Takoma Park Vision Zero Initiative

Adopting a Vision Zero Initiative in Takoma Park would build on existing initiatives in Montgomery County and the State of Maryland to comprehensively and equitably improve transportation safety in the City of Takoma Park. Our goal is zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries in 7-10 years.

Vision Zero would use a comprehensive approach focused on a combination of variables -- road design, land use and transit planning, speed reductions, policy changes, law enforcement, and human behavior -- to make the safety and health of humans our top transportation priority.

Takoma Park’s Vision Zero would create a holistic systems-based approach for developing and implementing infrastructure improvements, outreach programs, policy changes, and coordination with other agencies and jurisdictions. The focus would be on eliminating deaths and serious injuries for people walking and using micro-mobility devices (bikes, scooters, etc.), as well as improving safety outcomes for vehicle occupants.

This approach considers safe mobility a civil right and would aim to create a more racially equitable system of transportation within the City.

The initiative would involve the following entities:

- Safe Roadways Committee
- City of Takoma Park Departments:
  - Housing and Community Development
  - Public Works
  - Police Department
- Collaboration and resource-sharing with other jurisdictions:
  - Montgomery County Vision Zero
  - State of Maryland Toward Zero Deaths
  - District of Columbia Vision Zero
  - Prince George’s County
  - RideOn and WMATA
  - National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
  - State Highway Administration

As a first step, City of Takoma Park staff, the City Council, the Safe Roadways Committee, and residents would collaborate to develop Vision Zero recommendations and policy changes in a comprehensive plan by summer 2020. Components should include:

- Revisions to the traffic-calming and new-sidewalk request policies and procedures
- Collection and analysis of transportation data to identify priority areas for infrastructure improvements and traffic law enforcement service calls
- Plans for targeted education/outreach efforts (especially in Spanish)
- Collaboration and resource-sharing with other Vision Zero initiatives
Proposed priority:

A Liveable Community for All --
Create and Implement a Vision Zero Initiative

Goal: Develop and implement a Vision Zero Initiative that eliminates severe injuries and deaths for vehicle occupants, pedestrians, and drivers, and prioritizes safety in transportation planning and outreach.

Strategy:

- Develop and adopt a Vision Zero initiative
- Begin to implement plan components such as education/outreach, policy changes, and infrastructure improvements

Desired outcome:

- Improved traffic safety resulting in eliminating serious vehicle, pedestrian, and bike collisions
- Improved comprehensive transportation planning throughout the city with a data-driven approach that takes into consideration impacts throughout the city
- Racially equitable transportation system and outcomes

Resources:

- Webinar recap: Safety & Systems for Vision Zero–Putting Theory Into Practice (safe transportation as a civil right)
- Vision Zero Network
- Safe Routes to School
- State of Maryland Toward Zero Deaths
- Montgomery County Vision Zero