

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	March 5, 2024
Action Required:	
Presenter:	Sandy Shackelford - TJPDC, Ben Chambers, Transportation Planning Manager
Staff Contacts:	Ben Chambers, Transportation Planning Manager
Title:	Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

Background

The passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established the Safe Streets and Roads for All discretionary grant, which dedicates up to \$5 billion for roadway safety improvements over five years. To access these funds, localities must develop a safety action plan. In 2023, the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) applied for and was awarded funding to begin a regional safety action plan, which will cover Charlottesville and the surrounding counties. This planning effort kicked off earlier this winter and has been branded Move Safely Blue Ridge.

One of the requirements of a safety action plan is that the locality formally set targets for safety improvements. As part of Move Safely Blue Ridge, TJPDC staff is asking each locality to set its own commitments for reductions in roadway fatalities and serious injuries to occur by 2045. To date, each of the other participating localities in Move Safely Blue Ridge have committed to their safety targets. In the other participating counties, the safety targets that were adopted were in line with VDOT's targets, set under the statewide Virginia Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), which aimed for a 50 percent reduction of deaths and serious injuries from roadway incidents.

For Charlottesville's safety targets, staff has recommended that the City of Charlottesville commit to an elimination of deaths and a 50 percent reduction in serious injuries resulting from roadway incidents. While this may seem to be a more aggressive target than our more rural partners, in terms of absolute numbers, Charlottesville currently has a low number of roadway fatalities, with a total of 13 deaths in crashes between 2018 and 2022. Reducing this number to zero is in line with the Comprehensive Plan, which calls for planning to "work toward a goal of zero fatalities or serious injuries on the City's streets". The commitment letter aims the planning effort toward that goal for the City, while setting specific targets for the 2045 horizon year.

Discussion

TJPDC staff will provide a presentation on the Move Safely Blue Ridge regional safety action plan and the commitment being requested from City Council for its support of the planning effort and setting of performance targets.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

Improving safety of the transportation system for all users in the City will increase mobility options equitably. Working with TJPDC and our regional partners on setting goals for the safety of the

transportation system will magnify positive outcomes for the residents, employees, and visitors in the City. This planning effort supports the Comprehensive Plan's strategy for transportation regarding tracking and mapping of fatalities and serious injuries to identify areas of concern and the sub-strategy to pursue planning work that would develop a strategy for eliminating fatalities and injuries on City streets.

Community Engagement

This commitment letter is only one element of engagement with the localities and the public that TJPDC will have throughout the Move Safely Blue Ridge planning process. This plan will continue over the next 18 months approximately, with multiple opportunities for engagement throughout the process.

Budgetary Impact

None

Recommendation

Adoption of the Commitment Letter

Alternatives

Council may request a change to the targets for serious injuries and fatalities, but ultimately will need to adopt a commitment letter with targets identified to continue participation in the regional safety action plan.

Attachments

1. Charlottesville_CommitmentLetter_Draft
2. Locality Crash Facts - City of Charlottesville
3. Safe Streets and Roads for All Charlottesville Commitment