



EXECUTIVE ORDER  
**VISION ZERO HOUSTON**

EO No.

EO 1-60

Effective Date:

Upon Approval

**1. PREFACE**

Among the 12 largest metro areas in the U.S., Houston has the highest record for roadway fatalities in terms of deaths per capita from 2001 through 2016.

Data from the Texas Department of Transportation over a five-year period from 2014 – 2018 indicates 1,097 fatal traffic crashes and 5,556 serious injury crashes in Houston. On average, that is 219 people per year whose lives are lost and 1,111 people per year whose lives are incapacitated by traffic crashes occurring on Houston roadways.

The City of Houston ("City") recognizes traffic deaths as an unacceptable and preventable public health issue. In its role to equitably support the common good and the Plan Houston Vision Statement: "Houston promotes healthy and resilient communities through smart civic investments, dynamic partnerships, education, and innovation", the City of Houston will adopt Vision Zero with a goal to end traffic deaths and serious injuries among all road users.

**2. SCOPE**

This executive order instructs all City departments, divisions, and personnel to work with the Planning and Development Department, as the Planning and Development Department works with other public, private, and non-profit organizations to create a Vision Zero Action Plan that eliminates and serious injuries due to traffic-related crashes.

**3. PURPOSE**

3.1. To commit to end traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries occurring on Houston streets by 2030.

3.2. To adopt and develop Vision Zero as a comprehensive and holistic strategy to support the commitment to end traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries occurring on Houston streets by 2030.

3.2.1. A comprehensive Vision Zero strategy unifies existing efforts and elevates improvements through engineering and street design, education and engagement efforts, enforcement and technology, evaluation and data analysis, and equity.

3.2.2. A holistic approach to Vision Zero requires broad coordination and leadership among City departments and many stakeholders within Houston, including but not limited to area agencies, businesses, nonprofits, community-based organizations and community members and encompasses elements of the built environment, such as land use and public space.

3.2.2.1. The City's Planning & Development Department has met with the Mayor's Office of Disabilities and the Houston Public Works, Police, Fire, Fleet and Health departments to begin developing a strategy to comprehensively eliminate traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries and improve road safety.

3.2.2.2. The City's Planning & Development Department presented to Planning Commission on May 9, 2019, the City of Houston Bicycle Advisory Committee Resolution 2020-1 in support of a holistic approach to Vision Zero.

Approved:

Date Approved:

August 13, 2019

Page 1 of 3

3.2.2.3. The Planning & Development Department will continue to promote Vision Zero through its networks which include, but are not limited to: public agencies, community and civic clubs such as the Super Neighborhood Association, and local non-profits such as BikeHouston and LINK.

- 3.3. To reframe how City of Houston policy-makers and Houstonians think about traffic safety: that roadway fatalities are preventable, that no loss of life by traffic collision is acceptable, and that everyone deserves safe, accessible and mindful mobility.
- 3.4. To establish safety and accessibility as the number one priority in the design and construction of Houston streets, bikeways, and pedestrian realms.
- 3.5. To require safety and accessibility improvements through a combination of engineering and street design, enforcement and technology, education and engagement, evaluation and data, and equity.

#### 4. POLICY

- 4.1. City of Houston is committed to and adopts the goal to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2030 and endorses Vision Zero as a comprehensive and holistic approach to achieving this goal.
- 4.2. Existing City policies and efforts to improve roadway safety for all users in Houston and which will contribute to achieving the goals of Vision Zero include, but are not limited to:
  - **Policies** such as Chapter 45, Article II., Sec. 45-44. Vulnerable Road Users, House Bill 62 Texting While Driving ban, Walkable Places, and efforts to establish a prima facie speed limit of 25mph in residential areas;
  - **Plans and initiatives** such as the Houston Bike Plan, the Safer Streets Initiative, Harris County Precinct 1 Rapid Implementation Bikeway Network, and FHWA Road Safety Audits; and
  - **Operations** such as the Mayor's Safer Streets initiative, the Houston Police Department's DWI Task Force, and Harris County Sheriff's Office Regional Multi-Agency Task Force and Special Task Force on Intersection and Sidewalk Safety for Persons with Disabilities.
  - Complete Streets and Transportation Plan Executive Order 1-15: adopted on November 1, 2013, directs City efforts to achieve complete streets that consider all users, including people of all ages and abilities who are driving or riding in cars, using mass transit, riding bikes, walking, using wheelchairs, driving or being transported by emergency vehicles, and being served by other users.
  - Plan Houston: the City's General Plan adopted by City Council on September 30, 2015, identifies several goals and actions that call for the City and its partners to improve safety for Houstonians in their neighborhoods and beyond. Three of the twelve strategies speak directly to improving safety on roadways. They are: Sustain Quality Infrastructure, Nurture Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods and Connect People and Places.

#### 5. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 5.1. The Mayor will establish a Vision Zero Executive Committee to develop short-term safety actions within six months as part of a Vision Zero Action Plan. The Vision Zero Action Plan will be completed within one year from the signing of this Executive Order.
- 5.2. The Vision Zero Executive Committee will guide the process to develop a Vision Zero Action Plan, lead implementation and maintenance, and monitor progress. The Vision Zero Executive Committee includes, at minimum, experts from:
  - 5.2.1. Planning & Development, Public Works, Fire, Police, Health, Legal, Library, Municipal Courts, Fleet Management Departments, and the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities; and
  - 5.2.2. Other public agencies such as the Federal Highway Administration, Houston-Galveston Area

Council, Texas Department of Transportation, METRO, Greater Houston Partnership, and offices of the Harris County Judge, Attorney, Sheriff and Commissioners' Court.

- 5.3. The Vision Zero Executive Committee will designate a Vision Zero Task Force. The Vision Zero Task Force will be:
  - 5.3.1. Comprised of street safety advocates and experts from other agencies, non-profits, the private sector and communities throughout Houston; and
  - 5.3.2. Charged with assisting the Executive Committee in developing recommendations for the Vision Zero Action Plan, implementation and maintenance, and a system for monitoring progress toward achieving the Plan's actions.
- 5.4. The Vision Zero Executive Committee and Vision Zero Task Force will ensure that the Vision Zero Action Plan is complete within one year upon the signing of this Executive Order. The Vision Zero Plan must:
  - 5.4.1. Analyze crash data to identify the problem and contain recommendations for short and long-term countermeasures to the problem;
  - 5.4.2. Address crashes and present solutions through a combination of engineering and street design, education and engagement efforts, enforcement and technology, evaluation and data analysis, and equity; and
  - 5.4.3. Establish a time frame and determine a lead agency to implement countermeasures to reach zero traffic-related deaths.
- 5.5. The Planning & Development Department will lead continued coordination and provide support to the Executive Committee, the Task Force and other partners in the development of the Vision Zero Action Plan, including identifying mechanisms to ensure accountability and associated funding to reach the Plan's goal of zero deaths and serious injuries by 2030.
- 5.6. The Executive Committee and the Vision Zero Task Force shall provide an annual report beginning in the Spring of 2020. The annual report shall include progress made towards the goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2030.