



City Council Resolve

IN CITY COUNCIL

Resolved, to establish a Vision Zero Policy to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries on the City of Auburn's streets by 2040.

WHEREAS, one death or serious injury on our streets is one too many; and

WHEREAS, crashes resulting in fatalities and life-altering injuries are not inevitable, but largely preventable through safer street design, appropriate speed management, education, enforcement, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn is committed to protecting the safety, health, and welfare of all residents and visitors and to creating a transportation system that ensures equitable access and opportunity for all users, regardless of age, ability, income, or mode of travel; and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn's goal to promote active transportation such as walking, biking, and transit relies on the development of a safe, accessible, and inclusive public right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, vulnerable road users including children, seniors, pedestrians, unhoused persons, cyclists, and individuals with disabilities face the highest risk of serious injury or death on our streets; and

WHEREAS, national and local data show that traffic fatalities are disproportionately concentrated in underserved neighborhoods and that the burden of unsafe streets is not equally shared; and

WHEREAS, Auburn has demonstrated its commitment to safer and more connected mobility through investments in Complete Streets policies, traffic calming projects, Safe Routes to School programs, SS4A Planning, and infrastructure upgrades; and

WHEREAS, between 2015 and 2024, crashes on Auburn's streets resulted in 21 fatal crashes and 556 serious injuries to motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists, representing a public health and safety crisis that requires coordinated, systemic action; and

WHEREAS, emerging technologies, data analytics, and best practices in urban planning offer new tools to prevent serious crashes and improve safety outcomes; and

WHEREAS, a Vision Zero approach requires a shift in thinking — recognizing that human error is inevitable, and that the transportation system should be designed with redundancy through the Safe System Approach to ensure that these errors do not result in death or severe injury; and



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WHEREAS, implementing a Vision Zero policy will require collaboration between the City's Engineering Division, Planning and Code Department, Police Department, Public Services, Schools, City Council, MaineDOT, Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center (ATRC), community organizations, and residents; and

WHEREAS, Auburn joins a growing list of cities nationwide, including Portland and South Portland, in adopting Vision Zero principles to eliminate traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the **City Council of the City of Auburn, Maine**, that:

1. **The City of Auburn commits to a Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic-related deaths and serious injuries on city streets by 2040.**
2. **The City will endorse the Safety Action Plan** as a guide that:
 - a. Is a data-driven analysis of traffic fatalities and serious injuries;
 - b. Identifies high-crash locations and contributing risk factors;
 - c. Identifies strategies to address a safe system approach for Safe Road Users, Safe Vehicles, Safe Speeds, Safe Roads, and Post-Crash Care;
 - d. Includes community engagement and participation efforts to prioritize equitable and inclusive input;
 - e. Focuses on protecting the most vulnerable street users.
3. **The City of Auburn shall collaborate with local, regional, and state partners**, including: MaineDOT, Androscoggin County, ATRC, and Lewiston, and local schools and hospitals to align efforts and maximize the impact of Vision Zero strategies.
4. **The City of Auburn recognizes that speed is a critical factor in crash survivability** and shall consider the adoption of context-sensitive speed limits, traffic calming measures, and street redesigns to manage vehicle speeds and enhance safety.
5. **Progress toward Vision Zero goals shall be measured** through publicly available reports including implementation status of key initiatives.
6. **The City acknowledges that achieving Vision Zero will require ongoing commitment, resources, and public support**, and pledges to prioritize safety in all transportation-related planning, funding, and policy decisions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the **City Council affirms this resolution as a moral and strategic commitment to protect life and promote a safe, healthy, and connected Auburn for all.**

Passed 5/5/25, 7-0.