



- MINUTES -
VISION ZERO ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 Sonny West Conference Center

February 29, 2024

ATTENDEES

COMMITTEE

Hannah Sasscer, Jeremiah Wooten, Wesley Smith, Joy Andal, Christine Irizarry, Ben Hubert, Shandira Edgecombe, and Katherine McDonell

STAFF

Guneet Saini, Piro Meleby, Anna Dearman, Justin Cole, Val Martinez, and Madison Fitzgibbon

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Peter Robison, Christopher Sandwith, Phillip Peck, Chris Bowe, Amanda Key, Carmen Jones, and Nicole Abernathy

1. Call to Order

- The February 29, 2024, meeting of the Vision Zero Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:00 PM by Vice-Chair Hannah Sasscer.

2. Roll Call

- Present: Vice-Chair Hannah Sasscer, Jeremiah Wooten, Wesley Smith, Joy Andal, Christine Irizarry, Ben Hubert, Shandira Edgecombe, and Katherine McDonell
- Absent: Chair Peter Robison, Christopher Sandwith, Phillip Peck, Chris Bowe, Amanda Key, Carmen Jones, and Nicole Abernathy

3. Approval of Minutes

- January minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Public Comment

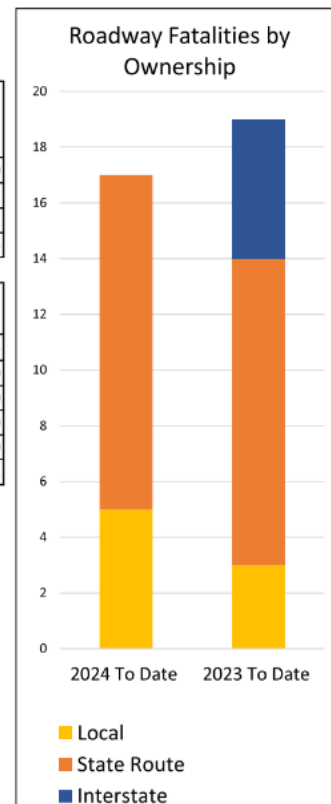
- Ms. Andal stated Mr. Brown was sick and therefore unable to speak at this meeting. There was no public comment at this time.

5. Fatal Crash Statistics Update

2023 Roadway Fatalities To Date

By Ownership	2024 To Date	2023 To Date	Change (%)	January
Interstate	0	5	-100%	0
State Route	12	11	9%	3
Local	5	3	67%	1
Total	17	19	-11%	4

NDOT Jurisdiction (Local + State Route)	2024 To Date	2023 To Date	Change (%)	January
Vehicle	12	4	200%	4
Pedestrian	4	6	-33%	0
Motorcycle	0	1	-100%	0
Bicycle	0	0	#DIV/0!	0
Single Vehicle	1	3	-67%	0
Total	17	14	21%	4



- Mr. Meleby presented Davidson Motorcycle crash trends to the group per their request during the last meeting.
- Mr. Hubert asked if there were any ideas regarding the reason of these trends in motorcyclist crashes.
 - Mr. Meleby stated it would require a deeper dive into the data to have a true understanding of the why.
 - Ms. Saini went over some of the additional statistics to help understand some of the additional risk factors that motorcyclists endure. It can be concluded that speed and lower visibility are two of the main contributing factors.
- Mr. Smith asked about the data pool set for the statistics presented.
 - Ms. Saini responded that the data set represents fatal crashes that have occurred since 2015.
- Mr. Meleby then presented on the fatal crash statistics for the month. There have been 17 fatal crashes year to date. All 17 have occurred on state or local roads. There have been 12 multi-vehicle, 4 pedestrians, and 1 single vehicle fatal crashes.
- Mr. Meleby then showed the mapped locations of the 4 fatal crashes that occurred in January.
 - Risk factors involved in the North Gallatin crash included traffic control. There is a possibility that the two vehicles involved ran the red lights. This was a hit and run occurrence and MNPD is still investigating.
 - Risk factors involved in the west location near Old Hickory Boulevard included speeding, curve radius, bad weather conditions of rain/snow, and lack of seatbelt.
 - Ms. Irizarry stated she was recently driving near this location and noted the lines on the road are very difficult to see when coming eastbound from highway 100.
 - Mr. Meleby asked Ms. Irizarry to submit a Hub ticket for this location so the NDOT team can address accordingly. He also added pictures are very helpful when submitting tickets.
 - Risk factors involved in the Harding Place crash included traffic control. The crash involved two turning vehicles, but there are conflicting reports, so it is hard to determine what happened. NDOT is considering signal improvements at this location as a short-term solution as Harding Place is on the high injury network.
 - Ms. Saini added NDOT recently conducted their walk to school day at this location and she witness someone almost get hit. Harding Place has a high number of fatal crashes and near misses. NDOT is almost done with the safety study for this location, and they are going to start implementing soon due to these high numbers. This is a very large intersection with very high speeds making it very stressful to cross. NDOT is going to start implementing short term solutions in the meantime while they work towards a larger transformative project.
 - Ms. Edgecombe asked if they have considered changing the flow of this road to help reduce speeds. She added the lack of visibility coming over the hill is a big issue with this location. She suggested the staggering of lights might help slow the speed of this road.
 - Mr. Hubert added the Planning and Engineering Subcommittee just had a meeting on this road and encourage the rest of the committee to look at the notes from this meeting.
 - Mr. Wooten asked if they are considering adding medians to Harding. He added that medians were recently added on Antioch, and he does not recall seeing any crashes since this addition. He asked if NDOT has any data on this.
 - Ms. Saini stated we need to start looking at where we have done vision zero project and collecting data from these locations to be able to determine if it was a successful project or not. NDOT has recently hired a data analyst and hopefully this position will be able to help us better track these results.
 - Risk factors involved in the Old Murfreesboro Road crash included alcohol and failing to maintain lane. NDOT is looking into potential improvements along this corridor but not at this specific location other than potential lighting improvements.
 - Mr. Wooten stated there is no need for Old Murfreesboro Road to be continuous. He added he sees people trying to cut around school traffic and does not feel this needs to be a road for traffic to flow through.
 - Mr. Meleby stated this is an industrial area that both trucks and residential vehicles use so it may not be feasible to cut off through traffic, but they can investigate this request.
- Mr. Meleby stated they have recently received some additional funding to be used towards quick build projects. They have a consultant working on design recommendations and will be implementing in batches. Signage and delineation will be the initial focus and will shift to striping once weather allows.

6. Items to be Considered

a) 21st and 22nd Ave Multimodal Improvements

- Ms. Dearman presented the plans to change 21st and 22nd Ave from one way to two-way traffic in efforts to increase emergency access and multimodal safety in this heavily medical area of Nashville.
- The plan is to focus transit on 20th and allow for bikeways on 21st Ave. They are not looking to acquire any right of way causing the bikeway facilities to be minimal, but they will likely be able to reduce posted signs to 25 mph in this area.
- They have completed a traffic analysis and have 100% design plans. Not sure if they will be able to move to construction this year due to budget constraints but they are working with Ascension hospital to try and fund in phases.
- Ms. Dearman then shared the plans with the committee. She noted the plans have changed slightly since being posted.
- Ms. Irizarry asked if these roads were ever open to two-way traffic. She asked why these roads are only one way traffic.
 - Ms. Dearman stated she is not sure. She added there is a history of disjointed one way and two-way traffic configurations. The city does not have the typical block grid one way system that most cities do.
- Ms. Irizarry asked if the slip lane will be staying on 21st Ave and Church. She added she used to bike in this area and would have to be very careful when going down 24th as to watch for those entering and existing garages. Her concern is you may run into a similar issue once shifting to two-way traffic as you are now going to have vehicles in all directions. She then asked if Ascension encourages other modes of transportation like how Vanderbilt does. Vanderbilt also hired people to allow

cars to enter and exit the garages, Ascension might want to follow this practice. Overall if you can slow the speeds, it should be okay but if the speeds are unable to be lowered it could create a lot of conflict.

- Ms. Dearman agreed that traffic calming will be critical for the area since they are not reducing conflict points. She added travel demand management would also be important when introducing these plans.
- Mr. Wooten asked if they have looked at the Graduate hotel valet lane conflict yet.
 - Ms. Dearman stated they have, and they will just need to change their circulation.
- Mr. Wooten also asked if about some existing parking that is on 21st Ave closer to Charlotte Ave. He asked what the plan would be to ensure people don't park here once it is transformed into a bike lane.
 - Ms. Dearman responded that outside of typical signage they haven't thought too much about what the plan is in areas that are too constrained to delineate. Our leadership team may need to relocate some metered parking as a result. She added some of the street parking is construction related.
- Ms. Irizarry stated it is currently pretty bikeable between Charlotte Ave and West End Ave. 23rd Ave is pretty good as well, but the area is just lacking connection.
 - Ms. Dearman stated NDOT has recently kicked off a study to review a cluster of bike lanes to try and connect them.
- Ms. McDonnell asked if signal adjustments, such as LPIs and no right turn on red been considered in these plans.
 - Ms. Dearman stated that since we are moving to two-way traffic, all the signals will have to be re-done. This allows for the opportunity to review bike and pedestrian movements as well.
 - Ms. Andal added that she is still advocating for red arrows and no turn on red like they have in cities like Atlanta.
 - Ms. Dearman stated that the downtown signal project is not red arrows, it is a step in that direction.

b) Complete Streets Guidelines

- Mr. Cole presented the complete street guidelines to the committee as they will be ready to launch and implementing in the next month or so. These guidelines are geared towards process.
- Ms. Andal asked a question on who is supposed to be adding the sidewalks in the system to improve the walking score.
 - Mr. Cole stated that he is not sure who is responsible for this, but he can investigate it. He added most of these online applications are harvesting publicly available data sets.

c) Safe Routes to School and School Zone Traffic Calming Update

- Ms. Saini presented an update on the safe routes to school program and stated there are 50 crossing guard vacancies that they are hoping to help get filled for the schools.
- Mr. Hubert asked how the committee can get involved in helping. He also asked what is physically going to happen in the next 6 months.
 - Ms. Saini stated the best involvement would be in encouragement, education, and evaluation. By becoming a champion for your neighborhood this will help push things along. Traffic calming and engineering measures are what can be expected to physically take place in the next 6 months or so.
- Ms. Irizarry asked if they have a plan on how to fill the vacant positions.
 - Ms. Saini stated they often divert resources based on the highest numbers of students walking. NDOT offered funding to help fill these positions, but they need manual resources. This will require a more encouragement approach.
 - Vice-Chair Sasscer asked if Ms. Saini could share with the committee where people can apply for these crossing guard positions as to help get the word out to which Ms. Saini stated she would.
- Ms. Saini then presented an update on the school zone traffic calming project. All 51 schools that have been selected are located on the high injury network.
- Ms. Saini then shared tentative traffic calming plans for some of the schools. They will be installing speed cushions in all locations near schools as feasible and will look to highlight the school zone with signage and marking where speed cushions cannot be installed. They have not yet met with the school so plans could change based on their feedback.
- Ms. Andal asked about a specific school not on the list, but it was determined it was not a MNPS school.
- Ms. Smith shared some comments regarding the MEGS school as he works over in this area. He stated that a lot of kids cross on Main St. and wait over near the Turnip Truck. He added while traffic control to the school is great, they might want to consider some additional improvements surrounding the area due to the number of kids that cross. He added the flashing light that is on Main St west of 7th is not very visible to drivers.
 - Ms. Saini stated Main St. is also receiving a complete street project. They are focusing on the streets next to the school to maximize funding for these projects.

d) Bus Stop Crossing Safety and Speed Studies

- Item was deferred due to time.

7. New Discussion

- Mr. Hubert stated he is currently working on putting together a Tactical Urbanism with some fellow teachers. He asked if him and Ms. Saini could have a follow up conversation after the meeting. He added we were presented a new Tactical Urbanism booklet several meetings back but want to know how this new process is going.
 - Ms. Saini added that the program is currently accepting applications that are not seeking additional funding. She added there have been some procurement challenges surrounding the designated surplus funding, but they are planning to release the request for applications soon.

8. Communications

a) Reports from Vision Zero Advisory Committee Members and Subcommittees

• **New Member Subcommittee**

- Ms. Edgcombe stated they will need to meet once the application date has closed to select new members prior to their next March meeting. She also wanted to confirm that the previous applications are still on file.
- Ms. Saini stated all applications stay on for 3 cycles. The applications from the original selection are already uploaded and the committee can review now, but they are still receiving new applications. She added the whole committee may need to chime in to select the new members. Ms. Andal, Mr. Peck, Mr. Sandwith, and Ms. McDonell will be rolling off.
- Ms. Saini recommends the group call a special 30-minute virtual meeting ahead of next March meeting to determine the voting of the new members. March 8th is the new member application deadline and Ms. Saini should have the application compiled by March 12th for the committee to review.
 - Ms. Edgcombe suggest the committee meet 1 week from the application deadline to vote. The committee should be planning for meeting the week of the 19th to vote on new members.
 - Ms. Edgcombe also asked if anyone on the committee is interested in joining the new member subcommittee. She also pointed out the new member subcommittee and strategic planning subcommittee will be losing their chair when these members officially role of in March.

• **Planning and Engineering Subcommittee**

- Mr. Hubert stated they spent most of their meeting time going over the Gallatin and Hart Lane projects. The presentation from the meeting is in the SharePoint if the team would like to review.
- Hart to Briley is getting paved first as the funding is coming from paving. Ms. Saini has forward along the comments received during the subcommittee meeting to the consultant. They will try to incorporate as many of these suggestions as possible with the understanding that beautification would come secondary to safety concerns.

• **Fatal Crash Investigation Subcommittee**

- Vice-Chair Sasscer stated the subcommittee is concerned about Lafayette Ave, but they will hold their comments until next month when these crashes can be further reviewed.
- Mr. Smith added they were informed they will be starting with Dickerson, Lafayette, and Rosa Park first with the LED conversion. Ms. Saini stated Dickerson is already complete and encouraged the committee to check these out.
 - Ms. Saini also added they need to start monitoring nighttime crashes here to evaluate these improvements.

• **Strategic Planning Subcommittee**

- Mr. Smith stated from his understanding the liaison would be from the BPAC to this group. Ms. McDonnell is happy to serve as this liaison if nominated to the BPAC.
- Mr. Smith suggest adding an official item to the next agenda to vote on absolving this subcommittee since the BPAC should be officially established come April.

• **Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee Subcommittee**

b) Report from director and staff

- There were no additional reports at this time.

9. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.