



City of Winston-Salem City Council
Council Agenda Item Summary

Title	Resolution Establishing the City of Winston-Salem as a Vision Zero Community and Formalizing a Vision Zero Coalition to Support the Development of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan
City Council Committee	Committee of the Whole
Staff Lead (Presenter)	Jeff Fansler, Director of Transportation
Department Head	Jeff Fansler, Director of Transportation
City Manager/ACM	Aaron King, ACM

Agenda Item Summary

Recommended Council Action	Resolution Approval
Suggested Motion Options	I Move to approve the Resolution Establishing Winston-Salem as a Vision Zero Community.
Strategic Focus Area	Livable Community
Strategic Plan Objective	LC3: Ensuring the City is a Community of Choice for Quality of Life
Anticipated Fiscal Impact	No Material Fiscal Impact

Summary of Information

The North Carolina Executive Committee for Highway Safety passed a Vision Zero resolution in 2015 in response to the unacceptable number of deaths and serious injuries occurring on North Carolina's roads. According to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), approximately 1,732 people were killed on North Carolina's roads in 2024, with 30 of the fatalities occurring in Winston-Salem. On April 1, 2024, the Winston-Salem City Council approved a resolution authorizing the City of Winston-Salem Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) application for the Fiscal Year 2024 Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program, and on September 12, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced that the City of Winston-Salem was awarded \$280,000 in funding to create a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

Vision Zero is a comprehensive road safety strategy to substantially reduce fatalities and serious injuries with an ultimate long-term goal of zero deaths and serious injuries in the transportation system. Vision Zero is based on the Safe System Approach, which holds that humans are vulnerable and will make mistakes, but those mistakes should never lead to serious injury or death. Since 2015, a growing number of North Carolina communities have adopted Vision Zero.

With a formal Safe Streets and Roads for All grant agreement pending with the USDOT's Federal Highway Administration, the WSDOT has begun laying the groundwork for the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. Comprehensive Safety Action Plans funded through the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program are required to include an official public commitment by the recipient's governing body to an eventual goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries, with the commitment including a timeline for eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries.

This item requests that the Winston-Salem City Council adopt a resolution establishing the City of Winston-Salem as a Vision Zero community, endorsing a goal to reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries on Winston-Salem's roads by half by 2035 and to zero by 2050 or sooner. The adoption of this item also formally directs staff to establish a Vision Zero Coalition made up of a broad range of community stakeholders that includes WSDOT staff, representatives from the NCDOT, Emergency Management Services, law enforcement, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Public Schools, and transportation advocacy groups to help develop and implement the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan once developed by WSDOT and approved by the Winston-Salem City Council.

Analysis of Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact is associated with the adoption of a resolution to establish the City of Winston-Salem as a Vision Zero Community. However, at such time that transportation safety recommendations are developed and recommended by the Safety Action Plan or Vision Zero Coalition, capital funds will need to be identified before projects can be funded and implemented.

Attachments

- Resolution

Committee Action	COTW 11/12/2025
For:	Against:
Remarks: Approved Unanimously	