

## SAN JOSÉ VISION ZERO TASK FORCE

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 23, 2021; 1.30 – 3.30 pm PST

#### Call to Order and Chairperson Report

The fifth Vision Zero Task Force Meeting was called to order on Thursday, September 23, 2021; 1.30 p.m. via Zoom.

#### Attendees

**Chair, CM Peralez (CD3)**

**Vice Chair, CM Foley (CD9)**

**City of San Jose, Dept of:**

**Transportation**

John Ristow, Director

Laura Wells, Assistant Director

Lily Lim-Tsao, Deputy Director

Jesse Mintz-Roth, VZ Program Manager

Lam Cruz, Traffic Safety Division Manager

Cordell Bailey, Transportation Specialist

Vu Dao, Senior Transportation Specialist

Thao Nguyen, Transportation Specialist

**Police**

Sgt. Doug Gates

**Fire**

Robert Sapien, Chief

**Public Works**

Michelle Kimball, Senior Engineer

**Housing**

Ragan Henninger, Deputy Director

**Planning, Building and Code**

Michael Brilliot

**Parks, Recreation, and Neighb. Services**

Neil Rufino, Assistant Director

**Economic Development**

Salvador Alvarez, Executive Analyst

**VTA**

Lauren Ledbetter, Senior Transportation Planner

Angelique Gaeta

**Santa Clara County, Dept of:**

**Roads and Airports**

Harry Freitas, Director

Ananth Prasad, Acting Deputy Director

Ellen Talbo

**Public Health**

Michelle Wexler, Health Care Program Manager

Rhonda McClinton-Brown

**Emergency Medical Service Agency**

Jackie Lowther, Director

**Education**

Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Superintendent of Schools

**Medical Examiner-Coroner's office:**

Josefina Covarrubias, Administrator

**California Walks**

Nikita Sinha, Walk San Jose Program Manager

Teresa Do

**Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition**

Diana Crumedy, Santa Clara County

**Advocate**

**AARP**

Joe Glynn

The Chairperson opened the meeting by acknowledging that there have been 25 traffic fatalities since the last meeting and the Chair, and the Vice Chair read out the names of the victims. CM Peralez explained the objectives of the Task Force meetings and the progress made.

Minutes of previous meeting have been posted on Vision Zero website.

## Reports / Updates

- **Quarterly Update on Vision Zero Key Metrics**
  - Acknowledge that these numbers are about people, neighbors, and families.
  - 18 pedestrian fatalities, which is higher than last two years at this point.
  - More fatalities on Priority Safety Corridors (PSC).
  - Monterey Road is getting more attention due to the 7 fatalities on it thus far.
  - Very high percentage of fatalities involved male drivers.
  - 31% fatalities due to speeding.
  
- **2020 Action Plan: Priority Action Area Update**
  1. Build Robust Data Analytics Tools
    - The Department of Transportation (DOT) hired Urban Logiq to build a data analytics dashboard, which will be ready in October for internal use. This will allow DOT engineers/decision makers to analyze data in greater depth than before.
    - Near miss pilot project planned for Monterey Road and Curtner Avenue/Tully Road with a company named Velodyne-BlueCity. Cameras will be installed at the location to add to the currently available data. This intersection was selected because of three fatalities that happened there in one year.
  
  2. Form a Vision Zero Task Force
    - This is the fifth Task Force meeting and the next three meetings are scheduled on
      - December 10, 2021
      - March 28, 2022
      - and June 30, 2022
    - Links to register for upcoming meetings will be available soon on [visionzerosj.org](http://visionzerosj.org) website and the City website.
  
  3. Strategize Traffic Enforcement
    - All staff in the division are vaccinated but continue to follow county restrictions
    - The citations that were issued have significantly increased.
    - There are two shifts:
      - One is the day shift, focused on morning commute and school hours
      - and the other is a modified swing shift, covering the evening commute and hours of darkness
  
  4. Increase Community Outreach and Engagement
    - Vision Zero Strategic Communications and Outreach with MIG will start soon.
    - Viva Escuela San Jose/School streets pilot: Reached out to 58 schools and the pilot project will be with two schools on the following dates. Depending on the success of the pilot project, this will be extended to other schools in future.
      - September 29 – Bachrodt Elementary
      - October 1 – Horrace Mann Elementary
    - A Safety Walk Audit Program at 8 different locations was conducted virtually with Fehr and Peers. This project was funded by California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) Grant.
  
  5. Implement Quick Build data-driven safety improvements
    - At Monterey Road and Curtner Avenue/Tully Road intersection, there have been 3 fatalities so far this year. In addition, two more fatalities occurred on Monterey Road further north of this intersection.
    - Three out of these five victims were unhoused as confirmed by the Medical Examiner-Coroner's office.
    - Discussions were done with different agencies in the Task Force, the council member and internal teams of DOT to come up with possible safety improvements.

- Median island fencing
  - Partnership with Housing to outreach unhoused population
  - Intersection safety redesign
  - Discussion about safety audit and outreach partnership with VTA
  - Signal timing operational improvements
  - Targeted outreach, safety education
  - Open to discussing further improvement possibilities with other partners.
6. Prioritize resources on high-KSI corridors and districts
- DOT started a City-wide Collision Review project involving DOT operations staff. Four teams were formed and will review the crashes related to these intersections and provide recommendations, most likely by end of 2021.
  - Senter Road Quick Build project was the first of the priority safety corridors to deliver safety redesigns using 2020 Vision Zero Action Plan Funds. Six miles of road improvements along Senter Road were implemented last year. This was done based on a complete street study that DOT worked with project stakeholders and communities to come up with a vision for the corridor.
- **Legislative Update**
    - AB 43 (Friedman) – Traffic Safety
      - Giving the flexibility to individual cities to lower speed limits in high injury and fatality streets as well as streets of vulnerable communities.
      - Waiting to get signed by the Governor.

#### **Task Force Member Discussion**

- Task Force Vice Chair, CM Pam Foley
  - Are the citation numbers given cumulative numbers, or for individual quarter?
    - The numbers are for individual quarter.
  - Details about school street pilot project:
    - 2-hour closure of in front of the school block to encourage walking and biking.
    - Only advertised to the school population.
    - Working with other organization to make this project possible.

#### **Meeting Presentations**

- Cordell Bailey from DOT and Steve Davis from Fehr and Peers
  - 8 locations for virtual walk audit.
  - Funded through the OTS grant.
  - The goal is to figure out opportunities for improvement after reviewing data and collecting community input.
  - Outreach: flyer, Nextdoor, Twitter, newsletter, mailers, etc.
  - Total of 200 participants for all 8 events. Curtner Avenue and Via Valiente had over 40 stakeholder participants.
  - Webmap available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese to collect feedback.
  - Largest themes are speeding, visibility, driver behavior, and pedestrian safety.
  - Next steps: grant funding or other funding opportunities, quick build opportunities.

#### **Task Force Member Discussion**

- Michael Brilliot, Planning, Building and Code
  - Are traffic circles considered?
    - It depends on the context. Traffic circles and curb extensions are considered.
  - Can these improvements become permanent?

- With quick build, we can implement quicker with lower cost materials than permanent infrastructure. DOT will do a post project evaluation to see if the project performs as desired, and then apply for funding to build capitol projects.
- Councilmember Peralez
  - What kind of safety work on County expressways, particularly the ones that are PSC?
    - Harry Freitas, Director of Roads and Airports
      - Capitol Expressway is a big concern, particularly through Seven Trees area. Because of long distance between traffic signals, there are a lot of crossings that are unprotected. The County is interested in how the median fencing at Monterey works.
      - The County is working on an Active Transportation Plan.
      - Bascom Avenue is a good example of roadways that will require a lot of coordination with different jurisdictions.
      - Signal timing: pedestrian sensors help people with mobility impairment.
    - Ananth Prasad, Acting Deputy Director of Roads and Airports
      - Collision data from Crossroads
      - Looking at trends, reviewing in enforcement.
      - At some locations, pedestrians still cross the streets that have median island fencing.
      - Might need to include pedestrian and bicycle education
      - Signal timing: Pedestrian sensors were installed at most of the expressway intersections.
  - What kind of safety review work VTA does for intersections?
    - Angelique Gaeta, VTA
      - Comprehensive study for both traffic impact and safety.
      - Look at pedestrian channeling, pedestrian safety, bus safety, vehicle safety, bus pads, etc.
      - Re-evaluate if seeing high number of incidents.
      - Look at trends to determine if any improvements needed from VTA or the cities, such as lighting, tree trimming, etc.
    - Lauren Ledbetter, VTA
      - The 8 locations overlapped nicely with the areas VTA identified as priority areas for pedestrian.
- Joe Glynn, AARP
  - Interested in seeing the results from the data: to what extent older adults either contribute to the problems or be the victims.

### Open Forum

- Dial in caller
  - Disappointed in PD for concentrating on traffic citations and not enough investment on engineering our roads.
- Tessa Woodmansee
  - Suggested investing more in engineering our roads for safety.
  - Brought up issues on Stockton Avenue.
  - Suggested focusing more on pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- B. Beekman
  - Suggested the practice of open democracy for data collection.
  - Appreciated data about unhoused population.

- Gina LaBlanc
  - Gina's son, Kyle, died in 2016.
  - Excited about the changes coming at Monterey Road and Curtner Avenue, but sad about how long it takes.
  - Excited about school streets.
- Mollie McLeod
  - Mother of traffic victim (pedestrian) in 2018.
  - Addressed concerns about outreach not including accessibility.
- Paul Soto
  - Suggested including demographic information such as race and income level.
- Robin Roemer
  - Appreciate the City's effort on improving streets
- Jason H.
  - Concerns about digital billboards
  - Appreciate pedestrian sensors

#### **New Business / Updates / Future Action Items**

- Next Task Force meeting on December 10, 2021 at 9 a.m.
- The following task force meeting is on March 28, 2022
- T&E meeting – in November 2021 for updates

#### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3.26 p.m.