

Walk & Roll Pierce County - Agenda

January 17, 2023

Attendees:

- **Raichle Dunkeld, WRPC**
- **Connor Schultz**
- **Larry Leveen**
- **Shawn Phelps**
- **Liz Kaster**
- **Noah Struthers**
- **CM Kristina Walker**
- **Cailin Henley**
- **Diane Evans**
- **Jennifer Halverson Kuhn**
- **Cam Solomon**

Agenda:

- Introductions & Ice breaker (10) hard start at 2:02pm
- Business Meeting (30)
- Carrie W, City of Tacoma VZ and budgeting & Q + A (20-30) –WSDOT can't meet until February about the connectivity study
- Member Updates (15-20)

Introductions (name, affiliation, pronouns, question)

Carrie Wilhelme -

- 2020 COT Resolution "Zero traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2035" (same as Pierce County)

VZ Action Plan

- Completed September 2022
- Created "high risk network" map using data available
- Involves "action"
 - Key implementors
 - Focus area
 - Progress metrics
 - Implementation notes
- Examples
 - Update Right of Way design manual

- Institute VZ/complete streets checklist
- Establish post crash evaluation/response team
- Deploy automated traffic safety cameras
- Create and maintain a VZ task force
- Strengthen connection between VZ and SRTS (safe routes to school)
- Dashboard - transparency key
 - Focuses on fatal and serious injury (KSI - killed and serious injury) crashes
 - Tracked per year
 - Including youth and young drivers
 - Includes young bicycles and pedestrians (all crashes) - SRTS cxn
 - KSI crashes by equity index
 - City of Tacoma speed limits
- Q (Larry) - What's the tech being used for the dashboard
 - Backend database
 - ArcGIS database
- Q (Shawn) - Enforcement has been controversial, besides red light cameras (can we have more info on that, too), are there other enforcement changes that will happen with VZ?
 - Deprioritizes the use of enforcement
 - Only working with TPD on crash response
 - Speed enforcement **and** redlight cameras
 - Want to stop crashes before they start (focusing on engineering)
 - One of the first tasks of the VZ taskforce is coming up with decision metrics about enforcement and equity component will be highly involved
- Q (Jenn) - Dashboard won't have 2022 data until April, data from WSDOT, city being notified when KSI crashes occur, but what is the mechanism?
 - Google: Tacoma Traffic Accidents, but it's only raw data from police reported submittals
 - From Jenn, Mayor tracks # homicides, wants the same awareness for traffic deaths, previous CM was trying to prioritize that as well
 - From Jenn, TPCHD will also be tracking under 18 deaths
 - Mayor and Council made it a priority for the Police Chief to do a report monthly about homicides
- Q (Cam) - Thank you, Carrie. Agree re/ prioritization of enforcement. Do you have a rubric for how engineering will be prioritized?
 - Yes, well for the most part.
 - The map that was created will be the basis for prioritization.
 - It will be corroborated with the grants available
 - Have data to know # of fatalities that happened
 - Eg, Portland Ave had the most fatalities in 2021
 - Cam - with death being relatively infrequent, it may not be a very accurate measure
 - Speed data is involving many streets not just
 - Will \$\$ be dedicated to infrastructure improvements?

- PW oversees the traffic cameras
- That is the goal, yes
- Q (Larry) - Right of Way design manual, engineering level with info re/ curb radius, etc?
 - Yes
- Q (Larry) - Has there been a conversation about speed calculations? My understanding from TSC is that there is a science behind calculating speeds vehicles were traveling at and officers are trained in that (and there is a requirement that they do that). But if they do not actually do that, then we could be losing information about the cause of death or serious injury in collisions
 - We haven't started those conversations, but Carrie agrees
 - Analysis has not been in-depth enough to determine if speeding was a factor
 - Police have not necessarily checked multiple boxes
 - Only one investigative response team and they only usually go out with fatal crashes
 - Hopefully we will get there eventually.
- Q (Noah) - I think enforcement is a really important part of VZ and should be a big part of the action plan. Enforcement is a part of changing the actions of the general public.
 - In my time doing this work, I can't talk about engineering and protected bike lanes without enforcement coming up/
 - VZ plan is heightening the importance of engineering, which is always there regardless of the day or time (unlike a police officer or person to enforce)
- It's so easy to use enforcement because we have been using it forever, but engineering has not had that same level of prioritization. Enforcement cannot be at every street all the time.
- Carrie - in stakeholder interviews there were far more negative stories about interactions with the police than positives. Windshield bias is so strong that police presence is not necessarily going to help bike/ped, but actually blame has been placed on the bike/ped and they were introduced i
- Noah thinks there should be a representative here from the police.
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- Lots of opinions coming out about enforcement, potential to have another conversation about this specific issue

Member updates

Shawn - Pierce County Planning

- VZ process has begun, TAC presentation last month and this month
- Waiting to see about SR4A grant which will dictate budget of the plan
- 6 apps in the puget sound region which has been making the process take longer

Ashley Jones

- calendar started for Bike Month by the City of Tacoma. Shared link to calendar in chat for events

- Liz added that events are being penciled in so partners can plan events and Pierce County is hiring a coordinator for County activities

Larry

- Will share ForverGreen's legislative priorities
- Noted that Raichle has shared out the Free to Walk Campaign
- Feb. 1 and 7th - Will be lobbying days by various organizations
- There are 3 trail projects in budget, as well as 6 WSDOT Bike/Ped, 6 in SRTS budgets, and various programs.
- One proposal is for impact fee programs to use Impact Fee funds
- Program about using trails as evacuation(?) routes
- Climate change planning program
- All totaled - \$25 million would come to Pierce County with these programs

Raichle

- Admin Team will be meeting with Diane Evans about SNAP-Ed funding for 2023

Kristina

- More money will be requested for Puyallup to Tacoma trail along SR 167 extension (Gateway project)
- \$35 million allocated for trail by legislature is not quite enough for the full trail project
- Transportation Chair Fey is supportive of project
- Hilltop link extension is moving forward, with some complications that aren't as serious as preferred and will likely open in summer 2023
- Planning continues on Tacoma Dome Link Extension, with some complications. Likely will be early 2024 for next phase of public involvement