



Transportation Committee - Board of Representatives

David Watkins, Chair

Terry Adams, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Transportation Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Watkins, Vice Chair Adams, and Committee Member Reps. Di Costanzo, Grunberger, and Sandford. Committee Member Reps. Gilbride and Moore were excused. Also present was Luke Buttenwieser, Transportation, Traffic and Parking Bureau.

Chair Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. <u>T31.019</u>	RESOLUTION; To Advance and Support the City of Stamford's Vision Zero Initiative 02/08/23– Submitted by Reps. Ley, Jacobson, Gilbride, Grunberger, Goldberg, Shaw, Nabel, Sanford, Mays, Morson, Di Costanzo, and de la Cruz	Approved, as amended, 5-0-0

Rep. Ley explained that the purpose underlying this proposed resolution is to support the Mayor's Vision Zero Initiative announced in September, the goal of which is to eliminate traffic deaths. She is a member of the Vision Zero Initiative task force as a representative of the Board of Representatives. There are also members from the Planning Board, community groups, Public Safety, UConn, the Police Department and the Traffic Department. The purpose of the task force is to identify potential improvements, work with a consultant to be brought on board to identify specific improvements that can be made, and coordinate with State agencies to implement these improvements, particularly since many of these roadway deaths are occurring on State roads. The purpose of this resolution is to express support, so that as the task force develops guidelines and implementation measures they can show that the that these measures have the support of the Board of Representatives, which will help the City in going after any grant funding and in our coordination efforts with State agencies.

Mr. Buttenwieser stated that Vision Zero is an international and national goal. Approximately 45 other municipalities in the country have committed themselves to the goal of eliminating roadway deaths by 2032. Stamford was the first city in Connecticut to commit itself to the goal. Part of the action plan, once the consultant is onboard, is to have at least 20 community meetings.

Committee members continued to discuss this proposed resolution with the invited guests. Items discussed included the following:

- This is a top priority for many City residents
- The Board of Representatives can play a role in educating the public on the plans if the Board is updated on a regular basis

- The safe systems approach mentioned in the resolution is a new way of thinking when it comes to roadway safety. The traditional way was the 3 E's: engineering, enforcement, education. The safe systems approach takes a much more holistic view and has 5 key components: safe vehicles, safe people, safe speeds, safe roads, and post crash care, working together to create an overall, safer roadway system. Details on this approach can be found on the Vision Zero webpage <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/vision-zero-927>
- One of the key components is that the transportation system should be forgiving of inevitable human error, which means having a layered and redundant system so that there are multiple levels of protection in the event that one or more layers fails. An example is having delayed lights at crosswalks as well as raised crosswalks. This way the pedestrian has a 7 to 10 second head start (a "leading pedestrian interval"), the pedestrian is more visible, and the vehicle must drive more slowly over a raised crosswalk
- The City ordinance regarding traffic cameras would still apply, regardless of whether the state permits them
- Under resources and underserved communities have not historically been taken into account in traffic decisions, leading to poor designs in some of those communities; the task force wants to be sure they are included in the decision making process
- The sentence regarding supporting the State initiatives is premature, as the State bill has not been finalized and it is not known what the State initiatives are
- There does need to be coordination with the State to implement Vision Zero initiatives
- The State bill permits eminent domain for bicycle paths and multi-use trails

A motion to strike the final sentence of the resolution was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Watkins, Adams, Di Costanzo, Grunberger, and Sanford in favor).

A motion to approve Item No. 1, as amended, was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Watkins, Adams, Di Costanzo, Grunberger, and Sanford in favor).

Chair Watkins adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Watkins, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).