



Massachusetts Vision Zero Coalition releases third Boston Vision Zero progress report

By [Web](#), 2019/04/18

The Massachusetts Vision Zero Coalition releases its third annual Progress Report assessing the City of Boston's implementation of its Vision Zero Action Plan. This Report evaluates the City's performance thus far and provides policy recommendations for how Mayor Walsh and the City Council can commit to safer streets in Boston. The complete Progress Report may be reviewed online now: http://www.visionzerocoalition.org/2018_progress_report

Ten people were killed in traffic crashes on streets in Boston in 2018, which is down from 21 fatalities in 2016. Although this is a measurable decrease in fatal crashes, the total number of crashes requiring EMS response has increased over this same time period, with more than 4,367 total injury crashes in 2018.

"The drop in fatalities is a promising shift, but it's important to acknowledge that any crash can be a life-altering experience, so we must continue to focus on strategies that reduce the overall number of injury crashes on our streets," said Stacy Thompson, executive director of LivableStreets. "We believe that the City can achieve their stated goal of having zero traffic fatalities by 2030, and set an example for other cities in the United States."

In his administration's transportation funding budget for FY19, Mayor Walsh made a significant increase in staffing and project funding for Vision Zero and sustainable transportation. The Report finds that the increased staff capacity and funding heighten the need for strong inter-departmental collaboration, and the Coalition recommends that relevant departments develop clear organizational structures and a system of accountability for sharing data and other collaboration.

"The investments made last year were a significant first step. However, in order for these resources to be used as effectively as possible, we would like to see increased cohesion across and within all departments relevant to Vision Zero," said WalkBoston Executive Director Wendy Landman. "With the impending departure of the Transportation Commissioner and the Public

Works commissioner position still vacant, now is the time to more fully integrate the operations and policies of the Public Works and Transportation Departments.”

The Report also calls for the City to release an updated Vision Zero Action Plan to ensure the City is on track with its 2030 goals. This Action Plan should include indicators of success and specific action items, each of which have a clear timeline, benchmarks for tracking progress, and a lead department or team, and should be updated regularly to ensure the plan is a living document. This foundational document will help the City to incrementally realize projects year by year in a manner that prioritizes equitable investments in Boston’s streets and residents.

“The City has made important progress, but the fact that bicyclist crashes have continued to rise, even as pedestrian crashes have fallen, is evidence that we need to scale up safe infrastructure at a faster rate in order to make an impact on the number of crashes happening in our city every day,” said Becca Wolfson, executive director of the Boston Cyclists Union. “We look forward to working with the City over the coming year to ensure that the benefits of Vision Zero initiatives reach everyone in Boston.”

Other policy recommendations from the Progress Report include:

- Hire a full-time Boston Police data analyst to clean up crash report data, investigate trends, and work closely with the Transportation Department, Boston EMS, and MassDOT to ensure Boston’s crash data is properly reported.
- Create a comprehensive map of completed and ongoing projects with clear benchmarks to track progress through the “zero” goal year of 2030.
- Hold all departments accountable to the guidelines of Vision Zero when completing tasks and projects on the street and clearly communicate to the public which department(s) are responsible for which projects.
- Report annual progress against the goals of the Action Plan. The City’s Action Plan should also be updated regularly with specific goals that have a built-in timeline with benchmarks for tracking progress.
- Pass a resolution by the City Council supporting S.1376 and push the agenda on the topic of automated enforcement in the City of Boston.
- Ensure that priority corridor projects in low-income neighborhoods, communities of color, and Environmental Justice communities are implemented with equal quality and speed as they are in wealthier neighborhoods.
- Develop a policy around mandating safer trucks through development permits and contracts, publishing which city-contracted trucks have installed side guards to demonstrate accountability around enforcement, and working towards adoption of high-visibility truck cabs.
- Develop a Vision Zero training manual to share with key stakeholders and require Vision Zero training for City staff and contractors to ensure that their public messaging and actions align with the City’s Vision Zero commitment.

- Ensure that Vision Zero principles are well-integrated into the Police Department, and that all officers are trained and aware of the Vision Zero program.

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The complete Vision Zero Progress Report is available online:

http://www.visionzerocoalition.org/2018_progress_report

The **Massachusetts Vision Zero Coalition** advocates for the implementation of Vision Zero in Boston and for the adoption of Vision Zero throughout Massachusetts. The new and growing coalition includes community-based organizations, nonprofits, businesses, civic groups and individuals representing communities across the state. <http://visionzerocoalition.org/>

The **Boston Cyclists Union** is helping Bostonians lead healthier lives by promoting the everyday use of the bicycle for transportation. Among other things, they repair bikes, educate new riders, and organize neighborhood residents who would like to voice support for friendlier street designs, bike paths, and public spaces. <http://bostoncyclistsunion.org>

LivableStreets Alliance is an advocacy organization working to create a world where streets are safe, vibrant public spaces that connect people to the places where they live, work and play. LivableStreets advocates for innovative and equitable transportation solutions that create safe, affordable and convenient options for everyone in Metro Boston. <http://www.livablestreets.info>

WalkBoston makes walking safer and easier in Massachusetts to encourage better health, a cleaner environment and more vibrant communities. <http://walkboston.org>

Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. <http://visionzeronetwork.org>