



Office of Mayor Eric Papenfuse
MLK Government Center
10 N. Second St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 255-3040

Nov. 5, 2018

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

On the evening of March 5, 2018, Cynthia Wilson, a 62-year-old resident of the City, was struck and killed while crossing State Street on a quick shopping trip. Ms. Wilson was the fifth pedestrian or bicyclist killed along this section of State Street in a period of 17 months.

In the days immediately following this crash, my administration took decisive action to address the safety of State Street – recognizing that every three months could mean another lost life. This action led us to the Vision Zero Network, a national, collaborative campaign helping communities eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries while providing safe, healthy and equitable mobility for all.

Since the crash that claimed the life of Ms. Wilson, many people have come forward with similar stories. Too many of us have friends or family members injured or killed while walking or biking on City streets. This is unacceptable, and therefore I am making this pledge as a resident, business owner, parent and as your mayor: I pledge by the year 2030, we will eliminate all fatalities and serious injuries related to motor vehicles.

The City began developing our Vision Zero Policy and Program in May 2018, and the forthcoming Action Plan will be a major milestone in this effort. While much of our focus this summer has been on the State Street Rapid Response project, the underlying Vision Zero philosophy is already making its way into better street designs and ordinances city-wide. We also are assigning more resources to enforcement and public outreach.

Collaboration is key to the success of any Vision Zero program. We will need the help and support of people who live and work in the City, including residents and commuters, businesses and employers, neighborhood groups and community associations. We must all come together to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries by the year 2030.

The work has already begun – but there is much to do. Moving forward, we will be soliciting your ideas to improve street safety, to identify problem spots and to develop solutions. We seek your support as we implement new policies and projects. Get involved in your neighborhoods, speak up at community meetings, and help promote the idea that these tragedies are unacceptable and preventable.

By working together, this City will be a safer place to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Eric R. Papenfuse
Mayor
City of Harrisburg