

Atlanta Vision Zero Action Plan June Virtual Information Session

Date and Time: June 20, 2023, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Location: Zoom

I. Session Overview

The virtual Information Session was a one-hour meeting held via Zoom. The meeting was hosted by the Atlanta Department of Transportation (ATLDOT) and the Action Plan consultant team: Toole Design Group (Toole), VHB, and Blue Cypress Consulting. The goal of this Information Session was to provide updates on the Action Plan progress to date and next steps. A total of 32 people joined the Zoom webinar.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Vision Zero Action Plan Status Presentation
3. Q & A
4. Action Step

II. Minutes

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Chris Puglisi (Toole) welcomed the audience and provided an overview of the agenda. He mentioned that the meeting is being recorded and that the video will be posted to the project website. He then introduced the project team and gave Cole Smith the floor to introduce himself as the new ATLDOT Vision Zero Manager. Cole shared remarks about his background and his excitement to serve in his new role.

Vision Zero Action Plan Status Presentation

Task Force

Andy Clarke (Toole) provided additional context about the planning process and the Vision Zero Task Force.

Communities of Concern Analysis

Betty Smoot-Madison (ATLDOT) explained the City's methodology for identifying Communities of Concern. She discussed that this is the framework for the Action Plan's equity-based engagement approach, and it will also be used during the project prioritization and selection process.

High Level Data Analysis

Ian Hamilton (VHB) provided an overview of the safety analysis conducted to date. He also discussed how proven countermeasures can be a part of the solution.

Community Engagement

Amanda Hatton (Blue Cypress Consulting) discussed the overall engagement approach and key engagement statistics from the website traffic and community input map participation. She mentioned that the planning team targeted in-person outreach to NPU/neighborhood organizations that touch Communities of Concern. She also shared highlights from the engagement events that have taken place to date.

Chris Puglisi discussed next steps in the planning process and then opened the floor for a Q & A session.

Q & A

Ian provided answers to a couple of questions from the Zoom Q & A during the safety analysis overview. He noted that slide 16 was only showing bike data, but it is representative of the types of issues on Atlanta's streets. He also shared additional context about the focus facility types discussed on slide 17 and 18.

Betty explained that the Action Plan will help ATLDOT determine options and strategies for funding projects. She also noted that implementation partners are key.

Betty also noted that hospitals and navigability for emergency service vehicles are important components of the Vision Zero network. She said that ATLDOT plans to partner with hospitals and medical facilities such as the Shepherd Center to host community engagement events, either through the Action Plan process or after this planning process ends.

Amanda mentioned that there will be one more virtual workshop and one additional pop-up during the Action Plan process. The pop-up is tentatively planned for September at the Atlanta Streets Alive Event on Peachtree Street.

Betty discussed the state list of roads and how the City is working with GDOT to align improvements with Vision Zero principles. Traffic Engineering Studies are often needed.

Betty and Cole chimed in about some recent ATLDOT projects and current initiatives that ATLDOT has underway. They also made note that the Action Plan is helping to shape future implementation projects based on the safety analysis that Ian shared today.

- The proposed Fatality Review Commission is being introduced as legislation at tonight's City Council meeting.
- The City's Sidewalk Inventory helped identify gaps and needs for repairs. The ATLDOT Commissioner has proposed a large budget for sidewalk projects.

Ian noted that it is too soon to tell from the data whether the City's lowering of speed limits to 25 mph on all city streets has made a difference in the number of fatal or serious injury crashes; however, Andy stated that Seattle had a sharp reduction in their number of fatal and serious injury crashes after the speed limits were lowered, so Atlanta might have similar outcomes.

Action Steps

Chris shared some final remarks and pointed out that the pledge can be signed via a link on the project website (<https://www.atlvisionzero.com/engage>). He thanked participants for joining the Information Session, encouraged people to attend the upcoming In-Person Community Workshop, and closed the meeting.

Appendix A: Question and Answer Transcript

The following questions are a transcript of those submitted during the Zoom meeting. Minor spelling corrections have been made. The project team’s responses are recorded in the “answer” column. *Individual names have been removed from questions for privacy purposes.*

#	Question	Answer
1	Are captions available?	<i>Participant enabled automated closed captions.</i>
2	Please introduce all speakers so we know the capacity in which they speak.	live answered
2	Please introduce all speakers so we know the capacity in which they speak.	Betty Smoot-Madison is Director of Mobility Planning at ATLDOT. Andy Clarke is Director of Strategy at Toole Design and is Principal-in-Charge of the consultant team of the action plan. Chris Puglisi is a senior Transportation Engineer at Toole Design and is Project Manager of the consultant team. Ian Hamilton is a Transportation Planner at VHB and has been performing the safety data analysis. Amanda Hatton is a Community Planner at Blue Cypress and has been leading engagement efforts on behalf of the consultant team.
3	I just joined so this may have already been answered, but how do we receive a copy of this presentation?	A recording will be posted on ATLDOT's YouTube channel and linked on the vision zero webpage, www.atlvisionzero.com
4	Does your outreach include the NPU's and neighborhood associations? I would like to invite you to do outreach to these groups.	live answered
5	As I review your list of partners, I may have missed it, but I did not see neighborhoods and NPUs as partners in your taskforce. Can you add neighborhood representatives to your community of partners?	Hi Debra. Good question. We have been reaching out community partners and NPUs as an additional outreach mechanism. I'll speak to this a little later in the presentation.
5	As I review your list of partners, I may have missed it, but I did not see neighborhoods and NPUs as partners in your taskforce. Can you add neighborhood representatives to your community of partners?	Buckhead CID is part of the task force and Livable Buckhead has been a community partner. We would love for Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods to also be a community partner. Is the email address you registered with a good contact for you to follow up after the meeting?
6	90% of fatal crashes are on HIN or on other city streets?	90% of recent fatal crashes (excluding the interstate highways) are on the HIN
7	How do we obtain a copy of today's slide deck, not just a recording of the presentation?	The slide deck will be posted to the website as well.
8	Is this slide only bicycle data?	live answered

#	Question	Answer
9	Heartis is located across the street from Shepherd Center. In February, I was struck by a car in a crosswalk in front of Heartis. It is Georgia law for cars to stop for pedestrian traffic in a crosswalk. Anyway, I live in a hospital zone that needs to be a complete street. Traffic needs to slow down. It is horrifying for pedestrians.	Thank you for sharing your experience.
9	Heartis is located across the street from Shepherd Center. In February, I was struck by a car in a crosswalk in front of Heartis. It is Georgia law for cars to stop for pedestrian traffic in a crosswalk. Anyway, I live in a hospital zone that needs to be a complete street. Traffic needs to slow down. It is horrifying for pedestrians.	Really sorry to hear about your crash -- you'll see that speed is an issue across the board that the plan will try to address.
10	When - and for how long - will 10th & Monroe close and traffic diverted around Midtown High School?	Thanks for this question! We will not be able to provide project specific information during this session, however, please send an email with this inquiry to ATLDOT@AtlantaGA.gov and we will have the project manager provide the requested information.
11	Do the data investigating these risk factors include citations issued by the City for vehicles (including large trucks) parked in a bike lane?	Not at this time, however, the city can take the known crashes and risk factors and use the citation data from APD and local parking enforcement to supplement those findings and help identify the most appropriate treatments
12	What do the dots mean on the slide?	live answered
13	the print on the map is too small to see	Please use the following link to see detailed input collected to date and to provide additional input: https://atl.mysocialpinpoint.com/vision-zero#/
14	Thanks! Also, what is your email address, Amanda?	amanda.hatton@bluecypress-consulting.com
15	There needs to be a vision zero workshop at Shepherd Center. www.shepherd.org	live answered
16	Are there members of the public on the task force or just consultants and groups?	https://www.atlvisionzero.com/vz-task-force
17	How will the Vision Zero projects be funded?	live answered

#	Question	Answer
18	yes	live answered
19	The interactive map shows many dots of participation in the NPU A B C areas but the information sessions seems to be lacking in those areas. Will you be doing any information sessions in those areas and or reaching out to those particular NPU's?	live answered
21	Your focus is not on 2 lane streets?	All surface streets are part of the plan, but in terms of prioritizing action, we see a much greater share of severe crashes on those 3 and 4 lane arterials. They will tend to be the focus to prevent those fatal and serious injury crashes in the city
22	No Neighborhoods!	Not applicable
23	how do you submit a street for the default 25mph?	live answered
24	Understood, thanks!	Not applicable
25	We have a neighborhood group in Home Park actively engaging Atlanta DOT and GDOT on safety improvements for 14th St NW on the west side. Who would be a good contact at Vision Zero to share our efforts and gain support/guidance?	Feel free to reach out to Cole or myself. cusmith@atlantaga.gov or bsmoot-madison@atlantaga.gov
26	Was the installation of jersey barriers on Edgewood and installation of bollards on 10th between Juniper and Peachtree Street part of Vision Zero work?	live answered
27	What about the questions that were mailed in	live answered
28	Has city-wide crash data shown that the 25 mph default speed limit has been effective at reducing serious crashes?	live answered
29	I found the mapping tool was very hard to use so I'm wondering if it really is a suitable tool to collect info from everybody.	Thanks for the feedback, Jennifer. This is the first time we received this type of feedback on the map tool. We will keep this in mind as we move forward. Please come to the meeting on Thursday, if possible, or reach out to us via email if you have additional input to provide.
30	Wieuca was initially reduced to 25, then taken back up to 30. Why was the speed limit taken back up?	We can look into this for you.
31	me again: I emailed a couple of questions ahead of this meeting. Will they and any others be addressed?	live answered

#	Question	Answer
32	Peachtree Center Ave cycle rack needs some maintenance/love.	Not applicable
33	Where are start dates for Monroe Drive phasing posted?	Design is anticipated to be complete in October 2024, and construction is anticipated to be complete in 2025.
34	Wieuca Rd has a primary school located on it. It is a 2-lane road, however, the speeding is outrageous and a school child was hit. I realize your emphasis is on 4 lane roads, but we need some assistance!	Not applicable
35	Awesome! Thanks.	Not applicable
36	Has Vision Zero had an impact on ATL311 requests for the filling of potholes and general road repair? Not necessarily just time frame, but more so if there's any extra consideration for requests made in the HIN	We will be working with our maintenance team to address and prioritize HIN corridors. At this time, there is a service time for when any repairs are made in response to ATL311.
37	Thank you	Not applicable
38	Thank you for presentation	Not applicable