

RESOLUTION NO. R-4-25

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING VISION ZERO AND THE LORAIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the life and health of all persons living and traveling within the City of Avon are our utmost priority, and no one should die or be seriously injured while traveling on our city streets;¹ and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is the concept that traffic deaths and serious injuries on our roadways are unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is a holistic strategy aimed at eliminating all traffic fatalities and severe injuries suffered by all road users while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all; and

WHEREAS, streets and transportation systems have traditionally been designed primarily to move cars efficiently, and Vision Zero supports a paradigm shift by designing streets and transportation systems to move all people safely, including people of all ages and abilities, pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit users, scooter riders, and motorcyclists, as well as drivers and passengers of motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero recognizes that people will sometimes make mistakes, so the road system and related policies should be designed to ensure that those inevitable mistakes do not result in severe injuries or fatalities; therefore, transportation planners and engineers and policymakers are expected to improve the roadway environment, policies, and other related systems to lessen the severity of crashes; and

WHEREAS, 108 people in Lorain County lost their lives to traffic deaths between 2018-2022, and traffic crashes are among the leading cause of deaths in the United States;² and

WHEREAS, Lorain County's transportation infrastructure serves an increasing number of vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and bicyclists; and

WHEREAS, according to the Lorain County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, pedestrians and bicyclists are involved in 1.4 percent (1.4%) of all Lorain County crashes, but 10.9 percent (10.9%) of fatal or serious injury crashes in Lorain County;³ and

WHEREAS, speed is recognized as a major determining factor of survival in a crash;⁴ and

WHEREAS, Lorain County is working toward reducing vehicle speeds because the likelihood of a pedestrian surviving a crash is 10 percent if hit by a vehicle moving at 40 mph;⁵ 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 fatalities;⁶ 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 supports a healthier, more active lifestyle and reduces environmental pollution; and

WHEREAS, successful Vision Zero programs are a result of both a complete government approach (i.e., interdepartmental, coordinated initiatives) and community support of Vision Zero objectives and the Lorain County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero resolutions have been adopted by many jurisdictions across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City of Avon has already adopted other pedestrian safety related policies and programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AVON, LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO:

Section 1 - That the City of Avon hereby adopts the goal of zero traffic deaths and serious injuries, stating that no loss of life or serious injury is acceptable on our streets.

Section 2 – That the City of Avon also adopts the goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2040 and endorses Vision Zero as a comprehensive and holistic approach to achieving this goal.

Section 3 - That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 4 - That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Avon, the immediate emergency being the necessity to adopt the Vision Zero and the Lorain County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan as submitted by Lorain County Public Health as soon as practical; therefore, this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED: _____

DATE SIGNED: _____

By: _____
Brian Fischer, Council President

DATE APPROVED BY THE MAYOR:

Bryan K. Jensen, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

John A. Gasior, Law Director

ATTEST:

Barbara Brooks, Clerk of Council

Posted: _____
Electronically and at City Hall as
Provided by Council

Prepared By:

John A. Gasior, Esq.
Law Director, City of Avon

REFERENCES

1. Resolution based on a model policy provided by Changelabs.org
2. Ohio Department of Transportation (n.d.). [Ohio Department of Transportation's web-mapping portal]. Retrieved from <https://gis.dot.state.oh.us/tims/Data/Download>
3. 10 leading causes of death, United States, 2020, both sexes, all ages, all races. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: wisqars.cdc.gov/data/lcd/home.
4. Institute of Transportation Engineers; Road to Zero Coalition; and RTZ Safe System Working Group. Safe System. Institute of Transportation Engineers website: ite.org/technical-resources/topics/safe-systems/.
5. Ferrier K. Landmark national study urges safety over speed. Vision Zero Network website: visionzeronetwork.org/safety-over-speed. July 25, 2017.
6. Fox J, Shahum L. *Vision Zero Equity Strategies for Practitioners*. Oakland, CA: Vision Zero Network; 2017.