



Guelph Coalition for Active Transportation (GCAT)
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Email: info@gcat.ca Phone: 519-783-1382

TO: Mayor Gurthrie and City Council
SUBJECT: Regarding the Vision Zero Action Plan
DATE: February 27, 2025

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Council,

I am writing on behalf of the Guelph Coalition for Active Transportation (GCAT) to share our strong support for the Vision Zero Guelph – Action Plan for Safe Streets.

Our organization is dedicated to enhancing the safety and accessibility of active transportation in Guelph, and we believe this plan is a pivotal step toward ensuring the well-being of all residents.

We envision a future where citizens can walk or bike around our city comfortably and safely, contributing positively to public health, clean air, and a vibrant local economy. Ensuring the safety of all road users is paramount to encouraging this mode shift, as residents must feel secure and safe in their journeys to be able to choose to use active transportation. The Vision Zero initiative aligns seamlessly with these goals, emphasizing that no loss of life on our roads is acceptable.

Safety is the cornerstone of vibrant and healthy communities. Every resident, whether walking, cycling, or driving, deserves to navigate our city without fear. The Vision Zero Action Plan prioritizes this by focusing on proactive measures designed to protect our most vulnerable road users.

The vision zero plan is directly supported by our City's Strategic plan goals. With additional benefits of encouraging and supporting mode shift which will help us work towards Strategic environmental goals as well.

We are particularly encouraged by the plan's emphasis on:

1. **Community Safety Zones (CSZs):**
 - Designating CSZs around schools, hospitals, and high-risk areas creates safer environments for children, seniors, and individuals with mobility challenges.
2. **Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE):**
 - Implementing ASE in critical zones addresses the prevalent issue of speeding, a major contributor to severe collisions.
3. **Data-Driven Interventions:**
 - Utilizing Guelph's High-Risk Network to identify and mitigate danger zones ensures resources are effectively allocated to areas with the greatest need.

The recent tragic loss of a pedestrian in our community underscores the urgent need for comprehensive safety measures. Such incidents are stark reminders of the vulnerabilities present on our roads and the imperative to act decisively.

We commend the City for its thoughtful consideration of the financial aspects of this plan, ensuring that safety investments are both impactful and sustainable.

We would also like to praise City of Guelph staff for their diligent work in developing this comprehensive and forward-thinking plan. Their efforts in identifying high-risk areas, proposing effective interventions, and incorporating best practices from other municipalities demonstrate a clear commitment to making Guelph's streets safer for everyone.

In conclusion, the Vision Zero Action Plan embodies a commitment to a safer, more inclusive Guelph. We urge the Council to adopt and prioritize this plan, paving the way for a future where every journey, regardless of mode, is undertaken with confidence and security.

Thank you for your dedication to enhancing the safety and quality of life in our city.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,



Adrian Salvatore
Chair, Guelph Coalition for Active Transportation

