

City Council
City of Guelph
1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

Re: Vision Zero Action Plan - 2025-12

Dear Members of City Council,

I am writing to express my support for the **Vision Zero Guelph - Action Plan for Safe Streets** and to emphasize the importance of integrating a well-planned active transportation network and frequent transit systems into this strategy. As outlined in the Vision Zero Action Plan, the goal of zero serious injuries and fatalities on Guelph's roads is an important step forward in ensuring the safety and well-being of all road users, and I commend the city for prioritizing this ambitious initiative.

At the same time, I urge the Council to remain vigilant about the risks other cities face when implementing Vision Zero plans. While many municipalities have adopted the Vision Zero approach, some have faced challenges maintaining momentum or translating good intentions into concrete actions. It's not enough to set goals and design strategies; the city must ensure we have the tools, resources, and commitment to implement these measures and sustain long-term results effectively. A clear, comprehensive action plan is crucial, and it is encouraging to see that Guelph is taking a methodical approach with its 68 cross-departmental actions.

However, an effective Vision Zero implementation requires more than just traffic safety measures; it must also address how people move around the City. Active transportation (walking and cycling) and frequent, accessible transit should be central to our Vision Zero plan. These forms of transportation are critical not only for reducing traffic collisions but also for contributing to the overall health and vibrancy of our city.

In line with this, I would like to emphasize the importance of a **frequent transit network**—specifically, a **15-minute frequent transit network**. When public transit is reliable and frequent, people are more likely to choose it over driving, reducing the overall volume of traffic and, consequently, the risk of collisions. The City of Guelph should prioritize the development of such a network to ensure residents have reliable, efficient, and environmentally friendly options for getting around.

Similarly, **active transportation** should be prioritized in the Vision Zero framework. Designing streets that are safer and more conducive to walking and cycling is essential. A robust network of bike lanes, pedestrian pathways, and traffic-calming measures will make Guelph a city where people of all ages and abilities can safely move around, whether by foot, bike, or public transit. Integrating these modes of transportation into the city's infrastructure will contribute to the success of Vision Zero.

Transit and active transportation must not be seen as add-ons but as integral elements of the Vision Zero plan. The lack of a coordinated transportation strategy stymies progress in many other cities. Vision Zero is about reducing vehicle speeds and rethinking how we move through our cities. As such, expanding these networks in tandem with the safety measures outlined in the Vision Zero Guelph Action Plan will significantly increase the potential for success in preventing traffic-related injuries and fatalities.

To be clear, I fully support the measures outlined in the Vision Zero Guelph Action Plan, including the expansion of Community Safety Zones and the Automated Speed Enforcement camera program. These actions, combined with improved infrastructure for active transportation and frequent transit, will make Guelph a safer and more sustainable city for all its residents.

I encourage City Council to continue taking bold steps toward implementing Vision Zero while ensuring that developing a comprehensive, interconnected transportation network remains a top priority. By focusing on both safety and accessibility, we can make Guelph a model for other cities in successfully reducing traffic-related injuries and fatalities.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue, and I look forward to the continued progress of Vision Zero in Guelph.

Sincerely,

Steven Petric
Guelph