

MOTION TRANSPORTATION

The City of Los Angeles has long experienced some of the highest rates of death and serious injury from traffic collisions among peer cities. Traffic collisions are one of the leading causes of death and severe injury among children and the elderly, and speeding is one of the most common causes of those collisions.

On August 24, 2015, Mayor Eric Garcetti issued Executive Directive No. 10, launching the citywide Vision Zero Initiative in an effort to counter these trends. Co-led by the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), the Executive Directive calls for an all-of-government response to traffic violence, with the goal of reducing traffic deaths by 20 percent by 2017 and eliminating traffic deaths citywide by 2025. The City Council adopted the Vision Zero goal and has directed funding toward several significant programs, including: signal and crosswalk upgrades at priority intersections, corridor safety projects along High Injury Network streets, overtime for LAPD Traffic Divisions, and Public Works upgrades like enhanced lighting and pedestrian refuge islands. Many of these programs were specifically intended to prioritize the prevention of pedestrian collisions involving older adults and children.

However, since the launch of the Vision Zero Initiative, fatal and severe injury traffic collisions have increased, and it does not appear that we are on track to achieve the goal of eliminating traffic deaths by 2025. According to a recent Los Angeles Times report, LAPD data indicates 289 people were killed in traffic collisions in 2021, a 21 percent increase over the same period in 2020, and 19 percent more than the same period in 2019. The data also shows that 1,465 people were severely injured, a 30 percent increase over the same period in 2020.

The City has not commissioned an independent review of the Vision Zero Initiative to evaluate its effectiveness and identify areas for improvement. Such a review should identify barriers to implementation of Vision Zero projects and programs – such as funding and staff resources, interdepartmental coordination, and political support – and recommendations to overcome them.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Controller be requested to conduct an audit of the City’s Vision Zero Initiative, to serve as guidance in the City’s continued efforts to reduce, and eventually eliminate, deaths and serious injuries from traffic collisions.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Engineering, Bureau of Street Services, Bureau of Street Lighting, Los Angeles Police Department, Bureau of Contract Administration, Department of Water and Power, and any other relevant departments, bureaus or agencies be instructed/requested to report with a status update on the implementation of the immediate and long-term actions ordered in Executive Directive No. 10, as well as an assessment of the nature of the traffic related fatalities and serious injuries that continue to occur, recommendations aimed at preventing future fatalities and serious injuries, and achieving the stated timeline and goals of the Vision Zero Initiative.

PRESENTED BY:


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SECONDED BY:


MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

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