

## MEETING NOTES

July 3, 2023

To: West Hartford Vision Zero Task Force

From: FHI Studio Team

Project: West Hartford Vision Zero Action Plan

**Re: Notes from June 26, 2023 Meeting**

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### Task Force Updates

- Introduction of two new TF members, both high school students
- Task Force community engagement: Bike West Hartford booth at Celebrate WH
  - » Is there a formal way to gather and submit information from events that TF members participate in?
  - » Issues resonating with people in the community, people are excited and there's a desire for communication about the action plan
  - » Shawna requested that the TF member submit photos of comment board to VZ email for the record.
- Governor signed the Vision Zero bill today
  - » Not just focused on enforcement; emphasis on design
  - » Towns will be asked to take a position on supporting or not supporting automated enforcement

### Vision Zero Network Best Practices Reading – Discussion

- Are any of these strategies particularly appropriate or inappropriate for West Hartford?
- Rapid Response team/protocol
  - » Time and effort for crash scene
  - » Does Rapid Response team respond if a crash location is outside the High-Injury Network (HIN)?
  - » Ensure change is data driven, as opposed to driven by the most recent crash
  - » HIN raises the priority of a rapid response
- Transparency and equity in traffic stops
  - » How can we determine if certain populations are being over-targeted for stops?

- » Police department: information on age, ethnicity, and gender is collected
- » TF member requests that this data be transparent and accessible, very upfront and public facing; creates accountability for equity
- All components of Vision Zero are important
  - » Identifying locations that are more problematic (HIN) should be a priority for design, then look at similarly designed locations to prevent future crashes
  - » Automated speed enforcement also good
  - » Education, communication important going forward
- Neighborhood traffic calming
  - » May be suitable to West Hartford
  - » Emphasis on neighborhood streets, slowing speeds on neighborhood streets as an intro piece for future engagement and implementation
  - » Approach for streets not in the HIN
  - » City of Boston model of self-nominating streets could work

## Plan Structure Review

- Proposed structure: Executive Summary, Safety Assessment, Public Engagement Process Summary, Vision Zero Action Plan
- Will the plan have specific road design recommendations along the HIN?
  - » High level policies and programs will lay the foundation for design plans along the HIN
- Will the Action Plan section be like the tables from the case studies?
  - » Yes
- How is equity incorporated into all areas?
  - » Each action includes a discussion of any equity considerations in the recommendation; equity will be more relevant to some recommendations, but not all of them
  - » Are we going to include within specific actions how we hold ourselves accountable?
- Recommendation level of detail
  - » Plan recommendations will be at the level of “target the HIN through these methods,” not “put a sidewalk on Mountain Road”
- Accessibility and Equity
  - » Accessibility is not inherently included in the equity discussion
  - » Two distinctions:
    - How is our Action Plan development process accessible?
    - How is the implementation of the plan accessible?

- » Should accessibility and equity be separated? Will continue conversation offline and look to other communities who have done Vision Zero plans; we don't need to navigate this issue alone
- Incorporating accessibility into the Action Plan
  - » Should accessibility be explored as a standalone topic, or should it be included in the culture piece of the Action Plan?
  - » Needs its own section, and can be infused throughout all action items with implementation steps that incorporate accessibility for all
  - » Create a feedback loop

## Plan Development Process

- Is the active transportation analysis/Bicycle Facility Plan part of the TF's work?
  - » The bicycle network is an action item of the VZ Action Plan that the consulting team is contracted to do
- Are recommendations and goals only for places on the HIN?
  - » No, all ideas are good, TF has the freedom to be creative
  - » The project team will prioritize the ideas to address the purpose of Vision Zero
  - » Items that do not progress through the Action Plan will be logged to a "parking lot" of ideas; they may have application in other Town initiatives
- How can the predictive risk index incorporate the concerns and experiences of deaf, hard of hearing, and blind people?
  - » What kind of data can be incorporated to support changes that these communities need to see?
  - » In Seattle, there are specific applications for deaf, hard of hearing, and blind people like vibrating cross pads, push buttons, etc.
  - » There might not be enough data to incorporate this into the predictive index, so lived experience and engagement are important data sources
  - » This is a larger conversation to address; living document can be added to the data section to address these concerns
- Where is crash data coming from for West Hartford?
  - » Missing data for unreported crashes
  - » Comes from a UConn database
  - » Community survey will supplement crash data to help capture where near misses are occurring and where people feel unsafe
- How will the Task Force and consulting team work together to create the plan?
  - » Task Force will come up with ideas
  - » Consulting team will refine ideas and add technical elements
- Is there a quick action plan to reduce speeds immediately in the worst spots?
  - » Perfect example for an Action Plan item

## **Subcommittee Assignment**

- Is there more info about what's meant by some of the themes?
  - » There will be more background in the instructions
  - » Refer to previous slides from the last Task Force meeting

## **Public Comment**

- How can the public participate?
  - » Last 10 minutes of Task Force meetings reserved for public comments
  - » 2 upcoming public meetings
  - » Survey
  - » Commenter would also like to be invited to subcommittee meetings about goals/strategies/actions, or see meeting minutes from subcommittee meetings
- Bike West Hartford walk audit
  - » Jack from BWH invited subcommittee to 6/30 9-10am walk audit of New Britain Avenue, as well as future walk audits
  - » Consulting team requests BWH share results

## **Adjourn**