MAIDENCREEK TOWNSHIP
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
RESOLUTION NO. 23 – 2023

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A VISION ZERO POLICY

WHEREAS the life and health of all persons living and traveling within Maidencreek Township are our utmost priority, and any death or serious injury while traveling on our streets is a tragedy;

WHEREAS Vision Zero is the concept that traffic deaths and serious injuries on our roadways are unacceptable;

WHEREAS Vision Zero is a holistic strategy in pursuit of eliminating all traffic fatalities and severe injuries suffered by all road users while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all;

WHEREAS streets and transportation systems have traditionally been designed primarily to move cars efficiently, and Vision Zero supports a paradigm shift by designing streets and transportation systems to move all people safely, including people of all ages and abilities, pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit users, scooter riders, and motorcyclists, as well as drivers and passengers of motor vehicles;

WHEREAS Vision Zero recognizes that people will make mistakes, so the road system and related policies should be designed to ensure that those inevitable mistakes do not result in severe injuries or fatalities; therefore, transportation planners and engineers and policymakers are expected to improve the roadway environment, policies, and other related systems to lessen the severity of crashes;

WHEREAS six people in the Township lost their lives to traffic deaths between 2018 and today, and traffic crashes are among the leading cause of deaths in the United States;

WHEREAS Maidencreek Township's transportation infrastructure serves an increasing number of vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and bicyclists;

WHEREAS speed is recognized as a major determining factor of survival in a crash;

WHEREAS the Township will work toward reducing vehicle speeds because the likelihood of a pedestrian surviving a crash is 10 percent if hit by a vehicle moving 40 mph;

WHEREAS children, older adults, people of color, people with disabilities, people who are homeless, and people with low income face a significantly disproportionate risk of traffic injuries and fatalities;

WHEREAS making streets safer for all people using all modes of transportation will encourage people to travel on foot, by bicycle, and by public transit, which supports a healthier, more active lifestyle and reduces environmental pollution;

WHEREAS successful Vision Zero programs are a result of both a complete government approach and community support of Vision Zero objectives and action plans;

WHEREAS Vision Zero resolutions have been adopted by many jurisdictions across the United States,

NOW, THEREFORE in consideration of the above recitals, the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Maidencreek, Berks County, Pennsylvania, resolve as follows:

Section 1 - Resolution of Effort
Maidencreek Township adopts the goal of reducing traffic deaths and serious injuries, stating the loss of life or serious injury is unacceptable on our streets.

Section 2 - Reduction Target of Fatalities and Serious Injuries
Maidencreek Township adopts the goal of reducing traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2.00% each year and endorses Vision Zero as a comprehensive and holistic approach to achieving this goal.

Section 3 - Supporting Policies Adopted
Maidencreek Township adopts the Vision Zero policy attached hereto as Appendix A and makes it part of this Resolution, effective immediately.

Section 4 - Certification of Adoption
The Township Secretary shall certify the adoption of this Resolution, effective immediately, by the Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors.

RESOLVED and ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Maidencreek in lawful session duly assembled, this eighth day of June 2023 A.D.

Board of Township Supervisors
Maidencreek Township
Berks County, Pennsylvania

Supervisor Heidi E. Fiedler

Supervisor David K. Franke

Attestation:

Township Secretary Christina L. Hafer

Supervisor Joshua G. Meck

Appendix Letter A
(Vision Zero Policy Included Hereafter)

MAIDENCREEK TOWNSHIP

VISION ZERO POLICY

Section 1 - Purpose

The purpose of this Vision Zero Policy ("Policy") is to progressively reduce and eliminate traffic fatalities and traffic-related severe injuries by using data-driven policy changes to design and implement a transportation system that provides safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all.

This Policy seeks to achieve this purpose by establishing that Vision Zero is a priority goal for Maidencreek Township ("Township") and creating a Vision Zero task force of Township Officials (or their designees) that are responsible for gathering data and working with the community to develop an action plan for achieving the goals of Vision Zero through strategies that establish safe speeds, create safe streets, and improve safety culture and collaboration.

Section 2 - Definitions

2.1 "Community Engagement" means the various methods of informing, consulting, collaborating with, or involving community members with respect to government decisions.

2.2 "Fatal Injury" means the death of any person resulting from their presence or use on a public road, and as recorded by the Pennsylvania Crash Information Tool as a "Fatal Injury."

2.3 "High-Injury Networks" means specific streets or roads (or portions thereof) and/or intersections within the boundaries of the Township that have a high concentration of traffic fatalities and/or severe injuries, according to Traffic Safety Data.

2.4 "Historically Underinvested Areas" means census tracts that have a high percentage of both BIPOC and low-income households and census tracts where the population is considered disproportionately disadvantaged.

2.5 "Priority Populations" means youth, older adults, communities of color, people with low income, people with disabilities, people with limited English proficiency, people who are homeless, or others who have a higher risk of Severe or Fatal Injury resulting from a collision with a motor vehicle, due to limited access to efficient and affordable transportation options; unsafe neighborhood transit infrastructure; or population-specific risk factors.

2.6 "Severe Injury" means the serious injury, or suspicion by law enforcement thereof, of any person resulting from their presence or use on a public road, and as recorded by the Pennsylvania Crash Information Tool as a "Suspected Serious Injury."

2.7 "Traffic Safety Data" means data collected for each traffic collision that results in a Fatal or Severe Injury and, to the extent possible, shall include but are not limited to the following data elements: (a) exact location; (b) date and time of day; (c) category of each road user involved (e.g., pedestrian, bicyclist, motorcyclist, motorist); (d) type of vehicle(s) involved, if applicable (e.g., motorcycle, car, bus, commercial truck); (e) whether any road users were fatally or severely injured; (f) ages of people involved; (g) collision factors (e.g., unsafe speed, driver distraction, poor lighting); and (h) the movement preceding the collision (e.g., left turn, changing lanes).

2.8 "Vulnerable Road Users" means pedestrians, bicyclists, people using mobility devices, scooter riders, and any other road users who are at high risk of Severe or Fatal Injury resulting from a collision with a motor vehicle.

Section 3 - Vision Zero Task Force

3.1 The purpose of the Task Force ("Task Force") is to develop and implement a Vision Zero Action Plan, ensuring coordination across all relevant agencies and stakeholders. The Vision Zero Task Force is hereby established and shall comprise the following personnel:

(1) Township Manager (or designee)
(2) Township Road Foreman (or designee)
(3) Township Engineer (or designee)
(4) Chief of Police [Northern Berks Regional Police Department] (or designee)
(5) Resident (appointed by Task Force)

3.2 The Township Manager shall chair the Task Force and be responsible for ensuring that the duties of the Task Force set forth in Section 3.3 are completed in a timely manner.

3.3 The Task Force shall perform the following tasks:

a) Within 18 months of the effective date of this Policy,
   (1) Develop and finalize a Vision Zero Action Plan ("Action Plan")
   (2) Present the Action Plan to the Board of Supervisors

b) Convene its first meeting no later than 30 days from the effective date of this Policy and meet at least quarterly until the Action Plan is finalized, and thereafter once a year until the Action Plan and any revisions have been fully implemented.

c) Immediately begin collection and analysis of Traffic Safety Data so that such data can be used to develop the Action Plan; and put in place a system for collecting and analyzing such data on an ongoing basis.

d) Oversee development, implementation, and evaluation of the Action Plan pursuant to Sections (e) and (f) of this Policy. As part of development and implementation, the Task

Force shall incorporate existing pedestrian and bicycling safety initiatives into the Action Plan and coordinate existing pedestrian and bicycling safety initiatives as needed.

e) Revise the Action Plan, as needed.

f) Report on implementation of the Action Plan and progress toward Vision Zero goals pursuant to Section (g) of this Policy.

g) Maintain a public web page to share information on the Township's Vision Zero endeavors – for example, relevant data; the adopted Resolution; the Action Plan and any updates to it; and progress on the strategies in the Action Plan.

Section 4 - Vision Zero Action Plan

4.1 The Vision Zero Action Plan shall be guided by the following principles:

(1) Human life shall be prioritized over ease of movement for motor vehicles.

(2) People will make mistakes, but these mistakes should not result in death or severe injury; therefore, transportation systems are designed to anticipate these errors so that all transportation users can function safely within the system.

(3) It is unacceptable for any one group to suffer disproportionate effects of traffic collisions based on their race, age, ability, or income.

4.2 Action Plan Elements

a) The Action Plan shall commit to pursue strategies for implementation consistent with each of the four key elements listed and defined herein: Safe Speed, Safe Streets, Safety Culture, and Safety Collaboration.

(1) Safe Speed - The Safe Speed element encompasses strategies for managing vehicle speeds for the safety of all road users, particularly Vulnerable Road Users within High-Injury Networks.

(2) Safe Streets - In addition to the strategies of the Safe Speed element, street design strategies in the Safe Streets element use different approaches to create safe roadways for all users, particularly Vulnerable Road Users.

(3) Safety Culture - This element focuses on strategies that empower people to take community action to advance Vision Zero goals and strategies that promote a culture of safe driving, walking, and biking.

(4) Safety Collaboration - This element focuses on collaboration within a jurisdiction; between jurisdictions with county, regional, state, or federal entities; and with community partners – all designed to advance Vision Zero goals.

b) For each individual strategy identified in the Action Plan, the Action Plan shall, at a minimum utilize the S.M.A.R.T. Goals framework, which is outlined herein:
   (1) Specific
   (2) Measurable
   (3) Attainable
   (4) Relevant
   (5) Time-Bound

4.3 Action Plan Process

a) In developing the Action Plan, the Task Force shall adhere to the following procedural elements:
   (1) Data-Driven Decisions - The Task Force shall ensure that Action Plan strategies are based on the Traffic Safety Data collected and maintained pursuant to Section 3.3 (c) of this Policy.

   (2) Community Engagement - The Task Force shall establish a process for ensuring that the voices of community members – especially residents in Historically Underinvested Areas, members of Priority Populations, and Vulnerable Road Users – are heard and reflected in (1) development of the Action Plan and (2) ongoing implementation and revision of the Action Plan.

   (3) Equity - The Task Force shall evaluate the implications of all strategies under consideration to (1) prioritize strategies that advance Vision Zero goals in Historically Underinvested Areas and in High-Injury Networks; and (2) ensure that they do not exacerbate existing health, economic, or other disparities in Historically Underinvested Areas.

   (4) Fair Process Checklist - A Fair Process Checklist, as referenced in Section 4.2 (b), shall be included for each strategy in the Action Plan. The checklist shall describe how each procedural element (Data-Driven, Community Engagement, and Equity) has been addressed for each strategy.

Section 5 - Ongoing Implementation & Evaluation

5.1 The Task Force shall be responsible for ongoing implementation and oversight of the Action Plan, including the following tasks:

a) Implementation of all strategies identified in the Action Plan, prioritizing strategies that benefit Historically Underinvested Areas and High-Injury Networks.

b) Identification of funding needs and oversight of strategies to obtain the funding needed to fully implement the Action Plan, prioritizing Historically Underinvested Areas and High-Injury Networks.

c) Obtaining the data necessary to determine whether the performance goals for each strategy have been met; assessing whether the goals have been met based on these data; and if any goals have not been met, ascertaining the reasons.

d) Pursuit and oversight of any partnerships with other public or private entities necessary to implementation of the Action Plan.

e) Revision of the Action Plan as needed to meet the Vision Zero goals of the Resolution.

Section 6 - Requirements For Reporting & Community Meetings

6.1 Within 6 months of the effective date of this Policy, the Task Force shall submit to the Board of Supervisors and make publicly available online a written report on the progress made toward finalizing the Action Plan.

6.2 Within 1 year of finalizing the Action Plan and annually thereafter, the Task Force shall submit to the Board of Supervisors and make publicly available online a written implementation report based on the performance goals of the Action Plan. The implementation report shall include, at a minimum, the following items:

a) An overview of progress toward full implementation of the Action Plan (and any revisions thereto) and the Vision Zero goals of the Resolution.

b) The status of all strategies set forth in the Action Plan (and any revisions thereto), including specific highlighting of the status of all strategies benefiting Historically Underinvested Areas and High-Injury Networks.

c) The status of funding necessary for implementation of the Action Plan, and steps taken to address any unmet funding needs.

d) A description of any unanticipated obstacles to implementation of the Action Plan and plans to address those obstacles.

6.3 Within 60 days of the dissemination of a report as set forth in Section 6.1 or 6.2, a member of the Task Force, or more, shall report to the public in at least one public forums on the progress made in developing or implementing the Action Plan and shall provide a substantial opportunity for meaningful public comment.

Certificate of Resolution

I hereby certify that the Resolution No. 23-2023, which was for the purpose "A Resolution Adopting a Vision Zero Policy," is a true and accurate copy of the Resolution which was resolved and adopted on the eighth day of June 2023 A.D. and contains the appendices necessary which truly and accurately reflect those documents which the Board of Supervisors understood to accompany Resolution No. 23-2023.

We the Undersigned Hereby Attest to this:

Township Secretary
Christina L. Hafer

Township Manager
Hunter L. Ahrens

June 8, 2023
Date