ORIGINAL

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2026-025

Resolving to establish a Vision Zero Policy to work towards zero traffic deaths and severe injuries within the City of Columbia

WHEREAS, the life and health of all persons living and traveling within the City of Columbia are our utmost priority, and no one should die or be seriously injured while traveling on our city streets; and

WHEREAS, between January 2019 and December 2023, 30,706 crashes were reported on non-interstate roadways in the City of Columbia, including 79 fatal crashes, with pedestrians and bicyclists representing less than 2% of all crashes but approximately 44% of fatalities and 22% of serious injuries, and furthermore, children, older adults, people of color, people with disabilities, people who are unhoused, and people with low income face a significantly disproportionate risk of traffic injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, one traffic-related death in the City is one too many, and Vision Zero is a public health-based traffic safety strategy to reduce and eventually eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries using a data driven multi-disciplinary and Safe Systems approach that that accounts for human error by designing safer roads, policies, and systems for all users; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia has adopted a comprehensive pedestrian and bicycle master plan, area plans, and a comprehensive plan that recognize the importance of safe multimodal transportation options to improved livability, economic vibrancy, and public health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia is developing a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan through a collaborative public planning process funded by a Safe Streets and Roads for All grant, which will identify specific changes to policies, infrastructure, enforcement, and education to move the City towards zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council this 9th day of June, 2026 that:

1. The City of Columbia declares that no loss of life or serious injury is acceptable on our streets, and therefore Vision Zero is to be the City-wide guiding principle for transportation planning, the design of streets and sidewalks, and the maintenance of the public rights of way; and

2. Once completed, the City will utilize the *Sharing the Road Comprehensive Safety Action Plan* to guide programs, policies, and projects in service of increasing roadway safety for all users; and

3. The City adopts the goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries on non-interstate roadways among all system users by 2036, benchmarking a minimum 5% reduction of fatal and serious injury crashes per year based on a five-year rolling average; and

4. In order to meet this critical goal, City Council directs City departments, in collaboration with other agencies, to consider safety as the highest priority when balancing competing demands for space within the public right-of-way; and

5. Policies and programs developed to increase roadway safety for all users will be implemented in an equitable manner accounting for historic inequities in transportation and safety investments and increasing real and perceived safety for people walking and bicycling to encourage use of these clean air modes of transportation.

Requested by:

Teresa Wilson, City Manager

Approved by:

Teresa B. Wilson

City Manager

Mayor

Approved as to form:

City Attorney

ATTEST:

Erika D. Hammond

City Clerk

Introduced: 06/09/2026
Final Reading: 06/09/2026