

RESOLUTION 25-005

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF SCARBOROUGH TO
ADOPT THE GREATER PORTLAND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN**

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

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is the concept that traffic deaths and serious injuries on our roadways are unacceptable; and,

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is a holistic strategy aimed at eliminating all traffic fatalities and severe injuries suffered by all road users while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all; and,

WHEREAS, streets and transportation systems have traditionally been designed primarily to move cars efficiently, and Vision Zero supports a paradigm shift by designing streets and transportation systems to move all people safely, including people of all ages and abilities, pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit users, scooter riders, and motorcyclists, as well as drivers and passengers of motor vehicles; and,

WHEREAS, the provision of a more complete bicycle and pedestrian network increases transit accessibility and a reduction in vehicle trips; and,

WHEREAS, Vision Zero recognizes that people will sometimes make mistakes, so the road system and related policies should be designed to ensure that those inevitable mistakes do not result in severe injuries or fatalities; therefore, transportation planners and engineers and policymakers are expected to improve the roadway environment, policies, and other related systems to lessen the severity of crashes and improve post-crash care; and,

WEHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, traffic crashes are among the leading cause of deaths in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, according to the Greater Council of Government (GPCOG), in 2024 there were 24 deaths and 144 serious injuries due to traffic crashes across the Greater Portland region; and,

WHEREAS, since 2020 an average of 2 people each year in the Scarborough have lost their lives to traffic crashes and another 12 people on average are seriously injured each year; and,

WHEREAS, Scarborough's transportation infrastructure serves an increasing number of vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and bicyclists; and,

WHEREAS, the Institute of Transportation Engineers reports that speed is recognized as a major determining factor of survival in a crash; and,

WHEREAS, 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,¹

WHEREAS, making streets safer for all people using all modes of transportation will encourage people to travel on foot, by bicycle, and by public transit, which supports a healthier, more active lifestyle and reduces environmental pollution; and,

WHEREAS, successful Vision Zero programs result from strong community support, effective partnerships across public, private and non-profit sectors and with school districts, and in alignment with related municipal ordinances, policies, and action plans; and,

WHEREAS, the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) has developed a Vision Zero Plan aiming to eliminate all fatalities and serious injuries resulting from traffic crashes in the Greater Portland region by 2045; and,

WHEREAS, The Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System (PACTS), which is the Regional's federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and of which the Town of Scarborough is a member, adopted the Regional Vision Zero Plan in 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Scarborough recognizes its obligation to work with Maine Department of Transportation on roads under the State's Jurisdiction; and,

WHEREAS, Scarborough intends to work with the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) toward safer roads and safer speeds in town, as MaineDOT sets speed limits on State and local roads, and as MaineDOT updates their speed limit policy; and,

WHEREAS, Scarborough has already adopted a Complete Streets Policy in 2015; and,

WHEREAS, Scarborough is currently working on a Complete Streets and Traffic Calming Guidance document.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Scarborough, State of Maine, as follows:

1. The Town of Scarborough adopts the GPCOG's Vision Zero Action Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A and makes it part of this Resolution, effective immediately.
2. The Scarborough Town Clerk shall certify the adoption of this Resolution, effective immediately, by the Town Council.

3. Future transportation infrastructure projects and relevant initiatives within Public Safety shall comply with this policy to prioritize safety on our roadways.
4. The implementation schedule of the 2025 Townwide Transportation Study shall be given preference based on this policy.
5. Scarborough Town Council directs local governing bodies and Town Committees to consider the Vision Zero policy in their deliberations and discussions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Scarborough, State of Maine, on May 21, 2025, by the following vote: [4 Yeas].

Signed and sealed this the 21st day of May, 2025, on behalf of the Scarborough Town Council and the Town Manager of Scarborough, Maine.

Signed by:

/s/ April V. Sither
Council Chair

Attested by:

/s/ Kristen Barth
Town Clerk

Footnotes

1. Fox J. Shahum L. *Vision Zero Equity Strategies for Practitioners*. Oakland, CA: Vision Zero Network; 2017.