

TO: Mayor's Task Force on Pedestrian Safety

FROM: Public Transit Advisory Commission

DATE: February 18, 2016

Dear Councilmen Thomas and Ruffin:

As the Public Transit Advisory Commission one of our overall charges is to "advise city staff with regard to transit policy and safety matters concerning transit issues affecting the city", especially as it relates to pedestrian safety and accessibility to bus stops.

Because of this charge the Public Transit Advisory Commission (PTAC) is in unanimous support of adopting Vision Zero for Columbia. We strongly believe in the fundamental message of Vision Zero that death and injury on our city streets is not acceptable and is preventable. We should no longer regard serious car crashes as inevitable. These are not "accidents", they are crashes or collisions, and are a result of bad behavior and unforgiving roadway designs.

We know that culture change does not come easy, so we suggest a vigorous outreach program to the public to begin with. At the same time, we suggest the City Council create a position of "Transportation Safety Engineer". That person could begin implementing design changes that emphasize lowering speed limits and creating safer street crossings. Third, we must increase penalties for those who have dangerous behaviors that result in injury and death.

Vision Zero will require a great deal of education in our community and a lot of collaboration not only within Columbia City Departments, but also with MoDOT. The PTAC is dedicated to working with all entities striving to achieve the goals of Vision Zero. The PTAC voted unanimously on February 18, 2016 to send this letter of recommendation for adopting Vision Zero on to the Mayor's Task Force on Pedestrian Safety.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Price

Cheryl Price, Chair
Public Transit Advisory Commission