

VISION ZERO RESOLUTION

Establishing a Vision Zero Policy to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries that are a result of crashes within Athens-Clarke County rights-of-way by 2037.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COMMISSION OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY:

WHEREAS, Athens-Clarke County experiences an entirely preventable loss of life annually due to traffic crashes, constituting a public health crisis, with an average of 13 people killed per year and an average of 56 seriously injured per year over the last 9 years; and

WHEREAS, 2021 ended with the highest recorded number of fatalities in a single year with a combined loss of life of 23 people with 5 pedestrian, 1 cyclist, and 17 vehicular fatalities and 2021 also ended with 50 serious injuries including 6 pedestrian, 2 cyclist, and 42 vehicular related crashes; and

WHEREAS, traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries are on the rise nationally and within Athens-Clarke County, the likelihood of fatal crashes has increased 200% from 2017 to 2021, exceeding that of the entire state of Georgia by 23.7 percent; and

WHEREAS, most traffic-related deaths and serious injuries stem from inadequate road and intersection designs, poor driver behavior, limited sight lines, and increasing traffic; and

WHEREAS, 75% of fatal and serious injuries in Athens-Clarke County occurred at intersections; and

WHEREAS, a commitment to Vision Zero is a commitment to life and equitable opportunity for people in Athens-Clarke County; and

WHEREAS, national data highlights the disproportionate rate of pedestrian fatalities among Black and Hispanic people, showing that they represent 31% of the total population yet 44% of pedestrian fatalities, while White people comprise 62% of the total population and 52% of pedestrian fatalities; 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, Athens-Clarke County has committed to prioritizing our most vulnerable roadway users by aiming to identify and address racial and socioeconomic inequalities in Athens; and

WHEREAS, the tenets of a Vision Zero commitment are supported in existing Athens-Clarke County plans and policies, including the Athens in Motion Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan, the Updated Complete Streets Policy, the Envision Athens Action Agenda, and the Athens-Clarke County Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, implementing a Vision Zero commitment will require support and contributions from a transdisciplinary group of stakeholders, including Athens-Clarke County Departments, administration, residents, business owners, and visitors to Athens-Clarke County, acting as individuals and collectively through neighborhood or advocacy organizations to improve the safety, comfort, and usability of City streets for all users; and

WHEREAS, Athens-Clarke County will join other leading cities around the nation and globe in their commitment to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries on our streets, work which has demonstrated success when coupled with adequate funding and staffing levels for its implementation and will carefully consider the successes and challenges in other cities implementing Vision Zero policies

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia:

Section 1: Athens-Clarke County commits to a goal of a 50% reduction in deaths and serious injuries that are a result of crashes on City streets by 2032 and a goal of zero deaths and serious injuries that are a result of crashes on City streets by 2037; and

Section 2: The Vision Zero Action Plan will put equity at its forefront, striving to impact the most vulnerable and dependent users of the most dangerous parts of the transportation network to improve the health and well-being of those traveling on streets in Athens-Clarke County and the plan will use data and community outreach to develop strategies for identifying hazards to persons walking, bicycling, using transit, and riding mobility devices; and

Section 3: Athens-Clarke County acknowledges that achieving this goal requires significant effort and resources, and will develop a Vision Zero Action Plan following the passage of this resolution. The Director of Transportation & Public Works or his designee will establish a comprehensive and inclusive Vision Zero Task Force to advance the Vision Zero commitment and guide the work of the Vision Zero Action Plan which will specifically engage members of the community,

Section 4: The Mayor and Commission hereby direct the Manager and ACCGov staff to support this resolution.

SO RESOLVED, this 2 day of August 2022.



Mayor Kelly Girtz

Attest: Jeanne Apelli
Clerk of Commission