



February 7, 2017

**Los Angeles City Council  
Transportation Committee**

City Hall, Room 1010  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Via email to: [adam.lid@lacity.org](mailto:adam.lid@lacity.org)

Transportation Committee  
Councilmember Mike Bonin, Chair  
Councilmember Paul Koretz  
Councilmember Jose Huizar  
Councilmember Nury Martinez  
Councilmember David E. Ryu

**Re: Los Angeles Vision Zero Action Plan, Item Number 15-0546-S3**

Dear Los Angeles City Council Transportation Committee Members:

On Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) released the Vision Zero Action Plan. The plan outlines the City's strategy to reduce traffic deaths by 20 percent by the end of 2017, with the ultimate goal of eliminating traffic fatalities by 2025.

The Action Plan serves as a critical step to ensuring that the Vision Zero initiative remains grounded in transparency, accountability, and evaluation. It also represents the City's commitment to protecting the safety of all road users. The Los Angeles Vision Zero Alliance applauds LADOT for its efforts in completing the Action Plan, which reflects extensive coordination among multiple agencies and organizations. We particularly appreciate the department's ongoing commitment to engaging with and being accessible to the Vision Zero Alliance throughout the development of the Action Plan.

However, we remain unsatisfied with a number of elements of the plan. **Our primary concerns relate to enforcement, data transparency, and community engagement.** Additionally, we are worried by the lack of attention paid to **speed** and to the weak commitment in **funding**.

In the Action Plan, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) commits to adhere to unbiased policing in its enforcement efforts. However, the Alliance believes this does not go beyond the status

quo of current policing procedure nor does it address the historic and current impacts of racial profiling in the communities that the Action Plans strives to serve. Nearly half of the streets on the High-Injury Network are neighborhoods with a greater percentage of people of color, immigrants, or low-income families. In addition, a disproportionate number of serious and fatal collisions take place in Central and South Los Angeles. Individuals in these communities are exposed to over-policing on their streets and experience higher rates of violent interactions, some of which have resulted in the untimely deaths of Black residents, by the hands of our City's law enforcement agency.

Vision Zero's enforcement strategies should not and cannot be a mechanism that justifies the over-policing of communities of color. **The City and LAPD should publicly acknowledge the existing problem with racial bias in policing in order to identify any solutions.** By adopting a "no profiling" pledge, as Portland did in its Vision Zero Action Plan, LAPD can increase accountability to the public through measurable standards and regular independent monitoring. **In addition, the Vision Zero Task Force should confront and implement any policy discussion or change around traffic-related enforcement in the city of Los Angeles with concrete steps – such as establishing a meaningful community engagement plan – to mitigate and prevent continued marginalization of communities by virtue of race and socioeconomic status.**

Data collection and analysis is another critical component of Vision Zero, allowing City agencies to better understand the problem of traffic crashes, prioritize intervention locations, and prioritize appropriate resources. Data also serves as a clear indicator of progress, and provides a metric by which to gauge the success of engineering, education, and enforcement efforts. In order to hold City agencies accountable to their stated goals, particularly LAPD's "unbiased policing" efforts, data must be publicly and easily accessible, easy to understand, and routinely updated.

**The Alliance understands that LAPD is working to improve its data reporting, but asks that it provides a clear timeline of its system update.** We are interested to know when the public can expect to find clear, comprehensive, up-to-date traffic citation data available online from each LAPD division. The data should include demographic and modal information and should, among all citation data, highlight the number of citations issued for the five most fatal moving violations. LAPD can look to the San Francisco Police Department's City Performance Scorecards for examples of clear, easy-to-understand "Focus on the Five" data reporting.

Meaningful community engagement, another crucial piece of Vision Zero, will ensure the success and sustainability of the City's efforts. Community engagement increases a program's influence, broadens its support base, and helps to leverage resources and specialized expertise within the community. Although the Action Plan incorporates much of the language included in the Alliance's list of early actions and feedback, it still lacks in commitment.

The City still needs to conduct robust, culturally competent, and linguistically appropriate community engagement around the entire Vision Zero initiative and specific projects. As before, the Alliance remains disappointed by the lack of specific actions and measurable benchmarks. **The Vision Zero Task Force should develop and publicly share a timeline with concrete goals and strategies for meaningful community engagement.** As a model, the City can look to New York's Vision Zero Action Plan for ways to engage with and educate communities.

We have additional concerns regarding speed and funding. Despite vehicle speed being a primary predictor of crash severity, the Action Plan lacks a bold and coherent strategy to manage it. We appreciate that the City intends to "consider legislation on automated speed

enforcement” in 2017, but **would like to see a more comprehensive set of actions to address local control of speed limits and the implementation of engineering projects specifically intended to slow traffic.** We are also displeased with the low level of funding allocated to Vision Zero projects this year. **A serious commitment to ending deaths and severe injuries on Los Angeles streets demands serious funding.** Only with a realistic investment in robust engineering projects, education, engagement, and enforcement will Los Angeles ever realize Vision Zero.

In the interest of saving the lives of families, friends, and neighbors, Vision Zero encourages and necessitates that cities and public agencies reject the status quo and embrace change. We are excited for the opportunity to support this ambitious culture shift and to move from vision to reality. The Alliance will continue working with its members and communities to educate elected officials and City staff as we push for creating a more equitable and transparent Vision Zero.

For any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Emilia Crotty at [emilia@losangeleswalks.org](mailto:emilia@losangeleswalks.org) or (508) 916-7863.

Sincerely,

Los Angeles Walks	Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition
Multicultural Communities for Mobility	Advancement Project
AARP	APIOPA
Urban Peace Institute	Youth Policy Institute
CICLE	PALS for Health
Safe Routes to School National Partnership	T.R.U.S.T. South LA
Healthy Active Streets	Investing in Place
Proyecto Pastoral	SAFE
Bicycle Advisory Committee	Communities Actively Living Independent and Free

Cc: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti  
Seleta Reynolds, General Manager, LADOT  
Charlie Beck, Chief of Police, LAPD  
Nat Gale, Principal Project Coordinator, LADOT  
Diego de la Garza, Federal Liaison, Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti  
Daniel Rodman, Transportation Analyst, Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti

## **About Vision Zero**

Vision Zero is a worldwide movement, started in Sweden, to eliminate all traffic deaths. While traditional traffic safety campaigns have focused on changing human behavior to reduce the risk of collisions, Vision Zero takes a fundamentally different approach by instead putting the responsibility on government to manage the streets using evidence-based strategies to prevent fatalities and serious injuries. Vision Zero is data-driven, outcome-focused, and collaborative across agencies and departments.

## **About the Los Angeles Vision Zero Alliance**

The Los Angeles Vision Zero Alliance (LA0) is a strong and diverse constituency working in partnership with the City of Los Angeles to end all traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2025. LA0 leverages each participating organization's unique strengths to develop a united constituency for safe and equitable streets. LA0 coordinates citywide communications strategy, conducts policy advocacy and engages in grassroots organizing to galvanize support for neighborhood implementation of Vision Zero projects.

For more information or to pledge your support, go to [www.visionzeroalliance.org](http://www.visionzeroalliance.org) or follow us at [@LAvisionzero](https://twitter.com/LAvisionzero).

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