



CITY OF CHARLESTON RESOLUTION
ESTABLISHING A TARGET ZERO POLICY TO WORK TOWARDS
ZERO TRAFFIC DEATHS AND SEVERE INJURIES

WHEREAS according to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) each year approximately 40,000 people are killed in traffic collisions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, according to data from NHTSA, South Carolina experienced the second highest rate of fatal and pedestrian-involved crashes in the United States from 2017-2021; and

WHEREAS, according to data from the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), Charleston County was represented among the top 10 pedestrian and cyclist fatality rates in South Carolina in from 2017-2021; and

WHEREAS between January 1 of 2018 to December 31 of 2023, 37,333 crashes were reported in the City of Charleston jurisdictional area including 115 crashes resulting in fatality and 22% of crashes resulting in injury; and

WHEREAS one traffic related death in the City is one too many, and City and departmental leadership are dedicated to strategies that aim to reduce and eliminate deaths and serious injuries on streets within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charleston has partnered with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), SCDOT, Charleston County, the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG), surrounding municipalities, and regional stakeholders to develop the Charleston Safety Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, this Safety Action Plan was developed through data analysis, stakeholder engagement, and public input to develop a comprehensive set of multi-disciplinary strategies and projects that address safety for all road users and prioritize the needs of vulnerable road users and those living in areas of persistent poverty; and

WHEREAS, Target Zero is a public health-based traffic safety strategy to reduce and eventually eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries using a data driven, multi-disciplinary and safe systems approach that also increases safe healthy equitable mobility for all; and

WHEREAS, FHWA and SCDOT have made a commitment to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries on the nation's and state's roadways using a data driven interdisciplinary approach and with a focus on using proven effective strategies and countermeasures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Charleston declares that Target Zero is the City-wide guiding principle for transportation planning and programming activities, the design of streets and sidewalks, and the maintenance of the public rights of way; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City shall align planning and programming activities towards a goal of reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 20% by 2035 and substantially eliminating all traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Target Zero and the outcomes of the region's Safety Action Plan will be implemented in an equitable manner accounting for historic inequities in transportation and safety investments across the City of Charleston while prioritizing strategies and projects that drive the greatest positive safety benefit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council directs City staff to consider safety as the highest priority when balancing competing needs and demands for space within the public right of way; and

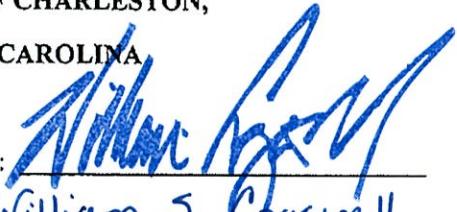
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City staff shall develop an annual report on progress toward the Target Zero goals tracking process and outcome metrics to be defined in the Safety Action Plan and shall present this report each year to the Committee on Traffic and Transportation and City Council.

I the undersigned hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted and passed by the Council of the City of Charleston in regular meeting assembled on the 14th day of October 2025.

RESOLVED this 14th day of October, 2025.

CITY OF CHARLESTON,

SOUTH CAROLINA

Signature: 

Name: William S. Cogswell

Title: Mayor

(ATTEST)

Signature: Jennifer Cook

Name: Jennifer Cook

Title: Clerk to Council