

# Vision Zero Plans: Analyzing Current Conditions and Opportunities for Change

During Vision Zero Plan development, the framework of the **six R's of systems** ([USAID 2016](#)) can be used to establish a solid foundation of shared knowledge related to existing conditions, historical trends and future projections, and to take stock of community resources that can support plan development, implementation, and long-term viability.

## 1. Record of the Past - Factors that may Contribute to Collisions

Factor class	Example variables to collect
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fatal and serious crashes</li> <li>nearby land uses, including key destinations (e.g., transit stops, employment centers)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>roadway characteristics (e.g., number and width of travel lanes, presence of protected bike lanes, sidewalk coverage, crosswalk design, street lighting presence and condition)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>precise location of crashes on the transportation network</li> </ul>
Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>crash types – movement that may have anticipated the crash (e.g., midblock, righthook, left-turn crash types)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>speed of impact of crash</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>victims' travel modes</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>drug or alcohol use or other form of "impairment" (e.g., distraction, fatigue, phone use)</li> </ul>
Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>times of year</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>day of week</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>time of day</li> </ul>
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>person-level factors (e.g., victims' age, gender, race/ethnicity, and income)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>neighborhood-level factors (e.g., poverty rate within Census block groups)</li> </ul>

## 2. Roles

- Questions to consider when developing the task force:
  - Which agencies and stakeholders serve on the task force?

- How often do task force members meet?
- How are decisions made on the task force?
- What do task force members share?
- Who should be but is not yet included on the task force?
- Does membership include representatives of underrepresented groups?

- Communities should consider involvement from a diverse array of sectors, such as land use planning, schools, social services, public works, public transit, and public health, among others.

## 3. Relationships

- This element of the system includes existing and potential cross-sector Vision Zero partnerships. It is useful to identify complementary, local, regional, and state initiatives that could inform the development of the community's Vision Zero Plan.
- Agency representatives could be members of a community's Vision Zero task force and thus serve as a liaison between Vision Zero and complementary programs and initiatives.

## 4. Results We Want to Achieve

- A promising way to both shape the goals of the community's Vision Zero Plan and increase the likelihood of Plan implementation is to review existing plans, policies, and programs in the community.
- **Integration:** Communities should consider reviewing plans, policies, and programs at both the local level—referred to as horizontal integration—as well as at the regional or state level—referred to as vertical integration.

- Review local-, regional-, and state-level plans can help task forces identify common goals and priorities, enhance the impact of complementary efforts, strengthen existing and form new partnerships, promote the sharing of data, knowledge, and resource (e.g., funding, personnel, leadership), and save time by avoiding redundant activities.

## 5. Rules and Reward Systems

- As change is a constant in most communities, understanding how rules and reward systems influence traffic safety is critical to identifying those systems that should be strengthened or modified.
- **Policies are rules** that organizations develop to realize their main goals. There are several types of policies that affect Vision Zero work. Examples include:
  - **laws** (e.g., posted speed limits for certain road types)
  - **codes** (e.g., parking minima or maxima), regulations (e.g., use of speed safety cameras)
  - **rules** (e.g., the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices [MUTCD])
  - **standards** (e.g., defining where bus stops are placed)
  - **agreements** (e.g., consensus around whether zero serious and fatal injury is a central goal of the transportation system)
  - **social norms** (e.g., local prevalence of drivers yielding to pedestrians)

## 6. Resources

- Vision Zero planning and programming rely on “resources” including partners’ time, skill sets, and money.
- When developing a Vision Zero Plan, consider whether monetary allocations align with the community’s Vision Zero goals.

- Diversifying funding sources is a key strategy in resource allocation.

## Key Considerations to Help Self-assess

- Did the assessment integrate a variety of sources of information to assess safety concerns and opportunities (e.g., data from crash files, emergency departments, observational studies, focus groups, interviews)?
- Did the assessment center issues that unfairly burden traditionally underserved people, and how to fairly address safety concerns or reduce inequities in access to safe mobility options?
- Did the assessment include the review of relevant local, regional, and state plans to inform Vision Zero plan development?
- Does the plan describe how Vision Zero efforts overlap with or relate to existing plans, policies, and programs?
- Did the assessment identify and describe relevant rules and reward systems (e.g., laws, codes, regulations, formal and informal rules, etc.) that inform or affect Vision Zero goals and activities?

