

Wake County Board of Commissioners
Growth and Sustainability Committee
March 25, 2019
3:00 p.m.
Wake County Justice Center, Room 2800

Commissioners Present:

Sig Hutchinson - Chair
Matt Calabria - Vice-Chair
Susan Evans

Wake County Staff Present:

David Ellis, County Manager; Johnna Rogers, Chief Operating Officer; Nicole Kreiser, Assistant County Manager; Chris Dillon, Assistant County Manager; Derwick Paige, Chief Community Vitality Officer; Ben Canada, Assistant to the County Manager; Ken Murphy, Senior Assistant County Attorney; Jason Horton, Strategic Performance Director; Tim Gardiner, Planner III; Tim Maloney, Planning, Development, and Inspections Director; Michael Orbon, Water Quality Director; John Hamlin, Communications Specialist; Kim McDonald, Physician Director; Regina Petteway, Human Services Director; Jennifer Delcourt, Public Health Educator/Safe Routes to School Coordinator; Eric Staehle, Senior Facilities Project Manager; Denise Hogan, Clerk to the Board; and Michelle Cerett, Executive Assistant to the Board.

Others Present:

Tracy Anderson, Institute of Transportation, Research, and Education, NC State; Kenneth Withrow, Senior Transportation Planner, CAMPO; and Ed Johnson, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, NCDOT.

Meeting Called to Order

Commissioner Hutchinson called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending. He said today's items overlay with the Community Health Needs Assessment Task Force.

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Calabria moved, seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson, to approve the Growth, Land Use, and Environmental Committee minutes of the September 10, 2018 meeting. The minutes were approved on a 2-1 vote. Commissioner Evans abstained from voting because she was not at the meeting. **Note:** The minutes that the Growth, Land Use, and Environmental committee was changed to Growth and Sustainability effect January 1, 2019.

NC Vision Zero

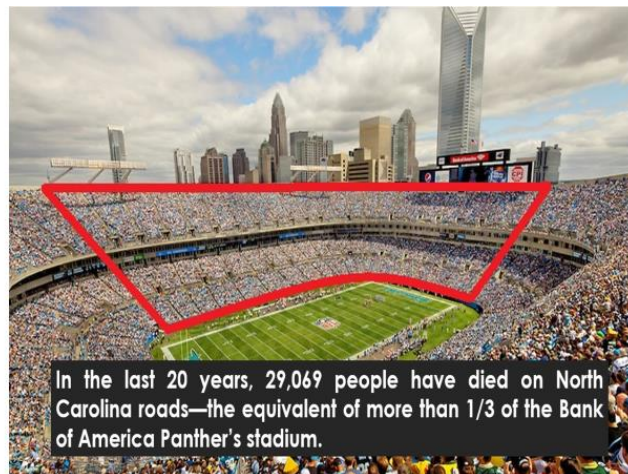
Ms. Tracy Anderson, Institute of Transportation Research & Education, NC State University, provided an overview of today's agenda.

- Receive an Overview of Vision Zero and Safe Routes to School
- Discuss potential linkages to BOC Goals, Objectives, and Initiatives
- Discuss next steps

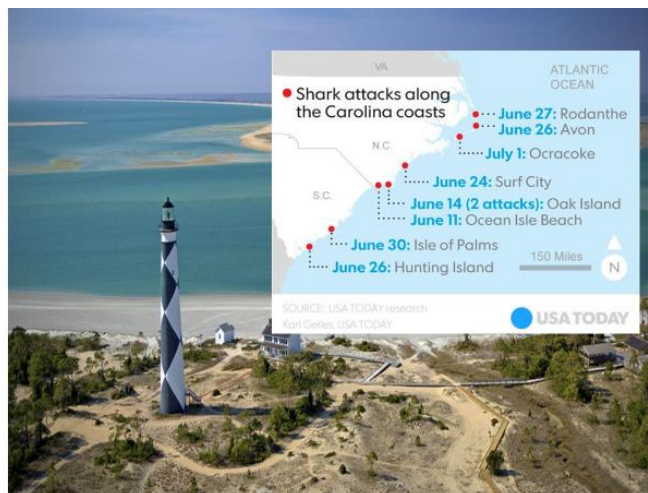
She shared statistics on the number of traffic tragedies in North Carolina for 2017.

1,412 fatalities

4,500 serious injuries



She said it is important to develop a zero tolerance for roadway violence.



She provided statistics on shark attacks along the coast last year and put in context the attention about those vs the attention on roadway fatalities.



She shared an overview of vision zero.



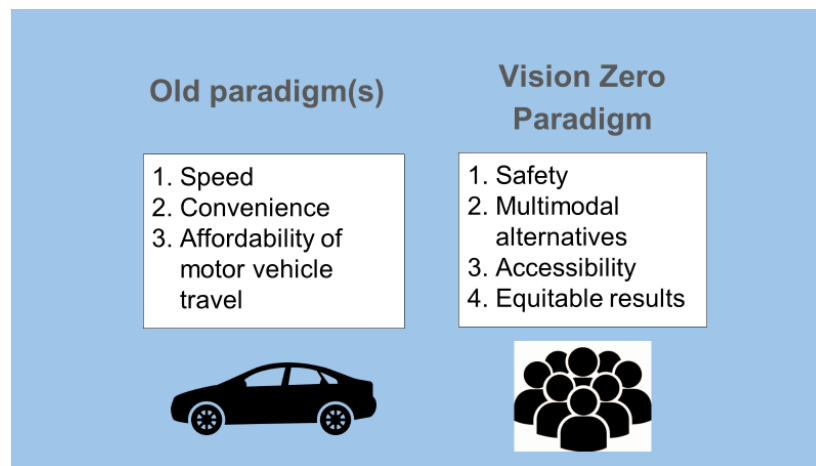
Ms. Anderson shared the transportation paradigm.

Transportation paradigm

- Changes the way we define transportation problems
- Changes how we evaluate system performance
- Types of solutions considered



She shared a comparison of the old paradigms and the Vision Zero Paradigm.



She shared the principles of NC Vision Zero.

No loss of life on our roads is acceptable.

All road users deserve safe streets.

North Carolinians should not incur risk of death or serious injury in exchange for mobility.

A safe systems approach is required to eliminate fatal and serious injuries.

She shared the NC Vision Zero video that is on YouTube.



[NC Vision Zero YouTube](https://www.ncvisionzero.org/videos)
[ncvisionzero.org/videos](https://www.ncvisionzero.org/videos)

Ms. Anderson shared the safe systems approach. She said vehicle safety increases each year. She said vehicle technology saves more than 27,000 lives in the United States each year. She said studies have shown that roundabouts decrease traffic accidents by 75 percent and decrease traffic fatalities by 90 percent.



She shared success that Sweden has seen with Vision Zero.



Sweden has seen a
50% reduction
in crash death rates since
starting Vision Zero in 1997.



She shared the safe systems approach used in Sweden.

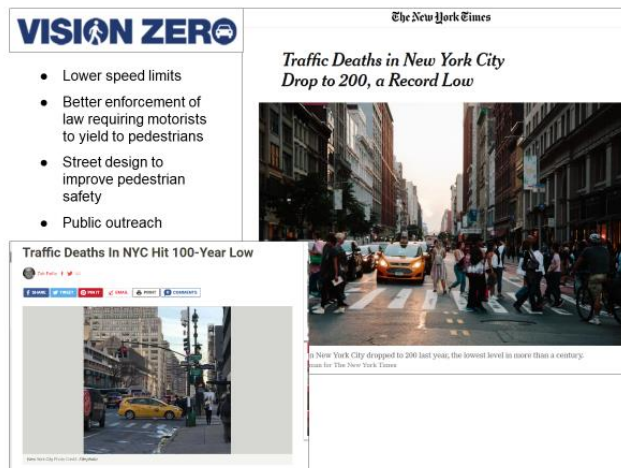


Safe Systems Approach

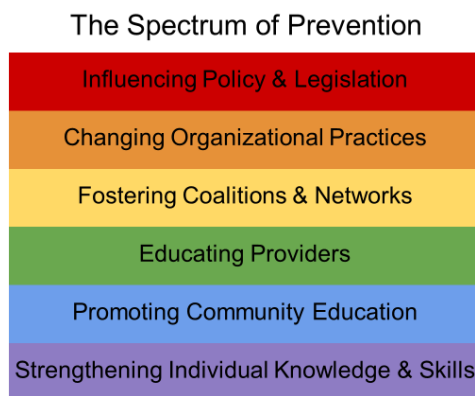
- Automated speed enforcement
- Median barriers
- Alcohol interlocks
- Roundabouts



She shared New York City Vision Zero. She said New York has seen a decline in traffic fatalities each of the last five year. She said their fatality rate is now the lowest it has been since 1910.



Ms. Anderson shared the spectrum of prevention.



She said the Board of Commissioners goals align with NC Vision Zero. She said traffic accidents are a leading cause of death in the United States.

Board of Commissioners Goals

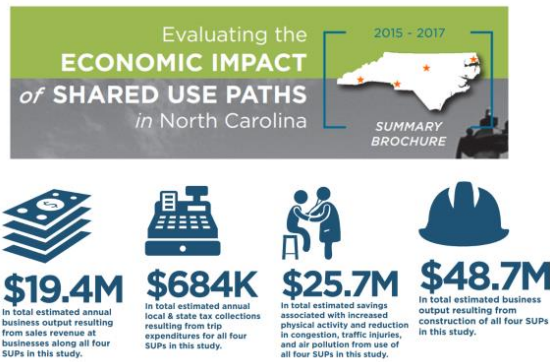
Objective CH2: Improve health outcomes of Wake County residents through a comprehensive approach to population health.

Objective GG3: Create a culture within the county government that supports enhancing the health and wellbeing of employees and their families.

Objective GS1: Implement a comprehensive approach for preserving open space and developing parks and greenways to address gaps, leverage opportunities and resources, and enhance collaboration with municipal partners.

Objective GS5: Guide the implementation of the Wake County Transit Plan.

She shared how NC Vision Zero could have an economic benefit to Wake County.



Source: tre.ncsu.edu/focus/bike-ped/SUP-Economic-Impacts/

She said NC Vision Zero serves as a bridge to counties across the state by sharing data information and providing resources.



Ms. Anderson shared how the NC Vision Zero task force got started.



She shared communities in North Carolina that created a Vision Zero Task Force.

NC Vision Zero Communities

Asheville
Charlotte *
Durham *
Greensboro *
Greenville
Raleigh
Robeson County *
Wake Forest



She shared the qualifications a community must meet in order to participate in NC Vision Zero. She said they all have a common goal of public safety.



To qualify as a NC Vision Zero Community, a city/town/county must meet the following requirements:

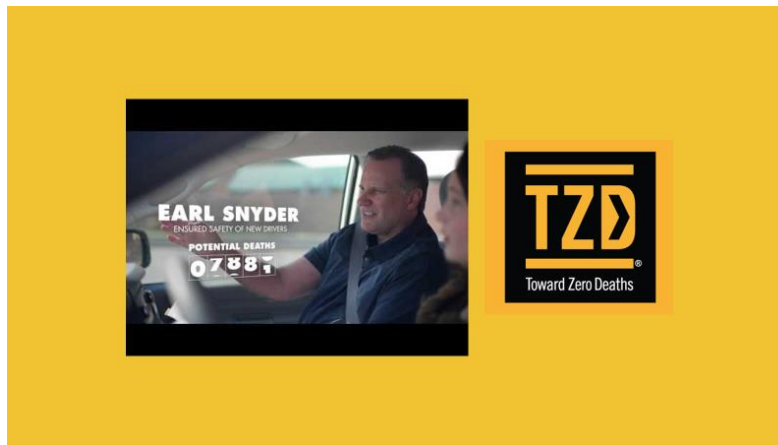
- Set a clear goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries.
- Mayor (or top official) has publicly, officially committed to Vision Zero and adopted a [Resolution](#).
- Develop Plan of Action or strategy, with commitment from top official.
- Engage with key city departments (including Police, Transportation, and Public Health) for multi-agency support for [national](#), [state](#), and local traffic safety campaigns.

She shared NC Vision Zero data collection tools.

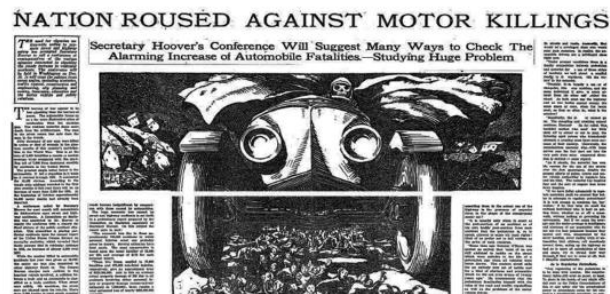
ncvisionzero.org/data



She shared a video by the Vision Zero Network on ways to move toward Vision Zero.



She shared other ways to make a difference.



1924 New York Times

Tracy Anderson

tracy_anderson@ncsu.edu

 [@tracyjanderson](https://twitter.com/tracyjanderson)

ncvisionzero.org

Ms. Anderson shared opportunities for discussion.

Committee Discussion and Next Steps

- Does the committee need additional information?
- Does Vision Zero fit into Wake County's current activities?
- What are potential next steps for integrating bike and pedestrian infrastructure?
- Should the Board encourage school policies that support these programs?
- Should a resolution come before the Board supporting these initiatives?

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) is assisting with the NC Vision Zero goals.

Mr. Kenneth Withrow, Senior Transportation Planner, CAMPO, said staff is coordinating with NC Vision Zero and sharing data.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if other counties have passed resolutions in support of NC Vision Zero. Ms. Anderson said no counties have signed resolutions yet, but several have created task forces. She said since there are no counties in North Carolina who have implemented a Vision Zero policy, there is no model county to follow.

Mr. Ellis asked if CAMPO is considering Wake County for an NC Vision Zero project. Mr. Withrow said there are no current plans in place for that, but CAMPO does work with NC Vision Zero on other projects, such as Safe Routes to School.

Ms. Anderson said there are other ways to support NC Vision Zero, such as encouraging motorists not to participate in conference calls while driving.

Commissioner Hutchinson said the complete streets policy has reduced traffic accidents. He said pedestrian accidents are 6 times greater in vulnerable communities.

Commissioner Hutchinson suggested that the Board of Commissioners consider a resolution encouraging municipalities to support Vision Zero.

Mr. Ellis said staff has encouraged CAMPO to be the lead agency on this effort, but he can put it on the agenda for bi-monthly meetings with municipalities to make them aware of the program.

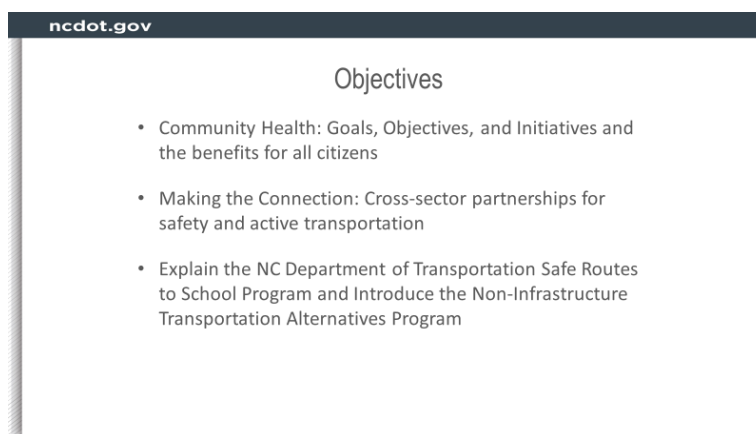
The County will invite Tracey Anderson to present the NC Vision Zero campaign at the next regularly scheduled municipal managers meeting. After the presentation, a resolution will be prepared for the BOC to offer support for NC Vision Zero and to ask CAMPO and Wake County Municipalities to support Vision Zero Efforts.

Safe Routes to School

Mr. Edward Johnson, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation, NCDOT, shared information about today's presentation.



He shared the objectives of the Safe Routes to School program.




He shared the partnerships necessary to impact health and communities.



He shared the strategic highway safety plan.

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The North Carolina Strategic Highway Safety Plan



Strategy 1 - Continue to develop training and education programs for pedestrian and bicycle safety.

- Expand education in schools through the implementation of Let's Go NC! and other programs that encourage safe walking and riding behaviors.


Strategy 3 - Continue to develop communication and leadership support for pedestrian and bicycle safety.

- Demonstrate support for pedestrian and bicycle safety through continued investment in Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School.
- Continue to develop interdepartmental and interagency coordination to improve safety and efficiency for pedestrian and bicycle efforts.

Mr. Johnson shared the transportation and health tools that can be used for addressing health issues.

ncdot.gov

Transportation and Health Tool



What is the Transportation and Health Tool?

The Transportation and Health Tool (T&H Tool) was developed by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is a free, online tool that helps transportation and health practitioners work together to address health issues through transportation policy.

How to Use the Tool

1. Select your state.
2. Select your mode of transportation.
3. Select your health issue.
4. Select your policy area.
5. Select your strategy.
6. Select your action.

Updated: Tuesday, October 27, 2015


Strategies that transportation practitioners can use to address health

- Safe Routes to School

He shared ways the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends improving health through transportation policies.

ncdot.gov

CDC Recommendations for Improving Health through Transportation Policy



Transportation can have a positive impact on health by:

- Reducing injuries associated with motor vehicle crashes
- Encouraging healthy community design
- Promoting safe and convenient opportunities for physical activity by supporting active transportation infrastructure
- Reducing human exposure to air pollution and adverse health impacts associated with these pollutants
- Ensuring that all people have access to safe, healthy, convenient and affordable transportation

He shared opportunities for increasing public health through transportation.

ncdot.gov

Transportation and Public Health

Public health and transportation – the opportunity

Expanding the **availability** of, **safety** for, and **access** to a variety of transportation options and integrating health-enhancing choices into transportation policy has the potential to save lives **by preventing chronic diseases, reducing and preventing motor-vehicle-related injury and deaths, improving environmental health**, while **stimulating economic development**, and **ensuring access for all people**.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC Transportation Recommendations. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/transportation/>. Accessed April 2015.

He shared opportunities for collaboration with local schools.

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What Works – Opportunities for Collaboration

- Strategies to increase Physical Activity
 - Community-scale urban design and land use
 - Street-scale urban design and land-use policies
 - Active transport to, from and at school

Sources: Community Preventive Services Task Force. The Guide to Community Preventive Services. <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/preventive-services/index.html>. Accessed 07/2014. Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans Midcourse Report: Strategies to Increase Physical Activity Among Youth. United States Department of Health and Human Services. <http://www.health.gov/paguidelines/midcourse/pag-mid-course-report-final.pdf>. Accessed 07/2014.

He shared the Safe Routes to School project goals and objectives.

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SRTS Project Goals

- Enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school
- Make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age
- Facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.




Mr. Johnson said there is a new grant being offered. He shared the available funding and timeline. He said Wake County has applied and the awards are expected to be released in the summer of 2019.

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Available Funding and Timeline

Available funds:

- \$1,500,000 per year
- This is a cost reimbursement program – 80% Federally funded – 20% locally matched

Non-Infrastructure Program Timeline*

February 18	Call for Proposals opens
February 26	Informational Webinar
March 29	Applications due by 11:59 PM
April 12	Eligible applications distributed to review committee for scoring
April 30	Review committee makes recommendations
June 5/6	NCDOT presents awardee information to Board of Transportation (BOT) and applicants are notified of award
July	Reimbursement agreement executed

*This schedule is provided here to assist you in your planning. The actual dates may be subject to change.

He shared eligible programs and activities for the new funding.

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Eligible Programs and Activities

Eligible programs consist of:

- Community behavior change
- A shift in attitudes and social norms through education, encouragement and enforcement strategies

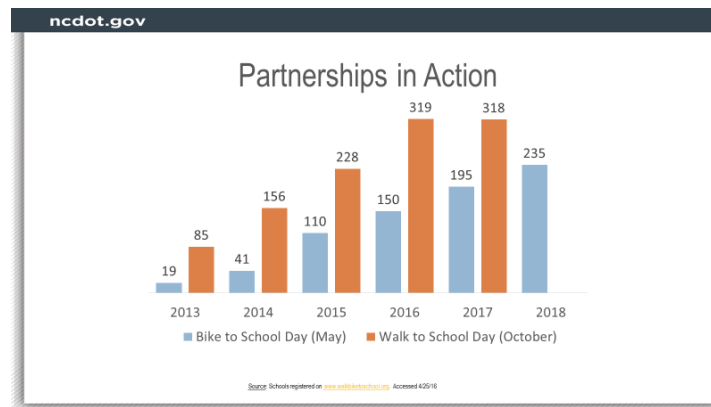
He shared learning opportunities. He shared a story of a school that implemented a walk to school day once a week. He said the study showed children behaved better on days they walked and biked to school.

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What can we learn?

- Physical activity behavior
 - Parents, caregivers, students, siblings
- School Readiness
 - What are schools interest and level of engagement in walking and biking to school?
- What works in supporting school's walking and biking efforts

He shared partnerships in action for the Bike to School and Walk to School programs.



He shared ways to engage Safe Routes to School.

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Making the connection: How can WE engage with Safe Routes to School?

- Response to Growth
 - incorporate elements that support bicycle and pedestrian activity and connectivity to schools
- Response to Sustainability
 - include Safe Routes to School on your committees (e.g., bicycle and pedestrian plans, school siting, etc.)
- Support and promote
 - Walk to School Day, Bike to School Day and on-going Safe Routes to School Programs

Mr. Johnson thanked the committee for their time and provided his contact information.

ncdot.gov

Thank you

Ed Johnson, RLA, ASLA
Safe Routes To School Coordinator
North Carolina Department of Transportation
Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation
erjohnson2@ncdot.gov
919.707.2604

Ms. Jennifer Delcourt, Public Health Educator/Safe Routes to School Coordinator, said she has been with the program for five years. She said she serves North Carolina Region 5 working to provide education and safety equipment to low income schools.

Mr. Ed Johnson said he is supportive of the work done by the County over the past several years.

Commissioner Hutchinson said the funding for the Safe Routes to School program will be ending soon and asked if the county will apply for new funding. Ms. Petteway confirmed that the county will apply for that funding.

Mr. Withrow said the county is applying for new funding, and if approved, would receive funding for another three years. He said CAMPO has provided a letter of support for the grant.

Upcoming Growth and Sustainability Meeting Topics

Ms. Rogers shared information on topics for future Growth and Sustainability Committee meetings. She asked for suggestions on other topics.

Commissioner Hutchinson suggested the I-540 expansion be discussed. He said it is important to look at the Land Use Plan related to the project, including transit and mixed use opportunities. He said he is looking forward to an update on Bus Rapid Transit at the next meeting. He would also like updates on the Energy Commission, the One Water initiative, and the Land Use Plan at future meetings.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Commissioner Hutchinson, adjourned the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Cerett
Executive Assistant to the Board