



MEMO FROM COUNCIL OFFICE:

To: Members of the Common Council

From: Stephen Lucas, Council Administrator/Attorney

Date: March 28, 2024

Re: Resolution 2024-07 - Establishing the Goal of Reducing Traffic Deaths and Serious Injuries on the City's Roadways to Zero in the City by the Year 2039

Synopsis

This resolution establishes the goal of zero traffic deaths and serious injuries on the City of Bloomington's roadways by the year 2039, outlines the City's intention to pursue a comprehensive approach to achieve this objective, and requires the adoption of a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Action Plan.

Relevant Materials

- Resolution 2024-07
- Staff Memo

Summary

Resolution 2024-07 would express the city's goal of zero traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2039 and would express the city's intent to adopt a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Action Plan to guide future decisions and investments. This resolution comes to the Council during [Safety Week](#), which includes a week-long schedule of city events aimed at resident engagement, promoting safety awareness and encouraging collaboration.

Since 2023, the city staff has been engaged in SS4A planning efforts. More information about SS4A all is available at the [SS4A website](#). These efforts are, at least in part, meant to enable the city to apply for [SS4A Grant Program](#) funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). Part of becoming eligible for this grant funding is having a position statement committing the city to a goal of reducing or eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries on Bloomington's roadways. Another step in becoming eligible is the adoption of a SS4A Action Plan, which the administration hopes to accomplish later this year through subsequent legislation.

City staff anticipate that a future SS4A Action Plan will include the following components, as outlined by the USDOT:

- **Leadership commitment and goal setting** that includes a goal timeline for eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries.
- **Planning structure** through a committee, task force, or similar group charged with oversight of the Action Plan development, implementation, and monitoring.



City of Bloomington Indiana

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- **Safety analysis** of the existing conditions and historical trends that provides a baseline level of crashes involving fatalities and serious injuries.
- **Engagement and collaboration** with the public and relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and community groups.
- **Equity considerations** developed using inclusive and representative processes.
- **Policy and process assessments** of the current policies, plans, guidelines, and/or standards to identify opportunities to improve them.
- **Strategy and project selections** that identify a set of projects and strategies that will address the safety problems described in the Action Plan.
- **Progress and transparency methods** that measure progress over time after the Action Plan is developed.

Contact

Ryan Robling, Planning Services Manager, 812-349-3459, roblingr@bloomington.in.gov

RESOLUTION 2024-07

ESTABLISHING THE GOAL OF REDUCING TRAFFIC DEATHS AND SERIOUS INJURIES ON THE CITY'S ROADWAYS TO ZERO IN THE CITY BY THE YEAR 2039

- WHEREAS, the life and health of all persons living and traveling within the City of Bloomington are our utmost priority, and no one should die or be seriously injured while traveling on our city streets; and
- WHEREAS, according to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, each year approximately 40,000 people are killed in traffic collisions in the United States and almost 1,000 within Indiana, and traffic crashes are among the leading causes of deaths in the United States¹; and
- WHEREAS, 14 people in the City of Bloomington lost their lives to traffic deaths in the five year period between 2018 and 2022; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington's transportation infrastructure serves an increasing number of vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists; and
- WHEREAS, according to data provided by the Indiana State Police through the years 2018 and 2022, pedestrians were involved in 2.5 percent of collisions and account for 28.6 percent of traffic deaths in the City of Bloomington; and
- WHEREAS, according to data provided by the Indiana State Police through the years 2018 and 2022, bicyclists and scooter riders were involved in 1.9 percent of collisions and account for 7.1 percent of traffic deaths in the City of Bloomington; and
- WHEREAS, between 2018 and 2022, the serious injury rate for pedestrians involved in collisions was approximately 28.5 percent and the serious injury rate for bicyclists and scooter riders involved in collisions was approximately 22.3 percent; and
- WHEREAS, speed is recognized as a major determining factor of survival in a crash²; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington will work toward reducing vehicle speeds because the likelihood of a pedestrian surviving a crash is 10 percent when hit by a vehicle traveling at 40 mph, 50 percent when hit by a vehicle traveling at 30 mph, and 90 percent when hit by a vehicle traveling at 20 mph³; and
- WHEREAS, children, older adults, people of color, people with disabilities, people who are unhoused, and people with low income face a significantly disproportionate risk of traffic injuries and fatalities⁴; and
- WHEREAS, making streets safer for all people using all modes of transportation will encourage people to travel on foot, by bicycle, and by public transit, which reduces environmental pollution; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington has already adopted the 2018 Comprehensive Plan, the Transportation Plan, and Traffic Calming & Greenways Program, which seek to promote roadway safety for all users.

¹ NHTSA: Overview of Motor Vehicle Crash Traffic Crashes in 2021.
<https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/Publication/813435>.

² Institute of Transportation Engineers; Road to Zero Coalition; and RTZ Safe System Working Group. Safe System. Institute of Transportation Engineers. Website: <http://ite.org/technical-resources/topics/safe-systems/>

³ Ferrier K., Landmark national study urges safety over speed. Vision Zero Network website: visionzeronetwork.org/safety-over-speed. July 25, 2017.

⁴ Fox J, Shahum L., Vision Zero Equity Strategies for Practitioners. Oakland, CA: Vision Zero Network; 2017. Website: https://visionzeronetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/VisionZero_Equity_FINAL.pdf

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. The City of Bloomington adopts the goal of zero traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2039, stating that no loss of life or serious injury is acceptable on our streets.

SECTION 2. The City of Bloomington desires a comprehensive and holistic approach to achieving this goal.

SECTION 3. The City of Bloomington shall adopt a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Action Plan which will be used to guide future investments and infrastructure improvements in our roadways.

PASSED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2024.

ISABEL PIEDMONT-SMITH, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2024.

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk,
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this _____ day of _____, 2024.

KERRY THOMSON, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This resolution establishes the goal of zero traffic deaths and serious injuries on the City of Bloomington’s roadways by the year 2039, outlines the City’s intention to pursue a comprehensive approach to achieve this objective, and requires the adoption of a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Action Plan.

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Common Council

From: Ryan Robling, Planning Services Manager, Planning and Transportation Department

Date: March 26, 2024

Re: Resolution 2024-07 – Establishing the goal of reducing traffic deaths and serious injuries on the city’s roadways to zero in the city by the year 2039

City staff from the Planning and Transportation Department have drafted this resolution in order to establish the goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries on Bloomington’s roadways by the year 2039. The resolution acknowledges the importance of preserving the safety and well-being of all roadway users. It recognizes the alarming number of traffic-related fatalities nationwide, totaling more than 40,000 annually. The resolution expresses a clear desire to address the safety concerns that led to the loss of fourteen lives to traffic incidents within the city between 2018 and 2022. It identifies speed as a critical factor affecting survival rates in collisions. Further, it recognizes the disparities in risk faced by demographic groups, such as children, older adults, and marginalized groups.

Additionally, the resolution calls for the adoption of a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Action Plan, which will create a system and process to work toward the elimination of traffic deaths and serious injuries within the city. The Action Plan will encompass several essential components focused on enhancing roadway safety, including conducting a comprehensive safety analysis, fostering public engagement and collaboration, prioritizing equity considerations, and proposing actionable policy and process changes.

This resolution is being brought forward during Safety Week, during which City staff and consultants from Toole Design are conducting extensive public outreach. Over the next few months, City staff and its consultants will finalize a draft Action Plan which will be amended into the City’s Comprehensive, and Transportation Plans.

The anticipated fiscal impact of this resolution is minimal at this time. The creation of the SS4A Action Plan was previously funded and covered by the 2023 and 2024 Budgets.