

Toward a **Vision Zero** Action Plan for the City of Houston

Houston Tomorrow recommendations for bringing an end to traffic deaths & injuries



Vision Zero

The elimination of all traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

227

Total traffic deaths in the City of Houston in 2014

60,472

Total crashes in the City of Houston in 2014

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Houston Tomorrow recommendations for ending traffic-related deaths and injuries

Executive Summary

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Vision Zero

The goal is elimination of all traffic fatalities and serious injuries. The first initiative of its kind took place in Sweden in 1997. Major American cities like Los Angeles, New York, Seattle, Austin, Washington, DC, Boston, San Antonio and San Jose are actively working on Vision Zero Action Plans. Most large cities not doing so already are in the process of considering it.

How Houston Compares to Other Cities

- Houston has the largest absolute amount of red light running deaths in the country, with 181 deaths between 2004 and 2013.
- Among all US cities, Houston is the 7th most dangerous city for pedestrians.
- Among large cities, it is 2nd behind Miami.
- This is a regional issue; the 13-county Houston region saw 667 traffic deaths in 2014

Vision Zero for Houston

- The City of Houston should adopt a Vision Zero goal to reach zero traffic deaths in a decade.
- The City of Houston should create a Vision Zero Task Force.
- The Vision Zero Task Force should produce an initial Vision Zero Action Plan within 60 or 90 days.
- City Council should aggressively pursue ordinance and funding changes this year.
- Various City Departments should identify and pursue short and long term strategies.

What kinds of things could we do?

- Committed, unified leadership publicly seeking a safer Houston.
- Redesign streets and efficiently invest in putting safer designs on the ground.
- Change codes to outlaw dangerous behavior such as driving while using a handheld device.
- Reduce speed limits and match street design speed to lower limits.
- Introduce new enforcement, messaging, and education strategies.
- Analyze data and create broad understanding of causes of deaths and injuries.
- Strengthen long term strategies like complete streets, walkable urbanism, and balanced funding.
- Decrease vehicle miles traveled.
- Invest in sidewalks.