



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### What is Vision Zero?

Vision Zero is a policy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and serious injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for everyone. Originating in Sweden in the 1990s, it has since been adopted in cities across the U.S., including Indianapolis.

### What is Indianapolis Vision Zero?

**Vision Zero is a City-County wide commitment to eliminate traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries by 2035.** By rethinking how we design, use, and share our streets, we aim to create an environment where safety is a priority for all, whether you're walking, biking, driving, or using public transit.

### Through Vision Zero, we aim to:

- End Traffic Fatalities: Achieve zero preventable deaths on our roads through proactive strategies and solutions.
- Design Safer Streets and Prioritize Safety through Policy: Build streets and support policies that prioritize the safety and accessibility of all users, regardless of age or ability.
- Empower Our Community: Partner with residents, organizations, and policymakers to create a culture of safe and accessible transportation

### What does the data tell us?

Behind every crash statistic is a person, a friend, a neighbor, a family member whose life was forever changed. These numbers are not abstract. They represent parents on their way to work, children walking to school, and community members simply trying to move through their day. Each life lost or

shattered by a severe crash is a reminder of why safety must be at the center of how we design, manage, and use our streets.

From 2019 to 2023, traffic crashes in Indianapolis resulted in:

- 296 deaths among people riding inside vehicles
- 135 deaths among people walking
- 22 deaths among people riding a bicycle

#### **Data on Indianapolis roadways:**

- From 2019 to 2023, Indianapolis experienced an average of one fatal or severe-injury crash every five hours.
- From 2019 to 2023, data shows the primary causes of fatal or serious-injury crashes across all travel modes include failure to yield the right of way and disregarding traffic signals or stop signs.
- Between 2013 and 2023, 20–30% of all fatal crashes in Indianapolis were directly attributed to excessive speeding. (Speeding is believed to be difficult to prove and is often under-reported in crash reports).
- Pedestrians and cyclists are disproportionately impacted, experiencing higher rates of fatal and serious-injury crashes compared to motorists from 2019 to 2023.
- Just 5% of Indianapolis streets (205 miles) account for 43% of fatal and incapacitating-injury crashes, demonstrating a concentrated high-injury network.
- The City of Indianapolis maintains nearly 8,400 lane miles; significantly more than peer cities, including 5,700 lane miles in Columbus, OH; 2,200 in Denver, CO; and 2,500 center-lane miles in Charlotte, NC.

#### **Crash Data Maps ([Link](#))**

- **High Injury Network (HIN):** Pinpoint locations in Indianapolis where a disproportionate number of serious and fatal crashes are happening.
- **High Risk Network (HRN):** A systemic predictive analysis identified additional streets that are at higher risk for pedestrian and cyclist crashes.
- **Transportation Impacted Neighborhoods:** Neighborhoods where residents have higher safety risks based on higher numbers of households without cars, as well as more residents with social and economic challenges, and racially diverse and ethnic minority communities.

#### **Why does Indianapolis need a Vision Zero Action Plan?**

Indianapolis experiences a high number of traffic crashes that result in fatalities or life-altering injuries. The Vision Zero Action Plan aims to make our streets safer through proactive, data-driven, and equitable strategies providing all residents safe mobility, whether walking, biking, driving, or taking transit. The Action Plan is a starting point to implement safety improvements and policies.

## **What are the key goals of the Indianapolis Vision Zero Action Plan?**

- Eliminate preventable traffic-related deaths and serious injuries by 2035.
- Improve traffic safety for all road users.
- Utilize crash data to inform decisions and planning of future road safety improvements.
- Encourage a culture of safety through public education and engagement.
- Provide transparency by reporting on the progress of Action Plan strategies

## **What is the Safe System Approach?**

It is a framework to eliminate the worst traffic crashes by acknowledging that traffic deaths are not inevitable. These outcomes can be prevented by creating a system that accounts for and protects humans through redundancy and a shared responsibility. There are five elements that support this system:

- **Safe Speeds:** Managing vehicle speeds through design, enforcement, and traffic-calming measures to reduce crash severity.
- **Safe Streets:** Designing streets that protect all road users through data-driven safety infrastructure improvements and tactical urbanism.
- **Safe Vehicles:** Promoting City fleet vehicle safety technologies that prevent crashes or mitigate their impact.
- **Safe People:** Educating and engaging the public to encourage safe behaviors, reduce distracted driving, and increase awareness of road risks.
- **Post-Crash:** Provide efficient emergency response, timely medical care, and data collection to help prevent future fatal crashes and serious injuries.

## **How does Indianapolis compare to other Vision Zero Cities?**

When comparing Indianapolis to other Vision Zero cities and counties with similar population sizes there are important distinctions. Places with higher population density tend to experience lower traffic fatality rates. Indianapolis faces unique challenges in this regard. Indianapolis has less density than most of our peer communities and is responsible for maintaining roughly 8,400 lane miles of roadway, substantially more than many cities of comparable size.

## **How will this affect me as a resident?**

As Vision Zero is implemented, residents will begin to see changes that make streets safer and more comfortable for everyone who uses them. You may notice:

- Street redesigns: Lane width adjustments, protected bike lanes, roundabouts, curb extensions, and other infrastructure improvements designed to reduce speeds and improve safety.
- Tactical urbanism-style projects, which are temporary or pilot installations that test safety improvements before permanent construction.

- Enhanced visibility of public safety efforts such as enforcement in high-crash areas, community safety campaigns, and data-driven deployment of policies and traffic calming measures.
- Improved pedestrian and transit access including better crosswalks, upgraded sidewalks, accessible bus stops, and safer routes to schools and parks.

### **How is the Action Plan being supported?**

Vision Zero is a policy, not a program. Indy Vision Zero is a long-term, citywide initiative that guides how Indianapolis makes decisions about safe transportation, public safety, land use, infrastructure and more.

Indy Vision Zero operates as a policy framework that shapes priorities, investments across the city agencies and partners. This prioritization approach improves collaboration so city policies, plans, and projects consistently support Vision Zero.

### **How does Vision Zero complement other City efforts, like the Fatal Crash Review Team and Complete Streets?**

Vision Zero supports the City's Complete Streets Policy by providing the overarching safety framework that guides multimodal street design and delivers roadway projects that prioritize the elimination of traffic deaths and serious injuries. It also strengthens the Fatal Crash Review Team's work by utilizing crash data findings into safety improvements, targeted interventions, and policies that align with Vision Zero goals.

- **Complete Streets Policy:** The policy provides guidance so that public and private organizations design streets for all transportation modes when developing land for new use or right-of-way projects.
- **Fatal Crash Review Team:** Is composed of City staff, law enforcement, engineers, and community representatives, who investigate fatal crashes and crash data to inform potential infrastructure safety improvements, enforcement strategies, and policy decisions aimed at preventing future fatalities and serious injuries.

### **How can I track progress on Indy Vision Zero?**

The next step is implementing the Action Plan. As part of our commitment to transparency and accountability, the taskforce will publish annual reports each May detailing progress on every strategy in the Action Plan.

### **How can I stay updated and informed?**

Website: <https://www.indy.gov/topic/vision-zero>

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