement, and to change laws to improve driver behavior and increase penalties for dangerous conduct on the roads. Boston, New York, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C. are among the communities that have formally adopted Vision Zero in order to reach zero fatalities within the next few decades.
4. Our County can make a stronger commitment to road safety by adopting a similar strategy. Embracing Vision Zero through a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach will lead to safer communities, benefiting all users of the road. These calmer, safer streets will bring with them stronger senses of community and more vibrant economic centers.

5. There are changes that will need to happen at the state level to promote safety for county residents. While the State of Maryland has adopted AASHTO's Toward Zero Deaths strategy, more must be done. Many crashes happen on state highways maintained by the Maryland State Highway Administration. Traffic laws are set at the state level. Montgomery County can, and should, be a leader in advocating for necessary state-level changes to improve safety.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The Montgomery County Council adopts Vision Zero. By October 1, 2016, the Executive will report to the Council on a Vision Zero Action Plan that includes, but is not limited to, (a) a date by which to achieve zero deaths, (b) a set of activities that County agencies will take to implement the Action Plan, and (c) a set of recommended policy changes at the state and local levels.

The Executive will designate a working group to develop this Action Plan, which shall include members of the Police Department, Department of Transportation, Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, and the State Highway Administration. The working group will provide opportunities for the public to comment on the plan during its development. The working group will further submit a draft plan for consideration by the Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee and the general public.

The Montgomery County Council also calls on the State of Maryland to adopt Vision Zero. It plans to work with the Montgomery County Delegation to advance necessary legislative changes at the state level to adopt and implement Vision Zero for the entire state and our community.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council