

Vision Zero Resolution for the Town of Chester

WHEREAS, the safety of all road users moving within and through the Town of Chester is our utmost priority, and no one should die or be seriously injured while traveling on our public roads and streets; and,

WHEREAS, as part of the 2021 Federal Transportation Bill, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), there is over \$1B of roadway safety funding available in the form of Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grants and to be an eligible applicant for this new safety funding, a district MUST have an eligible Action Plan in place; and

WHEREAS, the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission received an SS4A grant to create an eligible Comprehensive Safety Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is the concept that traffic deaths and serious injuries on our roadways are unacceptable and a strategy aimed at eliminating all traffic fatalities and severe injuries suffered by all road users while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all; and

WHEREAS, streets and transportation systems have traditionally been designed primarily to move cars efficiently, and Vision Zero supports a paradigm shift by designing streets and transportation systems to move all people safely, including people of all ages and abilities, pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit users, scooter riders, and motorcyclists, as well as drivers and passengers of motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero recognizes that people will sometimes make mistakes, so the road system and related policies should be designed to ensure that those inevitable mistakes do not result in severe injuries or fatalities; therefore, transportation planners and engineers and policymakers are expected to improve the resiliency of the roadway, the roadway environment, policies, and other related systems to lessen the severity of crashes; and

WHEREAS, 31 people in the Mount Ascutney Region lost their lives to traffic deaths in the last 10 years and there were 131 serious injuries, and traffic crashes are among the leading cause of deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, making streets safer for all people using all modes of transportation will encourage people to travel on foot, by bicycle, and by public transit, which supports a healthier, more active lifestyle and reduces environmental pollution; and

WHEREAS, successful Vision Zero programs are a result of both a complete government approach (i.e., interdepartmental, coordinated initiatives) and community support of Vision Zero objectives and action plans; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero resolutions have been adopted by many jurisdictions across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission’s Board of Commissioners adopted a Vision Zero Resolution and recommends the Town of Chester pass this Resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Select Board for the Town of Chester, State of Vermont, as follows:

The Town of Chester adopts the goal of zero traffic deaths and serious injuries, stating that no loss of life or serious injury is acceptable on our streets.

The Town of Chester adopts the goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2040, and endorses Vision Zero as a comprehensive and holistic approach to achieving this goal.

The Town of Chester adopts the goal of eliminating racial profiling and inequitable enforcement of traffic violations.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Select Board for the Town of Chester, State of Vermont, on _____, by the following vote: _____

Select Board Chair

Select Board Member

Select Board Member

Select Board Member

Select Board Member