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THE NEED FOR VISION ZERO IS UNDENIABLE.

In Columbus, and across the nation, traffic violence remains a real threat to human lives, and too many people are killed or seriously injured in preventable crashes. Safe travel on our transportation system is essential for community members to access jobs, education, healthcare, and other opportunities and services that impact quality of life.

As traffic patterns changed and fewer vehicles were on the road during the pandemic, unsafe behaviors and speeds increased, often with worse outcomes. On Columbus streets, 61 people were killed in 58 fatal crashes in 2020, and 73 died in 72 crashes in 2021. During those two years, 618 serious injury crashes occurred. Initial 2022 data indicated 72 people were killed in 67 crashes.

These life-altering crashes are unacceptable. They are preventable. Vision Zero acknowledges that human error may occur when people use the transportation system. But the outcome of those mistakes should not cost or irrevocably change lives. Our commitment to achieving zero deaths and serious injuries on Columbus streets by 2035 was guided by our first ambitious Vision Zero Columbus Action Plan 1.0, adopted in March 2021. In this next phase of our Action Plan, pursuit of this goal will be just as strong. More safety-prioritizing strategies are outlined to guide these efforts during the next five years.

In this Action Plan 2023–2028, Vision Zero partners have identified many strategies to slow speeds, focus on safe street design, and foster community engagement and a culture change that prioritizes protecting lives above all else, for all forms of travel along our city streets — for walking, biking, rolling, driving and using transit. Eliminating the worst crashes is a responsibility shared by our transportation system users, designers and decision makers.