

CITY OF OBERLIN, OHIO

RESOLUTION No. R25-04 CMS

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING VISION ZERO AND THE LORAIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN TO GO INTO IMMEDIATE EFFECT

WHEREAS, the life, health and safety of all persons living and traveling within the City of Oberlin is our utmost priority and no one should die or be seriously injured while traveling on our city streets; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is the concept that traffic deaths and serious injuries on our roadways are unacceptable and preventable; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is a holistic strategy aimed at eliminating all traffic fatalities and severe injuries suffered by all road users while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all; and

WHEREAS, although streets and transportation systems have traditionally been designed primarily to move cars efficiently, Vision Zero supports a paradigm shift by designing streets and transportation systems to move all people safely, including people of all ages and abilities, pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit users, scooter riders, and motorcyclists, as well as drivers and passengers of motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero recognizes that people will sometimes make mistakes, so the road system and related policies should be designed to ensure that those inevitable mistakes do not result in severe injuries or fatalities; therefore, transportation planners, engineers and policymakers are expected to improve the roadway environment, policies, and other related systems to lessen the severity of crashes; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, traffic crashes are among the leading cause of deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, ODOT data indicates that 108 people in Lorain County lost their lives to traffic deaths between 2018-2022; and

WHEREAS, Lorain County's transportation infrastructure serves an increasing number of vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and bicyclists; and

WHEREAS, according to the Lorain County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, pedestrians and bicyclists are involved in 1.4 percent of all Lorain County crashes, but 10.9 percent of the fatal or serious injury crashes; and

WHEREAS, speed is recognized as a major determining factor of survival in a crash; and

WHEREAS, children, older adults, people of color, people with disabilities, people who are unhoused, and people with low income face a significantly disproportionate risk of traffic injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, making streets safer for all people using all modes of transportation will encourage people to travel on foot, by bicycle, and by public transit, which supports a healthier, more active lifestyle and reduces environmental pollution; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution R15-04, the City of Oberlin has previously adopted its Complete Streets Policy which shares the goal that “Streets and rights-of-way will be designed, constructed and operated to safely accommodate users of all ages and abilities including pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and emergency, service and transit vehicles.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Oberlin, County of Lorain, State of Ohio, 5/7ths of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1. That the City Council of the City of Oberlin concurs that traffic deaths and serious injuries on our roadways are unacceptable and preventable and, therefore, adopts the goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2040.

SECTION 2. That the City Council of the City of Oberlin endorses Vision Zero as a comprehensive and holistic approach to achieving this goal.

SECTION 3. That the City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to send a copy of this resolution to the attention of Kiara Williams, Population Health Strategist at Lorain County Public Health, 9880 Murray Ridge Rd., Elyria, OH 44035 or to kwilliams@loraincountyhealth.com.

SECTION 4. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning or relating to the adoption of the Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 5. To demonstrate the City of Oberlin’s support for Vision Zero and the Lorain County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan and provided that at least five (5) members of Council determine by motion, this Resolution shall go into full force and effect immediately after its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect on the earliest date allowed by law.

PASSED: 1st Reading: May 17, 2025
2nd Reading: _____
3rd Reading: _____

ATTEST


BELINDA B. ANDERSON, MMC
CLERK OF COUNCIL



EBONI A. JOHNSON
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

POSTED: 03/18/2025

EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/17/2025