# Recommendation Report Summary

SUBJECT: Vision Zero Road Safety Action Plan
TO: Committee of the Whole
FROM: Public Works
Transportation
Report Number: PWS-13-26
Wards Affected: All
Date to Committee: April 13, 2026
Date to Council: April 21, 2026

## Recommendation

Direct the Director of Transportation Services to initiate the development of a Vision Zero Road Safety Action Plan and approve an upset limit of $300,000 from the Capital Purposes Reserve Fund as an in-year budget request to retain a qualified consultant through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process to support the development of the plan as outlined in public works report PWS-13-26; and

Direct the Director of Transportation Services to report back to Committee of the Whole with the completed Vision Zero Road Safety Action Plan and implementation recommendations by Q4 of 2027.

## Executive Summary

Purpose of report:

- This report responds to the motion adopted at the January 12, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting (Item 8.3 – Motion Memorandum regarding correspondence from the Burlington Cycling Advisory Committee on a Vision Zero program, COW-01-26/SD).

- The motion directed the Director of Transportation Services to report back to Committee of the Whole no later than April 2026 with:
    - A plan to advance a Vision Zero work program for the City of Burlington
    - A recommended budget to support implementation beginning in 2026

- This request was initiated through correspondence from the Burlington Cycling Advisory Committee, which identified the opportunity to advance the development of a Vision Zero framework to strengthen the City's approach to road safety and the protection of vulnerable road users.

- This report outlines the proposed approach to developing a Vision Zero Road Safety Action Plan and identifies the resources required to support the initiative.

- There is currently no dedicated funding allocated within the Transportation Services budget to support the development of a Vision Zero Road Safety Action Plan.

- To advance this initiative, staff recommend that Council approve an in-year budget request with an upset limit of $300,000 to retain a qualified transportation safety consultant through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process.

## Background

Vision Zero

Vision Zero is an internationally recognized road safety framework that originated in Sweden in 1997. The framework is based on the principle that no loss of life on the transportation system is acceptable, and that transportation systems should be designed so that human error does not result in serious injury or death.

Vision Zero recognizes that responsibility for road safety is shared among system designers, policy makers, enforcement agencies, vehicle manufacturers and road users.

Key principles of the Vision Zero framework include:

- Designing transportation systems that anticipate human error
- Prioritizing safety for vulnerable road users including pedestrians and cyclists
- Using data-driven decision making to identify high-risk locations
- Integrating engineering, education, enforcement and evaluation strategies
- Establishing clear performance targets for reducing fatalities and serious injuries

The Vision Zero approach has been adopted by many jurisdictions across North America, including several Canadian municipalities.

## Analysis

Road Safety Context in Burlington

Like many municipalities across Ontario, Burlington continues to experience traffic collisions that result in injuries and fatalities each year.

Recent available data indicates:

- Approximately 1400 collisions occur annually on roadways under the jurisdiction of the City of Burlington
- Over the past five years, City of Burlington roadways have experienced an average of 1.6 fatal collisions and 157 injury collisions annually

- Traffic volumes across the region have increased as travel patterns have returned to pre-pandemic levels
- While most collisions are minor, a smaller proportion result in serious injuries or fatalities

Although the City currently implements a number of road safety initiatives through engineering improvements, traffic calming programs and speed management measures, these activities are delivered through multiple programs.

A Vision Zero framework would provide a coordinated, data-driven strategy to guide future road safety initiatives and establish measurable safety targets.

Alignment with the Integrated Mobility Plan

The City of Burlington's Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP) identifies road safety as a core priority through the Vision Zero Program which is responsible for developing and implementing measures to eliminate fatal and serious injury collisions and protect vulnerable road users.

The IMP establishes the following objective:

Goal 1 – Burlington will eliminate transportation-related deaths and serious injuries.

The Vision Zero Program supports this objective by:

- Developing, designing, recommending and implementing measures to reduce fatal and injury collisions and protect vulnerable road users including pedestrians, cyclists and transit users.
- Enhancing data collection and analysis related to collision patterns
- Reviewing and updating traffic calming, speed management and roadway design guidelines
- Developing dashboards and tools to monitor safety performance
- Exploring innovative street and intersection design treatments focused on safety
- Reviewing the use of automated enforcement technologies

The IMP also identifies the importance of collaboration with key partners including:

- Halton Region
- Halton Regional Police Service
- Halton District School Board and Halton Catholic District School Board
- Halton Region Public Health
- Ministry of Transportation Ontario

- Community road safety organizations and neighbourhood associations

The development of a Vision Zero Road Safety Action Plan supports the objectives of the Integrated Mobility Plan and provides a structured approach to improving roadway safety across Burlington.

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**Recommendation Details**

Advancing a Vision Zero Road Safety Action Plan supports the City of Burlington's strategic priority of delivering safe, reliable and accessible mobility options for residents and businesses. The initiative aligns with the goals of the Integrated Mobility Plan, which reflect the community's values, top priorities and core belief that the transportation-related death and serious injury will not be accepted as part of our daily lives. Implementation of a Vision Zero Road Safety Action Plan will ensure that Burlington's mobility network is designed, operated and maintained in a way that safely serves all transportation modes, including walking, cycling and transit.

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**Key Dates & Milestones**

The development of Burlington's Vision Zero Road Safety Action Plan would proceed according to the following timeline.

<u>2026</u>

- Council approval of Vision Zero program funding
- Preparation and issuance of the Request for Proposals
- Consultant procurement and project initiation
- Initial collision data analysis and stakeholder engagement

<u>2027</u>

- Development of the Vision Zero Road Safety Action Plan
- Identification of high-injury networks and priority safety corridors
- Development of recommended engineering, enforcement, education and policy measures
- Preparation of implementation roadmap and performance metrics

Staff anticipate returning to Committee in Q4 of 2027 with:

- The completed Vision Zero Road Safety Action Plan
- Recommended implementation priorities
- Recommended capital and operating budget requirements for future years

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## Implications

### Financial

There is currently no dedicated funding allocated within the Transportation Services budget to support the development of a Vision Zero Road Safety Action Plan.

To advance this initiative, staff recommend that Council approve an in-year budget request with an upset limit of $300,000 to retain a qualified transportation safety consultant through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process.

The requested funding would support:

- Preparation and issuance of the Request for Proposals (RFP)
- Detailed collision data analysis and network screening
- Identification of a High Injury Network and priority safety corridors
- Stakeholder engagement with partner agencies and community stakeholders
- Development of Burlington's Vision Zero Road Safety Action Plan and implementation framework

<u>Basis for Estimated Cost</u>

The proposed upset limit of $300,000 was established based on a review of comparable Vision Zero Programs and road safety strategy studies undertaken by municipalities of similar size and complexity. These studies typically range between $200,000 and $400,000, depending on the scope of analysis, stakeholder engagement requirements, and technical modelling involved. The proposed budget provides sufficient flexibility to retain a qualified consultant capable of completing the required analysis and engagement.

As this initiative was not previously included in the approved Transportation Services budget, Council approval would be required as an in-year budget allocation from the Capital Purposes reserve fund.

### Climate

The Vision Zero Program framework supports the City's broader transportation and climate objectives by promoting safer conditions for walking, cycling and other forms of active transportation. Improving safety for vulnerable road users can encourage greater use of sustainable transportation modes, which contributes to the City's goal of reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.

## Communication and Engagement

Proactive, clear, and consistent communication will be essential as safety programs and policies evolve. A comprehensive communications and engagement approach will be used to ensure the community is informed, understands the rationale for changes, and are supported through the implementation.

The development of the Vision Zero Road Safety Action Plan will include engagement with internal and external stakeholders, including Halton Region, Halton Regional Police Service, local school boards, public health agencies and community road safety advocacy groups.

Engagement activities will also include collaboration with City advisory committees and opportunities for public input to help inform the development of the Vision Zero Road Safety Action Plan.

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## References

Integrated Mobility Plan

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## Strategic Alignment

- ☑ Designing and delivering complete communities
- ☐ Providing the best services and experiences
- ☑ Protecting and improving the natural environment and taking action on climate change
- ☐ Driving organizational performance

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## Author:

Craig Kummer
Director, Transportation Services
Craig.kummer@burlington.ca

## Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and approved by the Commissioner, Head of Corporate Affairs, Chief Financial Officer, and Commissioner of Legal and Legislative Services/City Solicitor.