

VISION ZERO SUMMIT RECAP

**VISION
ZERO
PITTSBURGH**



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PITTSBURGH'S VISION ZERO HISTORY

In March of 2024, Mayor Gainey and Councilmember Warwick introduced legislation committing the City of Pittsburgh to Vision Zero. Vision Zero is the goal of eliminating traffic crash fatalities and serious injuries, by addressing the causes of crashes in a holistic manner. The City's legislation established an Intergovernmental Working Group, composed of department and agency leadership. The Working Group established various subcommittees including Budget; Enforcement; Education, Engagement, and Communications; Policy; and Fatal Crash Response.



VISION ZERO SUMMIT

RECAP

On October 17th, 2025, the City of Pittsburgh partnered with local non-profit BikePGH on the region's first-ever Vision Zero Summit. Summit attendees ranged from transportation professionals in both the public and private sectors to advocates and community members, all coming together to learn about Pittsburgh's Vision Zero efforts.

Claudia Adriazola-Steil, Director of the World Resources Institute, was the Summit's keynote speaker. She shed light on the Safe Systems Approach, showcasing how Pittsburgh could apply global learnings locally. She emphasized the progress Pittsburgh is making, stating, "The work Pittsburgh is doing is one of the examples that I will be using a lot."

The City of Pittsburgh is addressing traffic fatalities and serious injuries holistically, focusing on the Safe Systems Approach. Some accomplishments thus far include Automated Red Light Enforcement, expanded data sharing on serious injury crashes between the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police (PBP) and the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI), prioritizing funding in the local budget for Vision Zero, launching a safe driver training for City employees, and implementing the Vision Zero Community Agreement. Summit sessions on the City's Fatal Crash Response Team, treating Vision Zero as a public safety issue, the state of Vision Zero and safety in Southwestern Pennsylvania, and working with the community, all showcase the work the team has been able to accomplish collaboratively.

The Summit's lunch plenary featured State Representative Lindsay Powell, State Senator Lindsey Williams, and Ngani Ndimbie, the Executive Policy Specialist for PennDOT Central Office. Facilitated by DOMI's Assistant Director Angie Martinez, the panelists dove into how state policy shapes what the city can and cannot do – and how we can advocate for changes in law, such as parking protected bike lanes, that will create safer streets.

The final plenary of the day wrapped with a discussion on the future of Vision Zero in Pittsburgh. The panelists included PennDOT District 11 Executive Jason Zang, DOMI's Municipal Traffic Engineer Mike Maloch, Allegheny County Economic Development Director Lauren Connelly, Claudia Adriazola Steil, and Director of Transportation for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Lillian Gabreski. Moderated by Geoff Webster, Chair of the Pittsburgh Futures Collaborative, the conversation focused on what Pittsburgh must do to achieve Vision Zero in the next 10-20 years. All of the transportation professionals, advocates, and members of the public in attendance make our efforts promising!

For the full list of session details, please see the appendix at the end of this document.



SURVEY RESULTS

As part of the event wrap-up, BikePGH sent out a survey to all attendees to gather feedback. Of those who responded, a majority were transportation professionals, either in the public or private sector. Survey respondents felt that the Summit met their expectations, giving an overall rating of 4.6/5 for their experience. Most respondents stated that their primary objective in attending the Summit was to learn about Vision Zero initiatives, which was one of the goals of the planning team. Respondents stated that these objectives were achieved through the Summit plenaries and breakout group discussions, but that the connection to incorporating Vision Zero principles into their daily lives could have been improved.

In the future, the City of Pittsburgh and BikePGH plan to convene this Summit every other year. During off years, it is likely that a smaller, more hands-on workshop will be available to transportation professionals and advocates to allow them to better understand how to incorporate Vision Zero into their work.

THE FUTURE OF VISION ZERO

Vision Zero is not just one project; it is a way of approaching traffic fatalities and serious injuries. It cannot be achieved through just one city department or agency, but rather through collaboration among municipal governments, the private sector, and the larger community. As we move into 2026, the City of Pittsburgh plans to progress even further on Vision Zero.

In 2026, Vision Zero will be implementing Automated Red Light Enforcement at 6 intersections across the city. This will reduce crashes, create safer intersections for people who drive, walk, and ride a bike, and deter red light running on our streets. Mayor Gainey's budget has also proposed a full-time Vision Zero staffer within DOMI to ensure that work is being done as efficiently and effectively as possible. With Safe Streets for All funding under contract, the City will establish a Community Ambassador program with the goal of educating and engaging with residents on roadway safety. The City will also further explore how best to work with the Parking Authority on curbing illegal parking on sidewalks and in bike lanes. Other goals include enhancing coordination with Pittsburgh Public Schools through DOMI's Safe Routes to School Program, as well as focusing on State legislative changes and funding solutions.

We know that Vision Zero is achievable – other cities across the country and the world have been successful in achieving zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries. As Geoff stated in the closing plenary, "We really have all the people and all the resources we need in the room to achieve Vision Zero. We just need people to work together in a different way and really understand how systems work together to achieve that goal."

APPENDIX: FULL SESSION LIST

Plenary Sessions:

The Safe Systems Approach: Bringing Principles and Global Applications to Pittsburgh

Speaker: Claudia Adriazola-Steil

Overview: Provided an overview of the Safe Systems Approach and its core principles. Presented high-level, real-world applications of Safe Systems in transportation design and planning. Highlighted strategies Pittsburgh has implemented successfully and showcased alternative design approaches to improve safety moving forward.

Key Takeaways: Pittsburgh is ahead of schedule in Vision Zero project development. Programs like Pittsburgh can serve as a national and worldwide model.

How the State Shapes the City

Moderator: Angie Martinez (DOMI)

Panelists: Councilperson Erika Strassburger, Senator Lindsey Williams,

Representative Lindsay Powell, Ngani Ndimbie (PennDOT District 11)

Overview: Examined how state and local governments shape the ability of DOMI, PennDOT, SPC, and partners to deliver a safe, efficient, and equitable transportation system.

Key Takeaways: Senator Williams discussed efforts to change Senate rules to move forward legislation that has repeatedly stalled. Discussion centered on the unique circumstances of Pennsylvania at the state level and the differing desires between the center of the state and the two major urban hubs.

The Future of Vision Zero

Moderator: Geoff Webster (Pittsburgh Futures Collaborative)

Panelists: Jason Zang (PennDOT), Mike Maloch (DOMI), Lauren Connelly (Allegheny County), Lillian Gabreski (SPC), Claudia Adriazola-Steil

Overview: Covered topics including parking-protected bike lanes, expanded enforcement authority, and long-term funding mechanisms for safer streets.

Key Takeaways: PennDOT was challenged regarding speed settings and infrastructure designs that do not prioritize safety first. Discussion focused on Vision Zero implementation timelines and strategies to reach goals faster.

Quotes:

- “We really have all the people and all the resources we need in the room to achieve Vision Zero. We just need people to work together in a different way and really understand how systems work together to achieve that goal.” – Geoff Webster, Pittsburgh Futures Collaborative

Breakout Sessions:

State of Vision Zero

Speaker: Panini Chowdhury (DOMI)

Panelists: Evan Schoss (SPC), Meghan Sexton (Allegheny County), Ann Ogoreuc (Allegheny County), Councilmember Barb Warwick

Overview: Regional partners shared the current state of safety initiatives and upcoming efforts related to Vision Zero across their respective jurisdictions.

Key Takeaways:

- Progress update on the City of Pittsburgh’s implementation.
- Identified opportunities for collaboration between the City and the SPC / Countywide Vision Zero Plan.

Breakout Sessions:

Working with the Community

Speakers: Scott Bricker (BikePGH), Clark Haynes (VeloAI), Kara Komicata (Lawrenceville Corporation), Stephanie Kambic (Michael Baker International).

Overview: Shared examples of successful community engagement within public-private partnerships, improving overall safety within communities.

Key Takeaways: Engaging with the community is crucial to ensuring success during safety projects.

The Role of Curb Management & Automated Enforcement in Vision Zero

Moderator: Rylan Seifert (DOMI)

Panelists: Jodi Hart (Pittsburgh Parking Authority), Jordan Justus (Automotus), Councilperson Erika Strassburger

Overview: Discussed how new policies and technologies can be operationalized to improve vehicular safety on city streets.

Key Takeaways:

- Highlighted progress on automated enforcement technology.
- Addressed the granular challenges of developing policy across multiple government agencies.

Fatal Crash Response

Moderator: Stephanie Gagne (City of Pittsburgh)

Panelists: Sean Stephens (DOMI), Chris Belasco (Innovation & Performance), Jan Raether (City of Pittsburgh), Paul Sabol (EMS), Ronald Wolfe (PBP), Sarah Hershey (OCHS)

Overview: Detailed the City's fatal crash response team process, including the group's origin, standard response timelines, site visit protocols, and citywide examples.

Key Takeaways

- Demonstrated the cross departmental collaboration enabled by Vision Zero.
- Emphasized that this level of coordination would not be possible without Vision Zero as a formal guiding policy.

Let's Go for a Walk (Audit)!

Moderator: Seth Bush (BikePGH)

Panelists: Alisa Grishman (Access Mob), Geoff Leonard (DOMI)

Overview: Explored Oakland from a pedestrian perspective using a new sidewalk assessment tool developed collaboratively by BikePGH and DOMI.

Key Takeaways:

- High demand for a robust sidewalk condition assessment.
- Identified the need for additional staff to improve right-of-way obstruction compliance inspections.

Quotes:

"I really want disability to be more of a centered focus in the conversation, because if you build it for disabled people, everyone can use it." – Alisa Grishman, Founder, Access Mob Pittsburgh

Vision Zero as a Public Safety Issue

Panelists: Lisa Frank (City of Pittsburgh), Lee Schmidt (Public Safety), Takeena C. White (Public Safety), Leonard Weiss, MD (UPMC), Terrence Donnelly (Police)

Overview: Examined the role of public safety agencies and their involvement in supporting Vision Zero goals.

Key Takeaways: Deep collaborations are the primary key to successful implementation.

Quotes:

"What if we viewed DOMI as a Public Safety Department? What if we saw saving lives on our roadways just as important as saving people from heart attacks?" – Lisa Frank, Chief Operating and Administrative Officer, City of Pittsburgh

"People might ask why me, as a medical doctor, what do I have to do with public safety? Well, I see what happens to people [getting injured and killed] and I want to prevent it... let's build the changes that need to happen to protect people and then track the improvements." – Leonard Weiss, MD, Medical Director, City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Safety

"When it comes to Public Safety and DOMI, it's about respect, teamwork, and collaboration... We are all here to make the City of Pittsburgh roadways a safer place." – Takeena C. White, Assistant Director of Public Safety, City of Pittsburgh

Liberty Avenue HSIP

Moderator: Patty Kerns (DOMI)

Panelist: Mike O'Connor (WSP)

Overview: Presented a corridor case study focused on signal modernization, lane repurposing, and safer pedestrian crossings.

Key Takeaways: Identified a cost effective corridor improvement process that prioritizes walkability and multimodal transportation.

Introducing PennSTART

Moderator: David DiGioia (RETTEW)

Panelist: Peter Castelli (PennSTART)

Overview: Highlighted Pennsylvania's new transportation safety and research initiative, positioning PennSTART as a hub for advancing transportation tech.

Key Takeaways: Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh region are emerging as leaders in transportation technology implementation.



Special thank you to our **Vision Zero Summit Planning Committee** members:

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