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STAFF REPORT

Date: February 21, 2024

To: TRPA Governing Board

From: TRPA Staff

Subject: Presentation on the Vision Zero Strategy and possible recommendation for endorsement of the Vision Zero Strategy

Summary and Staff Recommendation:

Staff will present a summary of the final Vision Zero Strategy. Staff recommends endorsement of the 2024 Vision Zero Strategy with a resolution committing to a goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries by 2050. This timeline aligns with the Nevada Department of Transportation in their commitment to zero fatalities by 2050 and the California Department of Transportation in their commitment to zero fatalities and serious injuries by 2050.

Required Motions:

In order to adopt the resolution, the Board must make the following motion(s), based on the staff report:

- 1) A motion to endorse the 2024 Vision Zero Strategy, including a resolution committing to a goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries by 2050, as shown in Attachment A and Exhibit 1.

In order for the motion to pass, an affirmative vote of any eight members is required.

Project Description/Background:

The 2024 Vision Zero Strategy is a roadway safety plan, updated from the [2019 Lake Tahoe Region Safety Strategy](#). The strategy seeks to support and accelerate the achievement of the 2020 Linking Tahoe: Regional Transportation Plan (2020 RTP) safety goals and inform the upcoming Regional Transportation Plan update. Vision Zero is a strategy that seeks to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all. From 2013 to 2021, there were 41 fatalities and 183 life-changing serious injuries on Tahoe's roadways, according to latest crash data reported by state and local law enforcement agencies. TRPA has a role in achieving significant reductions in these numbers and improving the safety of our region through safety planning, stakeholder coordination, regional policies, and setting and reporting on federally mandated safety performance targets. A key aspect of Vision Zero and condition of funding eligibility is an official public commitment by the governing body to an eventual goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries with a timeline. Staff propose a goal of achieving zero fatalities and serious injuries on roadways in the Tahoe Basin by 2050, as shown in Attachment A.

To develop this strategy, staff evaluated the most recent nine years of complete crash data (2013 – 2021) available for the California and Nevada portions of the Tahoe Region. The strategy includes a

breakdown of crashes by year, month, weather, travel mode, lighting, crash types, and primary crash factors. TRPA also developed the [Lake Tahoe Crash Data Dashboard](#) as a tool for stakeholders and the public to view crash data trends easily and transparently. The data analysis informed the identified strategies, proposed policies, and a project list to help transportation partners across the Lake Tahoe Region improve safety for all road users. Thirty candidate locations were identified for future transportation safety improvements, based on crash data analysis, equity considerations, and a bicycle level of traffic stress analysis. From this list, eight locations were highlighted as regionally significant priority projects. Potential safety countermeasures, cost estimates, and equity analyses were developed for each of the eight priority projects.

Vision Zero emphasizes the importance of collaboration with local governments, state agencies, law enforcement, advocacy groups, and the public. The strategy development was guided by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with representatives from over twenty agencies, including state and local agencies, advocacy groups, fire departments, and law enforcement agencies. From April to September 2023, outreach in English and Spanish gathered input from more than 400 people at community events and 320 survey respondents.

The Vision Zero Strategy is meant to be a living document that will be used long after endorsement by the TRPA Governing Board. We will be updating crash data on the [Vision Zero Website](#) annually, with transparent reporting on progress towards reducing roadway fatalities and serious injuries. We will analyze safety metrics through annual federal performance measure reporting and in the Transportation Performance Report, which will be published every two years. We will also provide biennial updates to the Governing Board, with an opportunity for public input.

Policy Recommendations

The strategy looks at safety policies in the 2020 RTP and recommends minor revisions for consideration in the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan. The revisions are mostly tied to the updated Lake Tahoe Countermeasures Toolbox, to ensure the proven safety countermeasures are considered in the design of future projects and in corridor planning. The strategy also includes proposed policies from the Transportation Equity Study, unanimously endorsed by the Governing Board in July 2023. The strategy highlights proposed equity policies that elevate transportation safety for all.

Environmental Review:

Environmental review for the proposed projects will be completed on a project specific basis by the implementing agencies.

Public Comment:

The strategy was available for a 14-day public comment period from January 19th through February 2nd, during which 17 comments were received. The public and stakeholders were supportive of the strategy and efforts to make the roads safer for all road users. Comments received were primarily project specific. Based on comments, the final strategy includes an expanded section on the speed-related and driving under the influence crashes in Chapter 2.3: Analysis of Contributing Factors. The role of the Tahoe Transportation Implementation Committee was clarified in Chapter 1.2: TRPA's Role in Safety, and updates were made to the Lake Tahoe Countermeasures Toolbox (Appendix A), with the addition of driveway consolidation.

Contact Information:

For questions regarding this agenda item, please contact Rachael Shaw, Associate Transportation Planner, at (775) 589-5267 or rshaw@trpa.gov. To submit a written public comment, email publiccomment@trpa.gov with the appropriate agenda item in the subject line. Written comments received by 4 p.m. the day before a scheduled public meeting will be distributed and posted to the TRPA website before the meeting begins. TRPA does not guarantee written comments received after 4 p.m. the day before a meeting will be distributed and posted in time for the meeting.

Attachments:

- A. Resolution 2024-__
 - Exhibit 1 [2024 Vision Zero Strategy](#)

Attachment A
Resolution 2024-__

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY
TRPA RESOLUTION NO. 2024–

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE GOAL OF ACHIEVING ZERO FATALITIES AND SERIOUS INJURIES ON
ROADWAYS IN THE TAHOE BASIN BY 2050 AND ENDORSEMENT OF VISION ZERO TO
ACHIEVE THIS GOAL.

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, from 2013 to 2021, 41 people died and 183 suffered serious injuries on roads in the Tahoe Region; and

WHEREAS, a basic tenet of Vision Zero is that fatal and serious crashes are not inevitable, and death and serious injury are not an acceptable cost for using our public roadway system; and

WHEREAS, the Vision Zero Strategy provides a framework for reducing traffic deaths and serious injuries through a data-driven approach; and

WHEREAS, TRPA is dedicated to work with local and state jurisdictions to implement countermeasures and projects that aim to significantly reduce deaths and serious injuries on Tahoe roads; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero supports the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy goal of Safety; and

WHEREAS, a commitment to Vision Zero considers and supports equity, as low-income communities and communities of color carry a disproportionate burden of traffic-related injuries and fatalities in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the Tahoe Basin joins other regions, counties, and cities across the Nation in a commitment to Vision Zero, an evidence-backed approach with demonstrated success; and

WHEREAS, TRPA joins the Nevada Department of Transportation in their commitment to zero fatalities by 2050; and

WHEREAS, TRPA joins the California Department of Transportation in their commitment to zero fatalities and serious injuries by 2050;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Board of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency adopts a goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2050 and endorses the Vision Zero Strategy as an approach to achieving this goal.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency this ____ day of _____, 2023, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Nays:
Absent:

Cindy Gustafson, Chair
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
Governing Board

Attachment A
Exhibit 1 [2024 Vision Zero Strategy](#) (link)