

RESOLUTION NO. 22-48

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING THE LOCAL ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM (“LRSP”) AND ESTABLISHING A VISION ZERO POLICY TO WORK TOWARDS ZERO TRAFFIC DEATHS AND SEVERE INJURIES IN THE CITY OF LANCASTER BY 2050

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

WHEREAS, the development of the City’s Local Roadway Safety Plan (“LRSP”) is a requirement to apply for future Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (“HSIP”) funding; and

WHEREAS, an LRSP creates a framework to systematically identify and analyze transportation safety issues, collaborate with partner agencies and stakeholder, and develop a multidisciplinary tool box of traffic safety countermeasures; and

WHEREAS, the HSIP now requires an adopted LRSP in order to be eligible for funding on their program; and

WHEREAS, the City embarked on an effort to develop an LRSP in accordance with State and Federal requirements and guidance; and

WHEREAS, the City engaged with partner agencies and the public in the development of this LRSP; and

WHEREAS, the LRSP will serve not only as a requirement for grant fund eligibility but also as a blueprint for addressing traffic safety issues throughout the County across the 4 E's of traffic safety disciplines; Engineering, Education, Enforcement, & Emergency Services; and

WHEREAS, in a study comparing 19 peer nations, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention found that the United States has the highest traffic death rate per person; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Traffic Safety (“OTS”) ranked Lancaster 2nd of 59 peer cities for traffic injuries after normalizing for population and Vehicle Miles Traveled (“VMT”) in 2019. With number one (1) in the OTS crash rankings considered the highest, or “worst”; and

WHEREAS, according to the University of California Berkeley’s Transportation Injury Mapping System (“TIMS”) and California Department of Transportation (“Caltrans”) Vehicle Operation Cost Parameters, Lancaster’s economic losses due to traffic injuries amounted to approximately \$1.1 billion from 2016 to 2020; and

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WHEREAS, one death on City streets is one too many, and City and departmental leadership are dedicated to strategies that aim to reduce and eliminate deaths and serious injuries on City streets; and

WHEREAS, seniors, children, people of color, people with disabilities, people in low-income communities, people walking, and people bicycling face a disproportionate risk of traffic injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is a public health-based traffic safety strategy to reduce and eventually eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries using a data-driven, multi-disciplinary, and safe systems approach that also increases safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero recognizes that while human error will always occur, a combination of engineering, education, and enforcement measures can reduce collisions and can prevent collisions from causing death or severe injuries; and

WHEREAS, Goal 1 of the City's 2020 General Plan is "To ensure that Lancaster manages its land use and development in such a manner as to place the highest value on people and their quality of life" and

WHEREAS, increasing real and perceived safety for people walking and bicycling is a key step in enabling more people to choose these clean air modes of transportation that will support the City's Master Plan of Trails and Bikeways; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration has made a commitment to eliminating fatalities and serious injuries on the nation's roadways using a data-driven, interdisciplinary approach modeled after Vision Zero; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Transportation ("Caltrans") has adopted the goal of moving "Toward Zero Deaths" with a focus on using proven effective strategies and countermeasures; and

WHEREAS, the action of approving a planning document for future road safety improvements does not constitute a project as defined by California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15262; therefore, no further environmental review is required.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City declares that the City's Local Road Safety Plan and resulting program be adopted as the City's commitment to Vision Zero as the citywide guiding principle for transportation planning, the design of streets and sidewalks, and the maintenance of the public rights-of-way.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City shall plan and design its transportation system with the overriding goal of eliminating fatalities and serious injuries among all system users; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council directs City staff to consider safety as the highest priority when balancing competing needs and demands for space within the public right of way; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City shall convene a Vision Zero Task Force, to include City staff representing all City departments; the Los Angeles Sherriff Department; and the Los Angeles County Fire Department; which will be used to establish a shared understanding of the Vision Zero approach and integrate Vision Zero into all aspects of transportation planning, engineering, enforcement, and education; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the foregoing Recitals are true, correct and a substantive part of this Resolution.

Section 2. The City Council approved and adopted the Local Road Safety Plan; and Established a Vision Zero Policy.

Section 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this resolution and hereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

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PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 23rd day of August, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members: Dorris, Mann, Vice Mayor Crist, Mayor Parris

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Council Member Malhi

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

DocuSigned by:
Andrea Alexander
ANDREA ALEXANDER
City Clerk
City of Lancaster

DocuSigned by:
R. Rizo Parris
RIZO PARRIS
Mayor
City of Lancaster

STATE OF CALIFORNIA }
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES }ss
CITY OF LANCASTER }

CERTIFICATION OF RESOLUTION
CITY COUNCIL

I, _____, _____ City of Lancaster, California, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution No. 22-48, for which the original is on file in my office.

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, on this _____ day of _____, _____.

(seal)
