

VISIONZERO COLUMBUS

DRIVE SAFE. WALK SAFE. BIKE SAFE.

WHILE DRIVING



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OHIO ASSEMBLY PASSES LEGISLATION FOR DISTRACTED DRIVING

On Thursday, December 15, the Ohio General Assembly took steps to further address distracted driving in the State of Ohio. With the passage of Senate Bill 288, distracted driving is now a primary offense.

“This legislation is a critical piece to help decrease traffic violence in the City of Columbus and across the State of Ohio,” said Maria Cantrell, Vision Zero coordinator for the City of Columbus.

Cantrell also shared that approval of the legislation will help protect

pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users.

“It is an important step to ensure that people driving are active partners in reducing serious injuries and fatalities on our roadways by focusing their attention on the road,” she continued.



VISION ZERO - A Review of 2022 and a Look Ahead to 2023

As the year ends, Vision Zero shares some of our accomplishments in 2022. At the end of 2022, Vision Zero has completed the following improvements throughout Columbus:

- Two corridor improvements have been made with more on the way.
- The downtown Speed Limit Setting is 65% complete!
- All night-flash signals in Columbus have been converted to full phase signals.
- Twenty-six intersections have been improved, exceeding our initial goal.
- To date, 152 new or enhanced crosswalks have been added.

SHORTER DAYS LEAD TO MORE DANGEROUS NIGHTS



Daylight driving time is becoming shorter and we are now driving more in the dark as we enter the winter season. Here at Vision Zero, we strive to

reduce the number of fatal crashes on Columbus streets. Did you know:

1. Drivers under the influence are more likely to be on the road in the evening and early morning hours. According to the Ohio State Highway Patrol, from 2019 – 2021 almost 40,000 OVI-related crashes have occurred on Ohio roadways; [Franklin County is among the top four counties that have led the state in OVI-related crashes during this time period.](#)
2. Statistically, [fewer drivers are on the road in the evening and early morning hours, leading to higher speeds and a greater chance of death if a crash occurs.](#)
3. Visibility is significantly reduced in the evening, and it's harder to see pedestrians, other cars, animals and obstructions on the roadway.

With longer nighttime hours for the next several months, Vision Zero offers these tips:

- Never drink and drive. Always plan ahead to take a taxi, use a rideshare service, or designate a sober driver.
- Take care crossing the road at night as a pedestrian, double-check that the roadway is clear before proceeding into the road and always use crosswalks.
- Always follow the speed limit when driving at night to see obstructions, pedestrians or other drivers and avoid a potentially fatal crash.
- Always be aware of pedestrians and other vulnerable road users... **SLOW DOWN ON COLUMBUS STREETS!**

SPOTLIGHT ON RAPID FLASHING BEACONS

Vision Zero's goal to achieve zero fatal crashes in Columbus. Making quality improvements to pedestrian crossings and roadways throughout the city is one way Vision Zero is working to achieve this goal. What are these quality improvements, and how do they apply to you?

Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons

You may have noticed new Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB's) at pedestrian crosswalks across the city.

What are they, and how do they work?

A Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon has two rectangular yellow high frequency strobe-like lights. When activated by the push button, its purpose is



to bring extra attention to the location to alert people driving to yield to the person who is using the crosswalk to cross the street.

Vision Zero continues to work with partners to bring infrastructure and traffic safety improvements to Columbus streets.

Next month we will share information about curb extensions a.k.a. bump-outs and how they help keep us safe.

STAY INFORMED

Interested in what is happening with Vision Zero or want to sign the pledge to keep Columbus streets safe? Stay informed by following us on social media or [head here](#) to sign the pledge.



To learn about our progress and stay informed visit our [website](#) or email VisionZero@Columbus.gov

