

TO: Mayor's Task Force on Pedestrian Safety

FROM: Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission

DATE: March 16, 2016

Dear Council:

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission supports Vision Zero for Columbia. Vision Zero simply states that any traffic fatality, whether a person is traveling by car or any other way, is unacceptable, and strives to eliminate all traffic fatalities. Vision Zero has been adopted by several cities and it is showing results: New York City's traffic fatalities have reached record lows since they began recording numbers of fatalities in the early 1900s. These cities are proving that transportation can be safe and efficient for everyone.

To implement Vision Zero, we endorse the recommendations of the Pedestrian Safety Task Force. The first step is a public and vocal adoption of Vision Zero at the highest levels of city government and administration. This will require hard work and reaching out to the public to shift the culture to one that does not accept traffic fatalities, and the Bike/Ped Commission is willing to step up to the plate to facilitate public engagement. Furthermore, we're committed to supporting the efforts of city staff in overseeing, monitoring, coordinating implementation of the Pedestrian Safety Task Force recommendations, including dedicating our commission meeting time.

Please adopt Vision Zero and implement recommendations from the Pedestrian Safety Task Force. We will do our part to bring Vision Zero to Columbia and make Columbia the safest place to drive, walk, bicycle, ride the bus, and operate a wheelchair.

Thank you,

Mike Burden, Chair
Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission