



January 25, 2023

TO: Rob DiSpirito, City Manager

FROM: Bryan Barnett-Woods, AICP, Vision Zero Coordinator

VIA: Emad Elshafei, P.E., Chief of Traffic & Transportation
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SUBJECT: Vision Zero Implementation Quarterly Update

This is the ninth Vision Zero quarterly report for the Mayor and Council and provides a status update for Vision Zero action items two years and three months after the adoption of the Vision Zero Action Plan on July 6, 2020. The update represents progress made on action items during the first quarter of FY 2023, roughly during the period between July 1, 2022, and September 30, 2022. While no new action items were completed over this quarter, sub-objectives of action items were completed, and ongoing work such as organizing, scheduling, researching, materials development, engagement, budget development and other efforts have taken place.

This memorandum includes a summary of the progress made on several action items, coordination efforts within City staff from different departments, and engagement with external groups and agencies. It also provides an update on the status of both the Bikeway Master Plan and the Pedestrian Master Plan.

Staff does not presently recommend any revisions to the Vision Zero Action Plan timeline.

Summary of Action Item Progress:

The Progress Table (Attachment A) shows the status and progress of all action items since the plan's adoption. These action items are also identified in the Action Plan timeline (Attachment B). Below is a summary of progress made on several Vision Zero action items during the previous quarter. Please note that not every action item is included in the list below:

1. Crash Analysis / Predictive Analysis

The initial crash analysis was completed in October 2021. Staff has stated a new analysis to update the information and include crashes from 2016-2021. This updated crash analysis will be completed in the next quarter.

The Vision Zero survey is still up and open to new respondents. There have been 261 submitted responses; no new survey responses were submitted this quarter. Additionally, a “near-miss” questionnaire is available on the Vision Zero website for residents to share information about traffic incidents that did not result in a crash. There are a total of 56 responses, five of which were submitted in the past quarter.

3. Review Transit Stops

DPW staff has reviewed the location of transit stops in the city and compared their location with their nearest intersection. This information will be included in the updated crash analysis. Also, staff reached out to MCDOT to initiate the process to relocate bus stops on MD 355.

4. Evaluate Crossings and Unsignalized Intersections & 6. Improve Traffic Signals

Staff, with the support of a consultant, started and continue to evaluate the identified Vision Zero intersections and unsignalized crossings for potential safety improvements. Each evaluation includes assessment of crash history, existing pedestrian and bicycle facilities, sight distances, signal timing, and traffic volumes. The evaluations are expected to be completed next quarter. MDOT SHA indicated that safety audits are ongoing for eleven state-maintained intersections.

5. State/Montgomery County/City Project Collaboration

City staff continues to regularly meet and coordinate with staff from MDOT SHA, Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), and M-NCPPC Montgomery County Planning Department. MDOT SHA completed an intersection safety audit for the Veirs Mill Road/Dodge Street/Rockville Pike intersection. Lastly, intersection improvements for Veirs Mill Road and Atlantic Avenue were completed in September 2022.

The 11 Vision Zero intersection safety audits on state-maintained roadways, described above for Action Items # 4 & 6 are currently under review by MDOT SHA Office of Traffic Safety. While these results were expected during this quarter, MDOT SHA has indicated additional time is needed. The results are expected to be shared with the City in early 2023.

7. Accelerate Sidewalk Construction

City staff continues to manage a sidewalk feasibility study to evaluate construction feasibility of six sidewalk gaps that were identified using the Sidewalk Prioritization Policy and recommendations from RPAC. The sidewalk gaps include Frederick Avenue, Highland Avenue, Monroe Street, Nelson Street, Reading Terrace, and Wood Lane. Once this feasibility is

complete, the feasible sidewalks will be designed for construction and additional feasibility studies will be initiated for new sidewalk gaps.

City staff continue to advance the design and construction of the Potomac Valley Road sidewalk and the West Gude Drive sidewalk. Lastly, the City was awarded a grant from the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) to evaluate feasibility of an additional five sidewalk gaps in the Twinbrook neighborhood.

8. Create Pedestrian Master Plan

Staff continues to work on development of the Pedestrian Master Plan, which is discussed in detail below.

9. Expand Network of Safe Bicycle Facilities

Staff continues to work on expanding bicycle facilities throughout the city, which is discussed in detail below as part of the Bikeway Master Plan implementation.

11. Explore Expanding Automated Enforcement

RCPD continues to carry out automated traffic enforcement. A new contract for automated enforcement was executed in November 2022. The new contract has a five-year term and five additional one-year extension options. As per contract, the vendor has 270 days to replace and upgrade the city's existing 27 photo enforcement camera systems. This includes 10 red light cameras, 6 fixed pole speed monitoring systems (SMS), 2 mobile van SMS, and 9 portable SMS. Under the new contract, it is possible for the City to obtain additional camera systems, however, an amendment to the agreement would be required for this to occur. Additionally, RCPD would need to evaluate the proposed location to ensure there is sufficient space to install the camera as well as whether automated enforcement would be an effective measure to increase compliance.

12. Expand Traffic Law Enforcement and Distracted Driving Detection Program

The Police Department received the FY 2023 Maryland Highway Safety Office grant for Impaired Driving, Distracted Driving, and Speed Enforcement in September.

16. Create Comprehensive Outreach Strategy

DPW staff in coordination with PICE staff drafted three articles related to multimodal transportation facilities for Rockville Reports and social media, these include articles on how bicycles should on sidewalks, how to use the newly installed bicycle repair stand, and Walktober events. PICE staff have recommended additional social media messages that DPW supports and will develop.

17. Join Montgomery County on Safe Routes to School Activities

City staff coordinated with Ritchie Park Elementary School to provide additional participation prizes for students that choose to ride their bicycles to school. Additionally, staff coordinated with Beall and Maryvale Elementary Schools to provide 'I Walk Rockville' buttons for students that participate for October 'Walk and Roll to School Day' event.

20. Training in the Community

Staff and members of RPAC have coordinated walking/rolling events for 'Walktober.' Walktober events included a community walk with elected officials along some of the more challenging roadways in the City, a 'pedestrian bingo' card that residents could download and use over the month, and a candlelight vigil for victims of traffic violence.

25. Create Vision Zero Webpage

The Public Information and Community Engagement Office has helped to create a Vision Zero projects sub-page within the Vision Zero webpage. This helps organize the web page so that information is more accessible to the webpage visitors. The most recent quarterly update was posted online along with the most up to date progress chart and timeline.

26. Publish Collision Data

Staff continue to provide links to the Automated Crash Reporting System. Additionally, staff share the RPAC developed monthly crash statistics summary.

Pedestrian Master Plan Update:

Staff continues to make progress on the Pedestrian Master Plan, Vision Zero Action Item #8. DPW staff circulated internally a draft of the plan background and recommendations. Once internal review is completed, it will be shared publicly with the T&T Commission, RPAC, RBAC, stakeholders, and the public. In addition to new shared-use path recommendations, staff recommends that this planning process be used to recommend updates of existing pedestrian and multimodal transportation practices and policies.

Additionally, the Pedestrian Master Plan project webpage (<https://engagerockville.com/pedestrian-master-plan>) is active and provides opportunities for residents and visitors to learn about the project, submit ideas and questions, and provide comments through an interactive map and survey. There have been 238 survey responses and 84 location comments submitted so far, this includes 25 new survey responses and 22 map comments since last quarter. Next steps for this project include sharing the plan background and recommendations with RPAC, RBAC and the T&T Commission, and to share at a public meeting.

Bikeway Master Plan Update:

The Vision Zero Action Plan has set a goal of building all bike facilities proposed in the City's Bikeway Master Plan (BMP) by 2028 (action item #9). The City recently received two awards from the Kim Lamphier Maryland Bikeways Network Grant program to fund 30% designs for a bicycle lane on Martin's Lane, from Mannakee Street to N. Washington Street. This bike lane was identified by the Rockville Bicycle Advisory Group as a priority link. The second award is to purchase and install permanent pedestrian and bicycle counters. These counters will be used to track travel patterns and trends of people walking/rolling and bicycling in Rockville as well as help measure increases or decreases of people walking/rolling and bicycling over time.

Internal Staff Coordination:

Staff from Rockville's Police Department, Public Information Office, and the Department of Public Works meet regularly to discuss the status of individual action items and coordinate on how to accomplish Vision Zero goals within the city.

Engineering: Traffic and Transportation staff continue to audit 20 city-maintained intersections and coordinate with MDOT SHA who audits the 11 state-maintained intersections. Additionally, Traffic and Transportation staff coordinate with Engineering staff to update the roadway cross sections to include multimodal improvements.

Education/Outreach: The Public Information and Community Engagement Division continues to educate the community at large about Vision Zero principles and transportation safety practices.

Enforcement: Transportation safety remains a priority for the RCPD. Patrol teams and the traffic unit continue to focus efforts on specific locations and issues based on collision data, known trouble spots, and community complaints. The RCPD coordinates with RPAC to develop a monthly crash report which highlights all crashes over the past month and is shared with community stakeholders and RCPD officers.

Coordination with Other Groups:

This Action Plan requires aligning policies and practices at all levels of government (City, County, and State) and across City commissions and committees, making safety the highest priority for all roadways.

The Traffic and Transportation Commission, RBAC, and RPAC: The Traffic and Transportation Commission, RBAC, and RPAC has been kept up to date about the City's Vision Zero efforts during their regular monthly meetings. Staff provides project briefings and status updates for transportation projects.

Montgomery County: Staff continues regular communication with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation and the M-NCPPC Montgomery County Planning Department,

both of which include their own Vision Zero coordinators. Staff discuss ongoing projects including Vision Zero messaging and outreach, sidewalk maintenance and construction efforts, crash data and prediction analyses, and the bus rapid transit projects.

Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA): Staff works closely with MDOT SHA and the County to ensure a consistent approach to transportation safety. Additionally, staff submits safety and maintenance requests along state roadways and at State-controlled intersections for review by the MDOT Office of Traffic Safety and Office of Highway Development.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (MWCOCG): Staff attends the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee, Car Free Day Subcommittee, and the Bike-to-Work-Day Subcommittee, which all provide ideas and opportunities to promote safe walking and bicycling.

The City is currently engaged in two MWCOCG funded projects, a Complete Streets feasibility study for Fleet and Monroe Streets, and a protected intersection analysis for Beall Avenue at Maryland Avenue and MD 355.

Next Steps:

Staff will continue to work on Vision Zero action items per the action item timeline. The next update will be presented to the Mayor and Council in February 2023. The report will consist of a written progress summary, the action item timelines, an updated action plan progress chart, and a presentation. Staff will continue to focus on the Pedestrian Master Plan, and to advance sidewalks and bicycle lane projects.

Attachments:

Attachment A - Action Items Progress Chart – 11-2022 (PDF)

Attachment B - Action Items Timeline - 11-2022 (PDF)