



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE

VISION ZERO POLICY TO ELIMINATE FATALITIES AND SERIOUS INJURIES THAT ARE A
RESULT OF CRASHES ON STREETS WITHIN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BY 2035.

FOR THE

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA URBANIZED AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (CUUATS)

WHEREAS, the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation, has a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative (3C) planning process for transportation planning in compliance with Federal regulations for the urbanized area and the metropolitan planning area; and,

WHEREAS, a single death on our roads is one too many; and,

WHEREAS, crashes that result in death or serious injury are not inevitable but largely preventable, and great steps can be taken by using a proactive approach that prioritizes traffic safety and treats severe crashes as a public health issue; and,

WHEREAS, a commitment to Vision Zero is a commitment to life and equitable opportunity for the residents and visitors of the Champaign-Urbana Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA); and,

WHEREAS, it is the role of government to do its part to serve and protect the populace; and,

WHEREAS, in 2019, the State of Illinois ranked 12th in the nation for lowest vehicle fatality rate (NHTSA and Census Bureau data), and, as stated in the Illinois Strategic Highway Safety Plan (ILSHSP), the State has a Vision Zero goal to reduce roadway crash fatalities to zero; and,



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A program of the Champaign County RPC

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WHEREAS, the Champaign Urbana MPA is recognized and strives to be continually acknowledged nationally and internationally as a healthy, attractive, desirable and safe place to live; and,

WHEREAS, the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study (CUUATS) has a strong commitment to prioritizing safety and recently completed its Urban and Rural Safety Plans and has made demonstrable progress to improve safety for walking and biking by making systemic changes in the way the transportation network is planned, programmed, designed, constructed and operated, as evidenced by the sidewalk inventory database, access score tool, access management, roundabouts and complete streets guidelines, safety forecasting tool; and continued work on analyzing specific project areas for safety needs; and,

WHEREAS, 11 people walking and in wheelchairs, 5 people riding a bicycle, and 55 people driving or riding in a vehicle have died on streets in the Champaign-Urbana between 2006 and 2015; and,

WHEREAS, 47% of all crashes in the MPA occurred at 6,450 intersections, and 4.5% of the intersection crashes were fatal and A-injury crashes; and,

WHEREAS, the number of people dying and suffering serious injuries on our streets is a serious public health problem which necessitates public action; and,

WHEREAS, crashes on all streets necessitate a comprehensive and specific approach to street planning, design, policy, enforcement, legal processes, education and communication in order to provide the most powerful solution to solve the problem; and,

WHEREAS, Vision Zero aligns with the CUUATS' Complete Streets Policy by prioritizing our most vulnerable roadway users and encouraging balance among all users of the Champaign-Urbana MPA's transportation network; and,



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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Technical and Policy Committees of the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study:

Champaign County commits to a goal of zero deaths and serious injuries that are a result of crashes on county roads by 2035; and

CUUATS Technical and Policy Committees acknowledge that achieving this goal requires significant effort and resources, and will develop a Vision Zero Pledge following the passage of this resolution; and,

The Urban and Rural Safety Plans has put effort into considering equity, striving to impact the most vulnerable and dependent users of the most dangerous parts of the transportation network to improve the health and wellbeing of those traveling on our roads, and the Plan has begun using this data to develop strategies that aim to end death and serious injuries in an equitable manner; and,

The continued work toward Vision Zero for the Champaign-Urbana MPA will draw heavily from those who use the roads, including those who live in areas that experience high crash rates, those who advocate for safer streets for all modes, and the general public, through a diverse range of outreach activities designed to understand both concerns and opportunities with advancing this vision, and by using their input and refined data to determine appropriate and effective steps to achieve it; and,

The continued work beyond the Urban Safety Plan will use data and best practices to outline concrete steps in planning, engineering, policy, enforcement and education to reach interim steps toward zero deaths: and,

CUUATS Technical and Policy Committees will work with partners in the region who own and manage streets to influence the street planning, design, maintenance, operations, and law enforcement, including the State of Illinois, the City of Champaign, the City of Urbana, the Village of Savoy, the University of Illinois, CUMTD, the Champaign County Board, and all



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WHEREAS, urban roadways that improve safety also enrich the lives of all community members, and safety countermeasures will contribute to overall improved population health; and,

WHEREAS, the local Safe Routes to School program works to ensure that thousands of school children are able to walk and bike to school safely; and,

WHEREAS, the principles of a Vision Zero commitment are supported in existing Urban and Rural Safety Plans, the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the LRTP: Sustainable Choices 2040 Plan, the Champaign County Greenways & Trails Plan, and the Champaign County Strategic Highway Safety Plan; and,

WHEREAS, implementing a Vision Zero commitment requires the contributions of the CUUATS member agencies' Communications Departments, Champaign-Urbana Health Department, Police Departments, Community Planning and Economic Development Departments, Civil Rights Departments, Intergovernmental Relations Departments, Neighborhood and Community Relations Offices, and Public Works Departments, all of which have demonstrated through past actions and future intentions the willingness to support and implement the commitment for all road users through their collective capabilities; and,

WHEREAS, implementing a Vision Zero commitment requires the continued support of residents, business owners, students, and visitors to the Champaign Urbana MPA, acting as individuals and collectively through neighborhood or advocacy organizations, to improve the safety, comfort, and usability of streets for all user types; and,

WHEREAS, the Champaign Urbana MPA will join other jurisdictions across the nation in their commitment to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries on our roads; work which has demonstrated success when coupled with adequate funding and staffing levels for its implementation.



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municipalities within its jurisdiction to combine similar efforts and leverage individual work efforts to contribute to improvements in safety region-wide; and,

The Chair of CUUATS Policy Committee and the Chair of CUUATS Technical Committee, or their designees, will look to the CUUATS Safety Committee, comprised of area leaders in Public Works, Transportation, Public Health, Law Enforcement, Neighborhood and Community Relations, and other critical representatives to advance the Vision Zero commitment and guide the work of the Urban and Rural Safety Plan; and,

CUUATS Technical and Policy Committees acknowledge and accept that the Safety Plans may result in changes to each participating agency or municipality's approach to the planning and design of streets, education and communication techniques, enforcement policies and procedures, and legal and legislative frameworks including the potential to advocate for reduced speed limits; and,

CUUATS Technical and Policy Committees are dedicated to measuring the progress, challenges, and successes of the Vision Zero commitment and will do so with tangible, reportable metrics that will be reported upon on an annual basis through the Safety Scorecards already being prepared by CUUATS staff. Other metrics of progress will also be pursued and reviewed periodically to ensure accountability and achievement toward eliminating serious injuries on our roadways.

Passed and approved this 7th day of September 2022.

ATTEST:

Bradley Diel, MTD
Chair, CUUATS Policy Committee



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