



**- MINUTES -**  
**VISION ZERO ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
 Hadley Park Community Center

January 25, 2024

**ATTENDEES**

**COMMITTEE**

Peter Robison, Hannah Sasscer, Jeremiah Wooten, Wesley Smith, Joy Andal, Shandira Edgecombe, Phillip Peck, Chris Bowe, Ben Hubert, Amanda Key, and Katherine McDonell

**STAFF**

Guneet Saini, Piro Meleby, Hal Balthrop, and Madison Fitzgibbon

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Christopher Sandwith, Christine Irizarry, Carmen Jones, and Nicole Abernathy

**1. Call to Order**

- The January 25, 2024, meeting of the Vision Zero Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:00 PM by Chair Robison.

**2. Roll Call**

- Present: Chair Peter Robison, Vice-Chair Hannah Sasscer, Jeremiah Wooten, Wesley Smith, Joy Andal, Shandira Edgecombe, Phillip Peck, Chris Bowe, Ben Hubert, Amanda Key, and Katherine McDonell
- Absent: Christopher Sandwith, Christine Irizarry, Carmen Jones, and Nicole Abernathy

**3. Approval of Minutes**

- November minutes were approved unanimously.

**4. Public Comment**

- There was no public comment at this time.

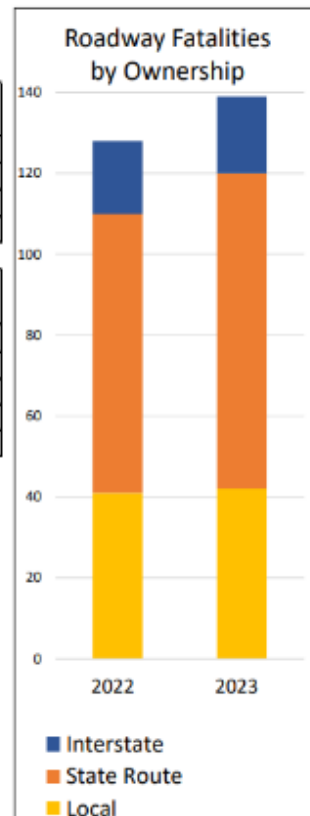
**5. Fatal Crash Statistics Update**

**2023 Roadway Fatalities To Date**

Red Text Shows Year-end

By Ownership	2022	2023	Change (%)	Since 30-Nov-2023
Interstate	18	19	6%	0
State Route	69	78	13%	9
Local	41	42	2%	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>14</b>

NDOT Jurisdiction (Local + State Route)	2022	2023	Change (%)	Since 30-Nov-2023
Vehicle	41	29	-29%	5
Pedestrian	39	37	-5%	4
Motorcycle	5	19	280%	1
Bicycle	2	1	-50%	0
Single Vehicle	52	36	-31%	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>9%</b>	



- Mr. Meleby presented on the fatal crash statistics. He stated that while there has been an overall decrease in the number of crashes, they have seen an increase in motorcycle crashes compared to the previous year.
- He also mentioned that going forward, reports will cover the previous month to allow NDOT and their consultants enough time to properly review these reports. This will also enable them to provide short-term and long-term solutions for each of these crashes, allowing the subcommittee to review them before the full meeting.
- They will be examining crash risk factors in these reports, as well as infrastructure and behavioral issues. Their focus will mainly be on infrastructural items as this is what NDOT has the most control over to provide quick fixes as well as more long-term solutions. Behavioral data will be kept internally for tracking purposes. If they notice a recurring trend, they can use this to push out a tailored PSA to address the behavior.
- Chair Robison asked the members of the Fatal Crash Investigation Subcommittee if there were any crashes that stood out from this month.
  - Mr. Hubert requested additional information on a specific crash location, noting that it was particularly concerning as it occurred on a road that NDOT had recently repaved and outside a transit center.
  - Ms. Saini stated that the pedestrian was found in the lane, but there has not been any additional information as to how the pedestrian came to be there.
- Mr. Smith mentioned that the subcommittee was presented with a more detailed breakdown of the road share between state and local routes. He shared this breakdown with the full group for them to review.
  - Ms. Saini added that the goal of Vision Zero is to reduce all fatal crashes across state and local roads. They are working in coordination with TDOT to accomplish this goal, which is why the numbers are presented together.
- Chair Robison asked if there was any more information regarding the drastic increase in motorcycle crashes this year.
  - Mr. Hubert inquired if they had information on whether these motorcycle crashes were single or multi-vehicle crashes.
  - Ms. Saini responded that this topic of conversation also came up in their recent call with MNPD. She added that they have seen an increase in recreational motorcycle users, which leads to increased risk. Motorcycle users are already more vulnerable, but they would need to highlight trends in relation to speed and other factors to determine the cause.
  - Mr. Robinson added that he would be curious to know if the year 2022 or year 2023 is the outlier in the situation. He suggested they come back to this topic later but move forward for now for the sake of time.

## 6. Items to be Considered

### a) Vision Zero Report Card

- Ms. Saini presented the Vision Zero Report Card to the committee, mentioning they are looking to publish this report card in March. They are open to all feedback from the committee on the report card.
- In this presentation, Ms. Saini went over some crash trend statistics. Not wearing a seatbelt is a major trend they are seeing.
- Mr. Smith asked if motorcycles were included in the motorists' numbers on the chart presented.
  - Chair Robison echoed a similar concern, asking if a bike was involved in a crash with a vehicle, would it be counted as a bike crash or a vehicle crash. Ms. Saini stated it would be recorded as vehicle crash involving bike.
- Ms. Saini then presented NDOT vision zero projects and activities to the committee.
- Ms. McDonell pointed out that zero serious crashes on roads under 35 mph is very effective data. She stated this would be a good starting point where they could make a lot of impact with the public.
- Ms. Saini stated NDOT's focus is on changing the infrastructure in known corridors to make them safer.
  - Chair Robison asked if there is a way to include the road design as a contributing factor in the report.
  - Ms. Saini stated they can add this to the report. There are several ways to present the data, with risk factors and land use being two ways. In this report, they can look at more risk factors and show where crashes have occurred.
- Chair Robinson asked when NDOT is looking to have initial feedback by.
  - Ms. Saini stated they are hoping to have initial feedback by the end of February. Some examples of the kind of feedback they are looking for are: what do you think happened last year, and what do you think can be improved. She also asked the committee to keep in mind this was their first year of implementing Vision Zero, so there are going to be areas where things can be improved. Once they have received the initial feedback, they will open the report card to more specific feedback throughout the month of February for general department-level improvements.
  - Ms. Edgcombe asked if they plan to formally present this report to council once completed.
    - Ms. Saini stated they will be presenting this to both the mayor and council once completed in March.
    - Mr. Hubert asked if the committee can be looped in once this presentation is scheduled. He added it might be a good idea to give a human face to the report via the committee's presence.
    - Ms. Saini agreed, adding that there are obviously budget constraints, which is why they also want to present this to council to help keep encouraging why Vision Zero funding efforts are needed.
- Ms. Andal asked how inflation is affecting their budgets. She noticed during TDOT's presentation that they have seen some budgets double since 2018.
  - Ms. Saini responded that they have limitations, which is why they must prioritize. Inflation will keep rising, and therefore they need to focus on projects that will give them the best results based on the funding they have available.
- Ms. Andal added she also noticed TDOT was offering incentives for finishing projects. She stated she is unsure as to how this would fit into everything, but it was a big eye-opener to see where the money is being allocated.

- Ms. Smith asked how NDOT coordinates with TDOT regarding these large expansion projects. He noticed TDOT had several large highway expansion projects in the plan they released. How do we ensure we aren't creating additional vision zero risk with these large expansion projects?
  - Ms. Saini responded that our leadership team coordinates with TDOT to make sure priorities align. While some of these major projects have been on-going since 2006, NDOT and TDOT hold coordination meetings for all future projects. NDOT has approached this concept by working to strengthen relationships with TDOT and presenting the data to them to back up their safety concerns.
  - Mr. Balthrop added that one of the processes we are working to implement at NDOT currently is the chartering process. The goal of the chartering process will be to ensure that a project is inclusive of all NDOT program objectives once a project is identified. If the proposed project area is not a good fit for one of our programs, the charter will explain why it is not a good fit. The charter will also be circulated to all departments to ensure we aren't missing any opportunities before moving the project onto the next phase.
  - Mr. Balthrop added that we will also want to ensure new developments are included in all these planning objectives as part of the chartering process. All new projects moving forward will go through this charter process once established. There were missed opportunities in the past, which is why we want to implement this project charter process.
  - Ms. McDonell asked if this committee will be involved in the reviewing of this chartering process.
    - Ms. Saini asked if it matters to the committee whether the project is being funded by Vision Zero dedicated funds.
    - Ms. Edgecombe stated that where it is being funded is less important to them. They just want to ensure that the projects are being looked at from a Vision Zero approach.
    - Ms. Saini stated they may upload these charters for the committee to make comments on going forward.
    - Mr. Balthrop added that NDOT is currently working with our GIS coordinator to add all these projects as a layer in GIS. This will help both internal and external members be aware of other ongoing projects in the area. NDOT is in the very early stages of developing this, but Ms. Saini will bring this to the committee once further along for review. Once established, the committee can bring forth projects that are currently underway for feedback.
    - Chair Robison asked if there was a way for the committee to provide feedback before the project is underway.
    - Mr. Balthrop stated that the projects will be added during the planning phase so adjustments can still be made.
  - Ms. Key asked how much weight the committee's feedback will have in the overall prioritization of the project.
    - Ms. Saini responded that it would hold a lot of weight. Every project will have to go through public engagement, apart from quick builds. NDOT will depend heavily on this public engagement portion before moving forward.
    - Ms. Key stated that we have people living in 12th South making decisions for Murfreesboro Pike. She would like to see NDOT engage with the communities more. They need to know the concerns of the people in the area.
    - Ms. Saini responded that our community engagement coordinator, Koby Langer, has created a public engagement checklist that all project managers must follow moving forward. As part of this checklist, they will be required to go to the communities and provide focused engagement if they are not receiving the level of engagement needed for the type of project that is being considered.
    - Ms. Edgecombe added that this is the kind of access they have been looking for in communities and she is excited to see this finally coming to light.
  - Ms. McDonell asked if the committee will have a voice above the public. Does this committee have the power to change things? Ms. Saini responded that they would need to be able to provide justification for their reasoning, but NDOT is open and willing to listen to their feedback.
  - Mr. Balthrop added that NDOT will also be relying on this committee for assistance in getting the word out to their communities. Part of the reason this committee was established was to help promote and raise awareness of NDOT's Vision Zero efforts. NDOT will be relying on the committee's help in getting the message out to the masses regarding sharing the right of way with pedestrians and that their goals don't have to prohibit vehicular travel.
    - Ms. Edgecombe asked if there was any information that could be shared regarding road usage.
    - Mr. Balthrop responded that NDOT has a potential referendum coming forward that focuses on improving efforts to help share road usage. He also added that he is part of the implementation team for the East Bank, and the focus for this area is on pedestrian and bicycle users, then buses, with vehicles being the bottom priority. They are trying to enable everyone's access to the right of way for all forms of transportation. This is a tough mission, and any assistance is appreciated. The voice of this committee does matter.

#### **b) Advisory Committee Year 1 In Review**

- Chair Robison opened the Year 1 review discussion. He asked the committee to consider what their purpose is, what they are doing well, and what they would like to see more of.
- Mr. Smith stated he would like the group to be more focused going forward. He emphasized that as the Vision Zero advisory committee, they should concentrate efforts on Vision Zero items such as high speeds, dangerous roads, and the relationship between NDOT and TDOT. He suggested that NDOT present the facts on a project, and then the committee can engage the community in these conversations.
- Mr. Wooten added that many of these factors relate to speed. During the snowstorm, he noticed how peaceful it was without vehicles on the road. He mentioned that any improvement to a neighborhood can be seen as a threat of pushing people out, so they must engage the community in these improvement efforts.

- Mr. Bowe stated he would like to see more continuation of conversations between meetings. He observed that they often delve deeply into topics during meetings but then never circle back on the progress of these discussions. He suggested having regular updates on items in the report and more frequent subcommittee meetings.
  - Ms. Saini stated that not everything can be brought to the committee and there are often larger gaps between milestones for many projects. For example, the quick builds presented to the committee in April are still in the design phase. The goal is to provide more frequent updates, but NDOT staff must balance managing their day-to-day workload. However, going forward, high-level updates can be presented.
- Ms. McDonnell expressed her desire for the committee to be more focused on making the biggest impact.
- Ms. Edgcombe suggested that many of these issues could be worked out in subcommittees. She recommended that with information provided ahead of time and ensuring progress, it could lead to more focused full committee meetings.
  - Mr. Wooten added that each committee member may be more attracted to specific projects regionally.
  - Ms. Saini stated she will work to provide more projects for the committee to review and shift the focus to project reviews, as that seems to be what everyone is most interested in. Ms. Edgcombe added that she is most interested in prevention, ensuring that city infrastructure updates are Vision Zero-focused.
- Ms. Andal appreciated the accommodation of adding WebEx to the meeting. She mentioned advocating for this in her community with other meetings, so she was pleased to see it happen here.
- Ms. Key stated that showing what the committee has accomplished would be impactful, emphasizing their focus on making an impact.

#### c) **Committee's Request to Planning and Engineering Managers at NDOT**

- Chair Robison stated that he added this item due to the recent issue with Clarksville Pike as he realizes that this is not the only road where these issues have occurred. He added that they need to talk bigger picture on how to make this better. He would like to talk directly to the engineering's leads working on these projects to help bridge the gap.
- Ms. Saini recommended inviting the engineering and planning manager to a later meeting. She added that if the committee will prepare what they want to discuss along with a list of talking points she can help coordinate a discussion with them.

### 7. **New Discussion**

- There was no new discussion at this time.

### 8. **Communications**

#### a) **Reports from Vision Zero Advisory Committee Members and Subcommittees**

- **Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee Subcommittee**
  - Mr. Smith stated WalkBike had a meeting with the mayor on 2/7 for BPAC appointment. The NDOT recommendation is to have a liaison from this committee serve on the BPAC and eliminate this subcommittee.
- **New Member Subcommittee**
  - The new member subcommittee did not meet. Chair Robison added that the committee will still need to determine who will be rolling off the committee.
- **Fatal Crash Investigation Subcommittee**
  - Vice Chair Sasscer stated they mostly went over November and December fatal crashes. She stated there are a lot more quick builds in the works. They discussed the possibility of getting some signage stating the relevance of why the project is happening out to the public.
  - Vice Chair Sasscer added that they discussed the possibility of adding temporary pedestrian safety islands. Many of these new roads have long uninterrupted roadways, and they have noticed many cars just going for it when reaching the center. They are considering potential options on how to break this up. She added it was exciting to see how they are thinking creatively to work around some of the more rigid TDOT restrictions.
    - Ms. Saini stated that moving forward, they are going to take these crash reports and list out the short-, mid-, and long-term solutions. Once the solutions are established, they are going to implement as many short-term solutions as possible until they run out of funding. They will designate appropriate funding per year for this.
- **Planning and Engineering Subcommittee**
  - Mr. Bowe sent out meeting notes to the committee. They discussed the complete street design guide update extensively. An executive order states that green street design should be implemented in the design unless it is unreasonable. They are looking to create standards to share with firms. By presenting resources for people to use, it should help eliminate building designs that go against Vision Zero goals.
  - They also discussed Main and Gallatin. They have received good feedback for this project and seem to be moving in the right direction.
- **Strategic Planning Subcommittee**
  - Mr. Hubert stated they are trying to figure out how to have the most impact. They discussed being the voice for a community and getting more directly involved with their own council members to help get the ball rolling.
  - They also provided some feedback regarding the Vision Zero draft plan to Ms. Saini during their meeting. They will look to share the minutes from this meeting with the rest of the committee.

#### b) **Report from director and staff**

- There were no reports at this time.

### 9. **Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.