

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE ENDORSING A VISION ZERO GOAL TO ELIMINATE TRAFFIC DEATHS AND SERIOUS INJURIES ON KNOXVILLE STREETS AND ENDORSING ENGAGEMENT OF A WORKING GROUP OF PARTNERS TO DEVELOP A VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN THAT ADVANCES THIS GOAL THROUGH ENGINEERING, EDUCATION, AND ENFORCEMENT

RESOLUTION NO: _____

REQUESTED BY: Councilmembers Thomas, Rider, Smith, Fugate, Singh, Testerman and Vice Mayor McKenzie

PREPARED BY: _____

APPROVED: _____

APPROVED AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE: _____

MINUTE BOOK: _____ PAGE _____

WHEREAS, the City of Knoxville works to provide for a comprehensive and integrated street network that accommodates all users and modes, as demonstrated through the Complete Streets Policy, the Bicycle Facilities Plan, the Knoxville Sidewalk Study, and local funding of over \$43 million since Fiscal Year 2018 for numerous capital projects; and

WHEREAS, the City of Knoxville supports infrastructure and programming that advances Knoxville as a community where walking, biking, and using transit are safe, convenient, and desirable modes of transportation for residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor’s Climate Council has identified that expansion and improvement of bicycle and pedestrian facilities to enhance connectivity, convenience, or safety is a high impact practice that supports reduced greenhouse gas pollution in the City of Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, the Equity Working Group of the Mayor’s Climate Council recognizes that alternative transportation infrastructure improvements are likely to advance equity outcomes for diverse groups when they address safety concerns facing lower-income residents, improve accessibility for persons with disabilities, and increase connectivity with schools and other critical resources; and

WHEREAS, the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) has collected and analyzed Knoxville Police Department traffic collision data to target high collision corridors and intersections; and

WHEREAS, from 2016 through 2020, 1,534 traffic crashes in Knoxville caused either a fatality or serious injury, with an average of 34 fatal crashes taking place each year in the City; and

WHEREAS, 161– or 10.5% – of these crashes involved pedestrians and cyclists, who are especially vulnerable to fatality or serious injury as a result of a crash; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero provides a framework for reducing traffic deaths and serious injuries to zero, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all; and

WHEREAS, a commitment to Vision Zero is a commitment to life and equitable opportunity for all people in the City of Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero aligns with the City’s focus on safety as a primary objective for our multimodal transportation system, recognizing that collisions resulting in death or severe injury can be prevented through an analytical and systemic approach to street planning, design, policy, enforcement, legal processes, education and communication; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero strategies utilize data to prioritize solutions that address high-injury corridors and intersections and the most dangerous traffic violations; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero strategies prioritize equitable treatment of all citizens and include input from low income communities, communities of color, and community leadership in the development and implementation of plans, policies, and programs; and

WHEREAS, achieving a Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries requires the continued support and engagement of residents, business owners, and visitors—acting as individuals and collectively—to protect and improve the safety, comfort, and usability of City streets for all users; and

WHEREAS, to advance the Vision Zero goal, Mayor Indya Kincannon intends to convene a working group of stakeholders to work with the City administration to develop a Vision Zero Action Plan that outlines strategies, targets, and timelines to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries through collaborative engineering, enforcement, education, and policy-based efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE:

SECTION 1: The Council of the City of Knoxville hereby endorses the Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries on Knoxville streets, with an emphasis on protecting the most vulnerable users of local transportation systems.

SECTION 2: The Council of the City of Knoxville hereby endorses the Mayor’s commitment to, within 120 days of the passage of this Resolution, convene a working group comprised of City departments, residents, organizations, agencies, and other

stakeholders to provide input to the development of a Vision Zero Action Plan that outlines strategies, targets, and timelines to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries through collaborative engineering, enforcement, education, and policy-based efforts.

SECTION 3: The Mayor is requested to engage all relevant City departments in supporting the development and implementation of the Vision Zero Action Plan, with recognition that many other community stakeholders and partners will also have important roles to play.

SECTION 4: This Resolution shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Presiding Officer of the Council

City Recorder