



**CITY OF SALINAS
COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2020
DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION DIVISION
FROM: DAVID JACOBS, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
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TITLE: VISION ZERO POLICY

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A Motion to approve a Resolution;

- 1) adopting a Vision Zero Policy, specifically: A clear goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries on City streets;
- 2) becoming a Vision Zero Community and joining the Vision Zero Network; and
- 3) accepting an award of state funding allocation of \$72,000 and allocating \$8,000 as a local match to develop a Vision Zero Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve a Resolution;

- 1) adopting a Vision Zero Policy, a clear goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries on City streets;
- 2) becoming a Vision Zero Community and joining the Vision Zero Network; and
- 3) accepting an award of state funding allocation of \$72,000 and allocating \$8,000 as a local match to develop a Vision Zero Action Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

“Vision Zero” is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all. The City can become a Vision Zero Community and join the Vision Zero Network by meeting certain criteria and committing to develop a Vision Zero Action Plan, a data driven plan for achieving a goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries. Staff requested a state funding allocation to develop a Vision Zero Action Plan and was awarded \$72,000 with a local match of \$8,000. Staff recommends the allocation of \$8,000 as a local match to \$72,000 of State funds towards the development a Vision Zero Action Plan.

DISCUSSION:

“Vision Zero” is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. It is a movement that began in Europe and spread to American Cities, rooted in the philosophy that no loss of life, due to road crashes, is acceptable or inevitable and therefore sets the goal of reducing fatalities and severe injuries to zero. Nearby cities such as Monterey, Watsonville and San Jose have all adopted a Vision Zero Policy. Vision Zero is a multidisciplinary approach, bringing together diverse and necessary stakeholders to address this complex problem. Vision Zero acknowledges that many factors contribute to safe mobility. Roadway design, speeds, behaviors, technology, and policies all contribute to safe mobility.

The City already actively implements safety projects, programs and efforts consistent with Vision Zero. Additionally, planning efforts such as the Alisal Vibrancy Plan, Chinatown Revitalization Plan, and Downtown Vibrancy Pan have revealed there is a strong desire of our residents for a safer transportation system. A resolution adopting a Vision Zero Policy prioritizes safety and establishes a clear goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries.

The City of Salinas can become a Vision Zero Community and join the Vision Zero Network (www.visionzeronetwork.com). In order to be eligible to join the Vision Zero Network the city must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Have a clear goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries has been set.
- 2) The Mayor has publicly, officially committed to Vision Zero.
- 3) A Vision Zero plan or strategy is in place, or the Mayor has committed to doing so in clear time frame.
- 4) Key departments (including police, transportation and public health) are engaged.

Approving this resolution will satisfy the first three criteria. After passing this resolution City staff will begin on the fourth criteria through the development of the Vision Zero Action Plan. Public works and the police department staff will work together, and with close coordination with the County Health Department will play a critical role in developing and implementing the Vision Zero Action Plan.

The action plan will clearly lay out steps, timelines, and priorities. A Vision Zero Action Plan must be rooted in the understanding that traffic deaths are preventable. The plan will use a systems-based approach using data to identify emphasis area, priorities and actionable strategies with the goal of eliminating severe injury and fatal crashes. The Vision Zero Action Plan should be evaluated and updated every five years.

A Local Roadway Safety Plan or functional equivalent such as a Vision Zero Action Plan, will soon be required to be eligible for federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grants, which provide funding for safety improvement projects. The HSIP grant program is a critical funding source for safety improvement projects. Current City projects funded by HSIP include the North Sanborn Safety Improvement Project, Downtown Complete Streets Project, North Main Street and Navajo Street Traffic Signal, and Pedestrian Crossing Enhancement Project. If the City does not develop a Vision Zero Action Plan, the City of Salinas may be unable to apply for and receive federal grant funding.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION:

At its January, 2020 meeting, the Traffic and Transportation Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend to Council that the City Council approve a Resolution adopting a Vision Zero Policy, and allocating \$8,000 as a local match to develop a Vision Zero Action Plan.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

Not a Project. The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378). In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 includes the general rule that CEQA applies only to activities which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Because the proposed action and this matter have no potential to cause any effect on the environment, or because it falls within a category of activities excluded as projects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378, this matter is not a project. Because the matter does not cause a direct or foreseeable indirect physical change on or in the environment, this matter is not a project. Any subsequent discretionary projects resulting from this action will be assessed for CEQA applicability.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

This action supports the Council's initiative of a well-planned city and excellent infrastructure.

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

Public works department is responsible for initiating the Vision Zero Policy and obtaining grant funding to develop the Vision Zero Action Plan. Key departments including the Public Works, Police Department, Transportation Agency of Monterey County, Blue Zones and the County Health Department will be engaged and will play a critical role in development and implementation of the Vision Zero Action Plan. Staff from all departments and agencies have committed to working on the development of the Vision Zero Action Plan.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The total estimated cost to develop the Vision Zero Action Plan is \$80,000. The maximum funding contribution from the state program grant is \$72,000 with a local match of \$8,000. Funding for the local match has been requested in the mid-year budget adjustment.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Resolution

Attachment 2: Vision Zero Cities Map

Attachment 3: What is Vision Zero?

Attachment 4: Vision Zero Components

Attachment 5: List of Projects for Developing Local Roadway Safety Plan