



Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board

*Stewards of the
Pedestrian Master Plan*

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To: Seattle City Council
From: Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board
Date: October 17, 2017
Subject: Increased Vision Zero Funding in 2018 City Budget

The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board would like to express support for increased funding in 2018 for the Seattle Department of Transportation’s Vision Zero Program. We were alarmed to see that from 2015 to 2016 the number of pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries in Seattle rose from 53 to 66. This rate of increase is greater than the estimated population growth in the same year. This follows a national trend of increased pedestrian fatalities as documented by the [Governors Highway Safety Association](#).

Although the exact cause of this increase in pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries is not known, distraction due to the use of electronic devices does account for a significant number of pedestrian fatalities*. Increased funding for Vision Zero would help to make Seattle’s streets safer for pedestrians of all ages and abilities. The Seattle Pedestrian Master Plan has a vision to make Seattle the, “most walkable and accessible city in the nation.” This can only happen if we prioritize funding for the needs of people walking.

In addition to increased funding for Vision Zero in the 2018 Budget, the SPAB requests that outreach and communication for the Vision Zero program be expanded. The program was rolled out with significant fanfare, outreach to the SPAB, and there was initially a Vision Zero Task Force consisting of advocates and other interested parties that met regularly for a short time but to the best of our knowledge has not met since. Nor does there seem to be a sufficient publicity campaign to remind the public of the City’s Vision Zero goal and remind citizens of the critical need to watch out for each other on our streets.

We suggest that the Task Force be reconvened and that SDOT continue to work to make Vision Zero a familiar concept and aspiration both with the public and with other related City organizations. We also request that updates on Vision Zero regarding plans and financial transparency be given at regular intervals, beginning with an overall status update and connections to the work done in collaboration with the Pedestrian Master Plan. The SPAB would like to be more involved with Vision Zero as it has direct ties to the mission of the Board.

The SPAB appreciates the Seattle City Council’s consideration of this letter as the 2018 Budget is finalized.

The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor and all the offices of the city on matters related to pedestrians and the impacts which actions by the city may have upon the pedestrian environment; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city’s planning insofar as they relate to the pedestrian safety and access.

*-City Council Resolution
28791*

**Source: Governors Highway Safety Association Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities by State, 2016.*