

Vision Zero Plans: Evaluating Implementation Progress

Evaluation of a community's progress toward realizing zero serious and fatal traffic injuries is one critical element of a robust Vision Zero Plan. The evaluation should serve to help create a common understanding of the extent to which the community is moving toward an equitable, safe, and healthy transportation system. Evaluation questions should be informed by the community's specific Vision Zero goals, objectives, and performance measures that Vision Zero stakeholders have documented.

The following are example evaluation prompts related to engagement, coordination, and equity:

- Which members of the task force have been especially active?
- Which stakeholder groups have yet to be included in Vision Zero planning, but should be?
- To what extent is there representation from all parts of the community?
- Which socio-economic and geographic groups have thus far benefitted most from changes brought about by the community's Vision Zero program? Which groups have benefitted the least from program-delivered changes?

Similar questions should be explored with respect to the financial and political realities Vision Zero stakeholders and task forces members are operating within. Questions could include:

- How sustainable have the funding sources for Vision Zero been? Has the community received steady funding for Vision Zero initiatives each year over the past few years?
- Are there plans for funding Vision Zero programming into the future?
- Which political leaders have supported Vision Zero and will they continue doing so in the future?
- Which policies and organizational procedures may have been working against the community's Vision Zero goals and objectives?

Evaluation should also include *contingency plans*, which can help communities adapt and respond to disruptions and uncertainty in program funding, program staff, and local climate conditions.



Finally, Vision Zero Stakeholders and task force members should evaluate several categories of outcomes, including:

- **Serious and fatal crash outcomes.** Many Vision Zero-adopting cities have published reports on their Vision Zero progress. The most common reported outcomes in these reports are fatal and serious traffic crashes.
- **Changes among common crash contributors.** How frequent contributors to serious crashes change over time (e.g., speeding, impaired driving, rates of yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks, etc.) can help communities draw out areas they may want to focus their safety interventions on.
- **The prevalence of crash risk across the transportation network.** Intersections, segments, or corridors that pose safety risks to different road users should be examined. Places across the transportation network that present risk to more vulnerable road users either (a) suppress trips that would have been made on foot, by bike, scooter, or transit; (b) predict future, often serious, crashes; or (c) both.



- **Changes in community health, well-being, and quality of life.** It is also critical to track factors related to community health and well-being. These are factors that are fundamentally part of our transportation system, yet often overlooked. Examples include: (a) numbers of people walking, riding bikes, using scooters, bike share, and transit; (b) residents' perspectives about the extent to which the transportation systems afford them the ability to get to essential services, jobs, and to be a part of civic life; and (c) changes in the intensity and distribution of air quality, high levels of which produce ill health outcomes.

Key Considerations to Help Self-assess

- Does the plan include contingencies for responding to funding or staffing disruption or other circumstances that can compromise progress?
- How will the community continually provide feedback following implementation of Vision Zero?
- What strategies does the plan put in place to ensure that community engagement and partnership building continue?