



***NASHVILLE DEPARTMENT of TRANSPORTATION
& MULTIMODAL INFRASTRUCTURE***

VISION ZERO ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

January 14, 2025

5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

**Sonny West Conference Center, Howard Office Bldg
700 2nd Ave S, Nashville, TN 37210**

Committee Overview

This 15-member group serves to increase collaboration and ensures effective implementation of Nashville's Vision Zero plan. The committee meets in-person monthly and acts as a guide to assist NDOT and others in eliminating fatal and serious injury crashes in Nashville.

Notice to Public

Agendas are posted online before each meeting at <https://www.nashville.gov/departments/transportation/plans-and-programs/vision-zero/advisory-committee>

Speaking to the Committee

Anyone can speak before the committee during a public hearing. An NDOT staff member presents each item, followed by public comment period, then committee discussion. Community members are asked to speak for two minutes each, at the discretion of the chair, and direct their comments to the committee.



MINUTES

VISIONZERO ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm by Peter Robison.

2) Roll Call

Present: Peter Robison, Hannah Sasscer, Sam Warlick, Chris Bowe, Jeremiah Wooten, Wesley Smith, Charles Weingartner, Robin Lovett-Owen, Kim Ayers, Ryan Renfro, Lindsey Ganson, Olivia Ranseen, Dylan Ringel, Stephanie Owens, Austin Fernandez

Absent: Landon Clark

Staff Present: Piro Meleby, Valeria Martinez, Anna Dearman, Shandira Edgecombe, Robyn Strain

3) Approval of Minutes for December Meeting

Mr. Robison motioned to delay approval of the December minutes. He notes that he was listed as a staff member and the subcommittee reports were incomplete. Ms. Martinez will amend as needed and submit for approval at the February meeting.

4) Public Comments

- No public comment

5) Fatal Crash Statistics Update

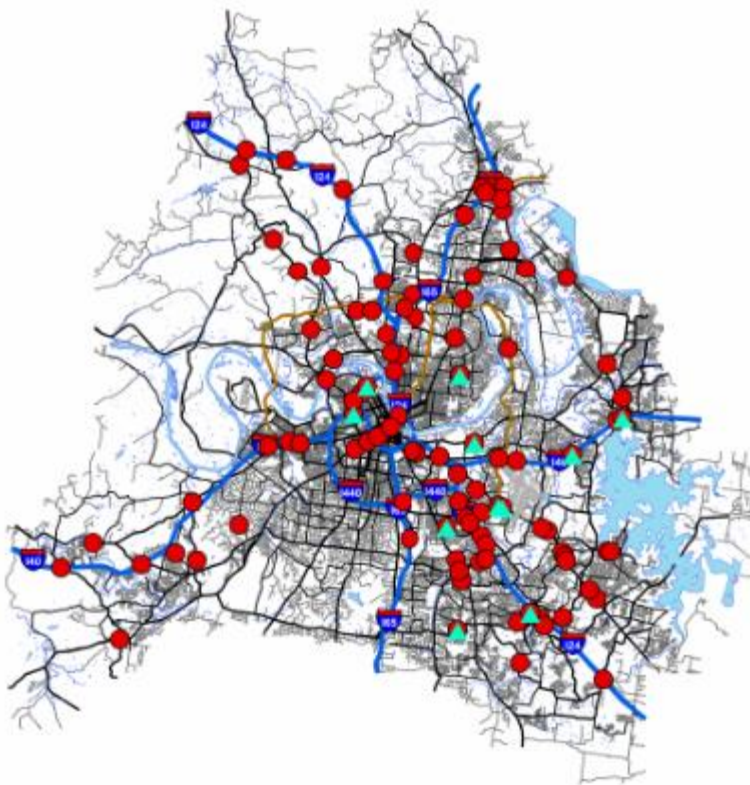
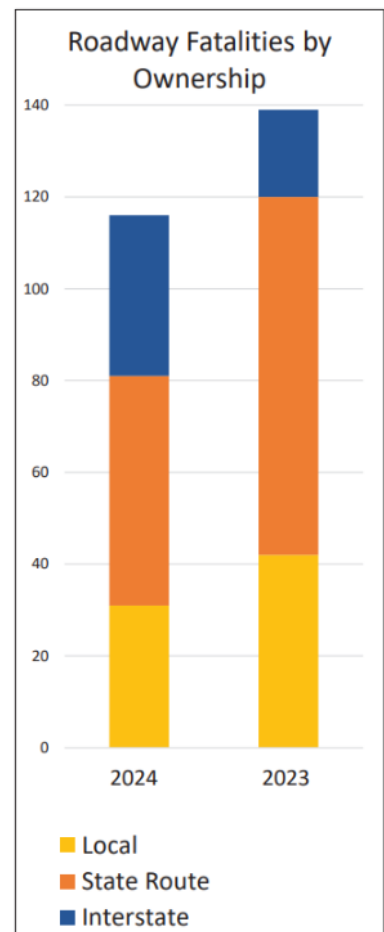
Mr. Meleby presented a high level update on fatal crash data since the December 2024 meeting.

- a. 116 roadway fatalities in Davidson County EOY 2024 compared to 139 EOY 2023
- b. 81 roadway fatalities within NDOT jurisdiction EOY 2024 compared to 120 EOY 2023

2024 Roadway Fatalities

By Ownership	2024	2023	Change (%)	December
Interstate	35	19	84%	4
State Route	50	78	-36%	4
Local	31	42	-26%	3
Total	116	139	-17%	11

NDOT Jurisdiction (Local + State Route)	2024	2023	Change (%)	December
Vehicle	30	29	3%	1
Pedestrian	27	37	-27%	3
Motorcycle	11	19	-42%	1
Bicycle	1	1	0%	0
Single Vehicle	15	36	-58%	2
Total	81	120	-33%	7



Commentary:

A fatality involving a pedestrian on a sidewalk near Porter Rd. is pending charges according to MNPD.

Mr. Robison noted several items:

- The markers on the map clearly indicate that interstate fatalities seem to be climbing.
- The fatal crash reports for November and December were missing from the SharePoint. Ms. Martinez informed the committee that they are under review and will be made available before the next Fatal Crash subcommittee meeting.
- This is the first year that fatalities are trending downward since the committee was formed.

Mr. Bowe noted that interstate crashes are down vs vehicle miles traveled nationwide and would like to see what TDOT's reporting and response plans look like (i.e., whether DUIs, street racing or some other factor is contributing to the increase).

Mr. Smith noted that there are more useful dashboards than Titan (e.g., from the TN Dept. of Homeland Security).

Ms. Lovett-Owen asked if VZAC would be willing to write a letter to state representatives. Ms. Ayers asked if there could be a collaborative effort in that direction with some of the other agencies involved such as Metro Police. Mr. Robison has taken that under advisement.

6) Items to be discussed:

Representatives from the Metro Nashville Police Department provided updates on traffic enforcement and fatal crash responses.

Representatives from MNPd were:

Captain Proctor, who recently took leadership in the Traffic Division

Lt. John Melia, Traffic Enforcement Lead

Lt. James Williams, Crash Investigations & Grants Administrator

Questions were compiled by the committee for the officers to respond to:

1. How does MNPd decide what language to use when reporting on fatal or injury related crashes? What is the protocol?

RESPONSE:

- a. Preliminary investigations are reported within 1-2 hours and a notification email is sent to the state about any fatality including contributing factors as they appear at the moment; the public information office crafts and submits press releases to the media.
- b. Ms. Ganson commented that the public information office sometimes releases verbiage that can be problematic and possibly seen as "victim-blaming." She would like to have a dialogue about how that information is regularly presented.
- c. Mr. Smith said media releases sometimes do not match what has been reported and there can be major tone discrepancies. MNPd responded that this is sometimes due to next of kin contact taking longer than would be ideal. They also said that media outlets rarely collect on the scene data by visiting crash sites. This is different from even just a few years ago.

2. How are crash related fatalities/injuries recorded?

RESPONSE:

- a. By state law, the Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC) is completed, followed by a case report with more details including any electronic data.
- b. The department keeps internal data and shares with NDOT; crashes that occur wholly on private property are accounted for differently. A fatality is recorded if the victim of injury dies within 30 days from the time of the crash that caused their injuries.

3. Does MNPd have any data on radar signs effectively slowing folks down?

RESPONSE:

Data is not recorded by those signs.

4. Has MNPd noticed reduced speeding in areas that choose to lower speed limits?

RESPONSE:

No data is available from recent speed limit reductions, but they respond to speeding reports.

5. **Has traffic enforcement changed since a year ago? (Increased or decreased? Change in strategy?), and Last year, MNPd said it only enforced along the HIN unless specific complaints were received. Has that changed?**

RESPONSE:

- a. High injury networks receive more personnel, and the department responds to community complaints and strategically targeted initiatives outside of the HIN.
- b. There is now weekly dedicated school zone enforcement.

6. **In 2023 we were told that MNPd was on track for about 31,000 vehicle stops. How many occurred in 2024?**

RESPONSE:

MNPd made 32k stops in 2023; this increased by about 1000 in 2024.

7. **Has MNPd changed how it enforces hands-free driving violations? How many citations are actually issued in a given year for hands-free driving violations?**

RESPONSE:

There was a 22% increase in citations from 2023 to 2024.

8. **Last year we were told that THP wanted about 50 officers in Davidson County, but only had 8-10 officers. Has that changed?**

RESPONSE:

Lt. Jennifer Hicks was recently promoted to lead the Davidson County THP, and numbers should grow eventually; there are currently only 10-12 THP officers in the Metro area.

9. **Can you clarify how traffic enforcement funding is received under the state's budget year and how the Tennessee Highway Safety Office funding is received-whether it was received late again this year and whether that affected the times MNPd conducted traffic stops?**

RESPONSE:

The department received a pass-through grant on the start of the Federal Budget Year. MNPd is typically the largest grantee in TN. Approval by the Council was delayed. Since it is a reimbursement grant format, they cut back in anticipation of potential funding issues. This has been no effect on regular operations but does impact overtime scheduling.

10. **There's been a lot of talk about cameras used by MNPd. I'd like to hear about whether any of those cameras are being used in school zones (the only areas permitted under current TN law) to enforce speeding or red-light violations.**

- a. There are no MNPd cameras at this time. License plate readers are being implemented, but there does not seem to be a city-wide desire (on the part of Council) to use cameras on a large scale for enforcement.
- b. Vanderbilt did an engineering study between Harding and Waldron Rd. on I-24 using cameras that don't capture vehicle data – just speeds.

Follow up from MNPd: The highest contributing factors of traffic fatality and significant injury are speed, failure to maintain the lane or control of a vehicle, failure to obey traffic signals, and failure to yield. Weekends are usually higher, and the time of year affects things as well.

7) Communications

Reports from Vision Zero Advisory Committee Members and Subcommittees

New Member Subcommittee

There are five new council members: Sam Warlick, Olivia Ranseen, Dylan Ringel (student liaison), Stephanie Owens, and Austin Fernandez.

Outreach Subcommittee

Nashville and NDOT Engagement has a new policy that needs VZAC feedback. They plan to consider/discuss ways to reach out to Public Information Coordinators.

Planning and Engineering Subcommittee

Mr. Renfro is the new chair of the subcommittee; the next meeting is January 21st.

Fatal Crash Investigation Subcommittee

There are four roadway improvements to follow up with including Ewing Dr., West End, Charlotte and Nolensville Pikes.

Strategic Planning Subcommittee

A Meet & Greet for new members will be during next weeks' time slot; there should be a budget presentation upcoming during the next subcommittee meeting.

8) New Discussion

- a. Can there be any useful data retrieved from signal detection devices on Nolensville Pike and in other areas?
- b. What is the price of procuring/installing flashing overhead beacons?
- c. What is the status of the project tracking map? *This map is currently being created to consolidate the quick-builds.*
- d. Council expressed significant frustration with the lag in installing the vertical measures in school zones.
- e. VZAC year one report card will be published shortly; Year two report card will begin soon and be submitted to the committee for feedback.
- f. Get-to-Know-You meeting scheduled with new committee members for 21st or 23rd.
- g. Choose How You Move transportation advisory committee was created and approved by the Council this week. Ms. Ganson sent a request that there be an ex-officio.
- h. 2025 Committee Chair and Co-Chair elections
 - i. There were no other nominations than Peter Robison for Chair.
 - ii. Elected unanimously; Mr. Robison informed the committee that he was happy to serve another year but that it would be his last as Chair.
 - iii. Hannah Sasscer & Olivia Ranceen were nominated for Vice Chair.
 - iv. Olivia Ranceen was elected unanimously.

9) Adjournment

7pm