

## Strengthening Existing and Facilitating New Vision Zero Plans

In the United States, the roadway fatality rate is significantly higher than other high-income countries. Many communities are adopting ambitious safety plans to address this public health crisis. One important policy tool that municipalities, counties, or other entities can use is the development, adoption, and implementation of a Vision Zero plan. A Vision Zero plan is a public document that provides the vision for future efforts to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries to zero. This project aimed to: 1) create an inventory of existing Vision Zero plans, 2) identify features of high-quality Vision Zero plans, and 3) develop guidance to facilitate and assist future plan-makers in developing and implementing sound injury prevention plans, with the ultimate goal of improving the US traffic fatality rate.

The researchers found Vision Zero plans from communities across the country, many of which are archived in a [Plan Library](#). The team systematically analyzed the content of each plan to examine whether it reflected elements of a high-quality plan, such as: 1) Does the plan identify the community's vision and goals? 2) Are the vision and goals supported by current and past conditions for safety? 3) Did the plan development involve a participatory process? 4) Does the plan review existing policies, ordinances, and programs that might impact overlapping goals identified in the

Vision Zero plans? and 5) Does the plan include concrete details for implementation?

The critical analysis revealed several findings: most Vision Zero plans need more deliberate and wide-reaching public engagement, more specific and measurable goals, as well as evaluation plans that clearly identify funding sources and responsible groups to oversee implementation activities. Although the “E” framework—engineering, enforcement, education, etc.—is commonly used, additional themes such as engagement, equity, and Safe System principles could reinforce goals to achieve the plan's vision. Stronger connections are needed between local plans and state-level plans, programs, and processes.

These findings motivated the development of a [Guide to Developing a Vision Zero Plan](#), which offers evidence-based recommendations, examples, checklists, and other resources to help stakeholders and decision-makers strengthen the foundational elements of their Vision Zero plans and related processes.

### PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

**Kelly Evenson**

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL

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