

Vision Zero Council
March 13th, 2025 Meeting Minutes
10:00am – 12:00pm
This virtual public meeting was hosted on Zoom

Council Members Present: Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto, Susan Logan, Alexander Cintron, Keith Norton, Jonathan Slifka, Nancy Chupak

Council Members Absent: Tony Guerrero

Other Attendees: Aaron Swanson, Charles Harlow, Shaun Formica, Jim Polites, Katherine Hedberg, Jake Fusco, Alec Slatky, Amy Watkins, Terri Thompson, Ernie Bertothy, Natasha Fatu, Representative Aimee Berger-Girvalo, Philip Mainiero, Joseph Ouellette, Senator Christine Cohen, Karen Svetz, Adam Weber, Bryan Pavlik, Phyllis DiFiore, Richard Gard, Joseph Balskus, Sarah Roy, Roger Krahn, Marlon Dubois, Travis Gendron, Dimitris Koutou, Jerry Silber, Craig Yannes, Robert Dickinson, Flavia Pereria, Tracy Noble, Laura Baum, Douglas Hausladen, Juliet Little, Rasha Mohamed, WTNH News 8, Mike Allen, Joseph Cristalli, Judith Proctor, Erika Lindeberg, Anna Stern, Elizabeth Keyes

I. Committee Chair Welcome and Introductions

II. Adoption of 12/16/24 Meeting Minutes

-Motion to approve by Commissioner Eucalitto, no abstentions.

III. Transportation Committee Leadership

-Opening remarks by Senator Cohen and Representative Berger-Girvalo on ongoing legislation.

IV. Agency Legislative Updates

a. CTDOT

-**SB1376:** 0.008 → 0.005 BAC

-**HB7060:** Transportation Worker Safety

-**SB1375:** Highway and Pedestrian Safety

b. DMV

-**HB7160:** Penalties for operating motor vehicle and vessel under the influence

-**HB7162:** Reform motor vehicle towing statutes

-**SB1449:** Establish uniform rates and charges for medium & heavy-duty towing

c. Other Agency Updates

-**SB1375:** Require helmets for certain operators of motorcycles and bicycles

-**SB1376:** Lower the blood alcohol content for driving and boating under the influence from eight-hundredths to five-hundredths of one per cent of alcohol, by weight

V. DESPP Update Heightened Enforcement Efforts

-2024 fatal collision data rundown

-Fatal Mitigation Enforcement Initiative

VI. Automated Traffic Safety Enforcement Device Update: CTDOT – Office of the State Traffic Authority

-Overview and guidance on Automated Traffic Safety (ATS) Enforcement

VII. Sub-Committee Areas of Focus

- a. **Sub-Committee Reorganization or Tasks**
- b. **Guidance From Council**

VIII. Next Steps

- a. **Meeting Topics**
- b. **Meeting Dates**
 - Tuesday, June 17th 10:00am
 - Friday, September 12th 10:00am
 - Thursday, December 10th 10:00am
- c. **Questions from Council**

IX. Public Comment

-Has anyone seen a study of the crashes/deaths/risks of riding in unprotected bike lanes?

- **Commissioner Eucalitto:** I would just refer the question to Transportation Research Board. National Cooperative Highway Research Program has thousands of completed research projects, many of which are focused on vulnerable road users, so I think that would be the place to start with that specific question and then, NHTSA or Federal Highway probably has some materials on that as well. We did just get NCHRP research report 1136 on-street Bicycle Facility Design Features Guide just came in the mail this week. So, I have not cracked it open yet, but I just got it on my desk when I got back to the office today so that's NCHRP research report 1136 is the most recent one from TRB on street bicycle designs.

-One drink leads to less concern for having more. Why not enforce policy of "if you drink don't drive" and have a limit of 0.02 like I believe Sweden and some other countries have?

- **Commissioner Eucalitto:** Well, I think that's why our agency is pushing for 0.05 and it is in line with much of the world. So as we see as we see in our state legislature and across the country, there is significant pushback on the effort to go to 0.05 but that doesn't mean we stop trying.

-Will a vehicle be towed if it has a mirror tint?

- **Lieutenant Alexander Cintron:** I mean, we're not going to tow a vehicle for a mere tint I don't think that would bode well for anybody. I'd have to look into the statute specifically to see what the percentage is even to take enforcement action in all honesty but if it is found to be a violation of statute, we start the fines, we start the referrals to DMV, and I think that's the step to start. Even unofficially, sometimes when these interactions happen people are willing to peel the tint off their window on the spot even before they get the infraction. So if that's something we can facilitate without even having to take that enforcement action and the objective gets done, which is the removal of the tint and therefore, they don't have it anymore and it's not an obstacle to safety then I think our objective was complete there. If people are willing to do that and fix the issue on site, but that is progressive with the discretion of the trooper and everything that's going on and what the statute allows us to do. We will be taking that on, and I have to see, unfortunately those mirror tints haven't been out long enough to get real statistical

data back from these particular ones. Once we have something, if it's tangible and significant, I will definitely report back to everyone here about that.

-Less a question than a suggestion: I'd invite the VZ Council members to consider replacing the word "accident" with "crash" when describing collisions. When a plane falls from the sky, we don't call it an "accident."

-Is there anything the public can do to move the BAC bill along?

- Commissioner Eucalitto: Yeah every member of the public has the opportunity to either submit testimony or contact your legislators and weigh in on which bills are priorities for you. I know on some of the bills this session, there was a lot of testimony. On others, there was less, so that's where it started. Look at the individual piece of legislation tied to BAC and then contact your legislators on those if those are of interest to you. We as agencies, we weigh in with legislators with committees with testimony on specific bills that are of interest to us officially as agencies. You'll see many times some staff of state agencies submit testimony, but in their personal capacity. So an official capacity, you'll usually see commissioners weigh in on behalf of an agency, so members of the public can do that as well.

-I would like to echo one of the opening statements from our representative that speed enforcement cameras should be expanded to limited access highways. We should look into devices that log vehicles point to point along a length of highway rather than one location as drivers will be more likely to slow down for a known camera location and speed up again later, compared to a longer safety corridor.

-Commissioner Eucalitto: That was when we had a hearing on that. That was one thing I brought up is when you have it through the entire corridor, it encourages them to drive more appropriate speeds through the entire corridor, the point-to-point camera technology versus a fixed stationary point. Definitely looking forward to seeing what the legislature does with that this session.

X. Adjourn

-Motion by Commissioner Eucalitto, meeting adjourned.