

RESOLUTION NO. ____

Vision Zero Resolution

Providing for a Vision Zero policy to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries that are a result of crashes on county roads within Champaign County by 2035.

WHEREAS, a single death on our roads is one too many; and,

WHEREAS, crashes that result in death or serious injury are not inevitable but largely preventable, and great steps can be taken by using a proactive approach that prioritizes traffic safety and treats severe crashes as a public health issue; and,

WHEREAS, a commitment to Vision Zero is a commitment to life and equitable opportunity for the residents and visitors of Champaign County; and,

WHEREAS, it is the role of government to do its part to serve and protect the populace; and,

WHEREAS, in 2019, the State of Illinois ranked 12th in the nation for lowest vehicle fatality rate (NHTSA and Census Bureau data), and, as stated in the Illinois Strategic Highway Safety Plan (ILSHSP), the State has a Vision Zero goal to reduce roadway crash fatalities to zero; and,

WHEREAS, Champaign County is recognized and strives to be continually acknowledged nationally and internationally as a healthy, attractive, desirable and safe place to live; and,

WHEREAS, Champaign County has a strong commitment to prioritizing safety and recently completed its Urban and Rural Safety Plans and has made demonstrable progress to improve safety for walking and biking by making systemic changes in the way the transportation network is managed as evidenced by the sidewalk inventory database and continued work on analyzing specific project areas for safety needs; and,

WHEREAS, 13 people on roadway segments and 13 others at intersections died on rural roads between 2012 and 2016, and the 2019 Long Range Transportation Plan Report Card indicates the same trend in worsening traffic crash statistics for the area in recent years; and,

WHEREAS, dozens of crashes occur in the rural area of Champaign County each year, resulting in serious and other injuries; and,

WHEREAS, in the Rural Champaign County Area Safety Plan (RCCASP) study period, 91% of fixed object crashes were due to roadway departures, and 66% of roadway fatalities involved impaired driving; and,

WHEREAS, crashes on County roads necessitate a comprehensive and specific approach to planning, design, policy, enforcement, legal processes, education and communication in order to provide the most powerful solution to solve the problem; and,

WHEREAS, time and time again, studies show that increased vehicle speeds lead to increased fatality and serious injury rates in crashes; and,

WHEREAS, Vision Zero also aligns with CUUATS' Complete Streets Policy by prioritizing the most vulnerable roadway users and encouraging balance among all users of the County's transportation network; and,

WHEREAS, rural roads that improve safety also enrich the lives of all community members, and safety countermeasures will contribute to overall improved population health; and,

WHEREAS, the local Safe Routes to School program works to ensure that thousands of school children are able to walk and bike to school safely; and,

WHEREAS, the principles of a Vision Zero commitment are supported in existing Urban and Rural Safety Plans, the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the LRTP: Sustainable Choices 2040 Plan, the Champaign County Greenways & Trails Plan, and the Champaign County Strategic Highway Safety Plan; and,

WHEREAS, implementing a Vision Zero commitment requires the contributions of the County's Communications Departments, Health Department, Police Departments, Community Planning and Economic Development Departments, Civil Rights Departments, Intergovernmental Relations Departments, Neighborhood and Community Relations Offices, and Public Works Departments, all of which have demonstrated through past actions and future intentions the willingness to support and implement the commitment for all road users through their collective capabilities; and,

WHEREAS, implementing a Vision Zero commitment requires the continued support of residents, business owners, students, and visitors to Champaign County, acting as individuals and collectively through neighborhood or advocacy organizations, to improve the safety, comfort, and usability of streets for all user types; and,

WHEREAS, Champaign County will join other jurisdictions across the nation in their commitment to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries on our roads; work which has demonstrated success when coupled with adequate funding and staffing levels for its implementation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Champaign County Board:

Champaign County commits to a goal of zero deaths and serious injuries that are a result of crashes on county roads by 2035; and,

The County Board acknowledges that achieving this goal requires significant effort and resources, and will develop a Vision Zero Pledge following the passage of this resolution; and,

The County-developed Rural Safety Plan has put effort into considering equity, striving to impact the most vulnerable and dependent users of the most dangerous parts of the transportation network to improve the health and wellbeing of those traveling on our roads, and the Plan has begun using this data to develop strategies that aim to end death and serious injuries in an equitable manner; and,

The continued work toward Vision Zero for Champaign County will draw heavily from those who use the roads, including those who live in areas that experience high crash rates, those who advocate for safer streets for all modes, and the general public, through a diverse range of outreach activities designed to understand both concerns and opportunities with advancing this vision, and by using their input and refined data to determine appropriate and effective steps to achieve it; and,

The continued work beyond the Safety Plans will use data and best practices to outline concrete steps in planning, engineering, policy, enforcement and education to reach interim steps toward zero deaths: and,

The Champaign County Board will work with partners in the region who own and manage streets to influence the street planning, design, maintenance, operations, and law enforcement, including the State of Illinois, the City of Champaign, the City of Urbana, CUMTD, the Champaign County Board, and all municipalities within its jurisdiction to combine similar efforts and leverage individual work efforts to contribute to improvements in safety region-wide; and,

The Champaign County Highway Engineer, or their designee, will look to the CUUATS Safety Committee, comprised of area leaders in Public Works, Transportation, Public Health, Law Enforcement, Neighborhood and Community Relations, City and Township Management, and other critical representatives to advance the Vision Zero commitment and guide the work of the Rural Safety Plan; and,

Champaign County acknowledges and accepts that the Safety Plans may result in changes to each participating agency or municipality's approach to the planning and design of streets, education and communication techniques, enforcement policies and procedures, and legal and legislative frameworks including the potential to advocate for reduced speed limits; and,

Champaign County is dedicated to measuring the progress, challenges, and successes of the Vision Zero commitment and will do so with tangible, reportable metrics that will be reported upon on an annual basis through the Safety Scorecards already being prepared by CUUATS staff. Other metrics of progress will also be pursued and reviewed periodically to ensure accountability and achievement toward eliminating serious injuries on our roadways.

PRESENTED, ADOPTED, APPROVED and RECORDED this 18th day of August 2022.

Kyle Patterson, Chair
Champaign County Board

Recorded
& Attest: _____
Aaron Ammons, County Clerk
and ex-Officio Clerk of the
Champaign County Board

Approved: _____
Darlene A. Kloeppel, County Executive
Date: _____

Date: _____