

How to Speak up for Vision Zero

YOUR ADVOCACY CHEAT-SHEET FOR TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY

Safety for All

City of Tacoma's Transportation Master Plan seeks to improve safety and strives to reduce traffic deaths and serious injuries in Tacoma to zero by 2030 as part of the State of Washington's traffic safety efforts using education, enforcement, engineering, emergency medical services, and leadership / policy¹.

This effort in many cities and states is part of Vision Zero, a multi-national road traffic safety project that aims to achieve a highway system with no fatalities or serious injuries involving road traffic. It started in Sweden in October 1997².

Traffic crashes in Tacoma between 2010 and 2014



Committing to Vision Zero will take the following strategies³:

- > Building and sustaining leadership, collaboration, and accountability – especially among a diverse group of stakeholders to include transportation professionals, policymakers, public health officials, police, and community members
- > Collecting, analyzing, and using data to understand trends and potential disproportionate impacts of traffic deaths on certain populations
- > Prioritizing equity and community engagement
- > Managing speed to safe levels
- > Setting a timeline to achieve zero traffic deaths and serious injuries, which brings urgency and accountability, and ensuring transparency on progress and challenges

All traffic safety policy in Tacoma's Transportation Master Plan update should prioritize equity and community engagement to build a plan that is most responsive to Tacoma's unique needs.

¹(2.3 in the TMPP)

²The Swedish Approach To Road Safety: 'the Accident Is Not the Major Problem, Sarah Goodyear- Sarah Goodyear- CityLab

³https://visionzeronetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/What-is-VZ_FINAL.pdf



DOTG Advocacy Philosophies and Priorities: To advance the equity of all users of our local and regional transportation system, and specifically employees, students, and residents in downtown Tacoma. In accordance with our mission and vision, we aim to support measures which:

- Increase ease, efficiency, and accessibility
- Increase safety
- Increase connectivity
- Reflect the "green transportation hierarchy"
- Reinforce a compact, urban core

Transportation Advocacy Day is supported by:



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Learning from Others

At the national level, Vision Zero has faced criticism for recommending enforcement without acknowledgement of racist bias in policing. Numerous studies have shown disproportionate levels of enforcement in communities of color. Below is an approach that can help Tacoma ensure that efforts to eliminate serious injury and fatal crashes center the needs and experiences of communities of color and those most impacted by traffic violence.

"Since the introduction of Vision Zero here in the US, many [have] had sharp feels of dissonance. It has been touted as a great success in places like Sweden and New York. However, success is often defined by the narrators and those who benefit."

In response to Vision Zero's foundational elements of Education, Evaluation, Engineering, Enforcement, People for Mobility Justice deconstructs each one of those with their 5 D's:

DECOLONIZE: May our approach in any urban planning, design and decision-making be rooted in the ancestral land in which we work, live, and play to honor the indigenous people and the native flora and fauna. Additionally, we are committed to halting the colonial practices that displace our people to ensure that long-term residents will be protected and have full rights to stay in their communities be it as tenants, homeowners, or business owners.

DECONGEST: May everyone have access to transportation and streets that support our full well-being and keep us alive.

DECRIMINALIZE: May Black, Brown and Undocumented people have the freedom to move in public spaces without state harassment, deportation or death.

DIGNIFY: May the people who are houseless, have disabilities, are LGBTQIA+, work the streets (sex workers, street vendors, etc) have immense protection for their lives and the resources they need to support their well-being.

DETERMINATION: May our BIPOC communities have the right to self-determination, which we define as ensuring that our voice and leadership are valued monetarily, from expert advice to implemented reality on our streets.

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