

Supporting letter DRAFT

Dear Mayor and Council Members of the City of Sebastopol.

The City's Climate Action Committee recommends that you adopt the attached resolution to endorse the Sonoma County Vision Zero Action Plan and direct a staff member to join the Sonoma County Vision Zero Advisory Committee.

According to the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, Sonoma County has seen more fatal and serious injury crashes per capita than any other county in the San Francisco Bay Area, with 176 traffic fatalities and 924 crashes with severe injuries between 2016 and 2021.

Traffic safety is a requirement for expanding participation in zero carbon active mobility. SCTA and Sonoma County jurisdictions have worked together to prioritize surface transportation safety and have set a collective goal to end traffic deaths and severe injuries on our roadways by 2030 through adoption of the Sonoma County Vision Zero Action Plan (VZAP) in March 2022.

The creation of the VZAP was a collaborative effort led by SCTA, the Sonoma County Department of Health Services, and the Sonoma County Vision Zero Advisory Committee (VZAC) which includes local cities and towns, law enforcement, health care providers, climate change leaders, and advocacy groups. Sebastopol was part of this process.

On December 13th, 2023, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced \$817 million from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for 385 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grants. SCTA, in partnership with jurisdictional partners, has been awarded \$1,060,000 in SS4A planning funds as part of this grant.

It is time for the City of Sebastopol to formally adopt this Sonoma County Vision Zero Action Plan, and reap the benefits from the actions, contacts and opportunities provided by participating in the Sonoma County Vision Zero Advisory Committee.

Zeno Swijtink
Lead
Transportation Working Group
Sebastopol Climate Action Committee

Postscriptum of Sources for factual statements in Resolution

1. Between 2014 and 2020, there were 2 reported pedestrian fatalities, 31 reported crashes involving pedestrians, 30 reported crashes involving bicyclists and 23 vehicle crashes that resulted in severe injury in the City of Sebastopol. (Sonoma County [Vision Zero Data Dashboard](#))
2. Eight percent of all Sonoma County trips are made on foot or on bicycle. (Sonoma County [Vision Zero Action Plan](#), pg 6)
3. 100% of traffic-related deaths between 2011-2020 in the City of Sebastopol fell upon bicyclists and pedestrians. (Sonoma County [Vision Zero Data Dashboard](#))

4. Driving at unsafe speeds and failure to follow right-of-way rules are the primary causes of traffic crashes in the City of Sebastopol. (Sonoma County [Vision Zero Data Dashboard](#))
5. The City of Sebastopol includes four of Sonoma County's High Injury Intersections (Florence Ave/Healdsburg Ave; Healdsburg Ave/Pitt Ave/Harrison St; Ragle Ave/Bodega Ave/Ragle Rd; and S Main St/N Main St/Sebastopol Ave/Bodega Ave). (Sonoma County [Vision Zero Action Plan](#), pg 67)
6. The City of Sebastopol includes two roads in the High Injury Network (N Main St/S Main St/Main St and Sebastopol Ave.), one of which borders an Equity Priority Community. (Sonoma County [Vision Zero Action Plan](#), pg 63)
7. Equity Priority Communities, especially those who have reduced access to transportation or who travel without using private vehicles are most impacted by traffic fatalities and severe injuries. (Sonoma County [Vision Zero Action Plan](#), pg 27)
8. Transportation accounts for almost 60 percent of GHG emissions in Sonoma County with the burning of gasoline and diesel fuel for transportation as the leading cause of GHG emissions in this sector. (Sonoma County [Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2020 Update](#))
9. It is proven that vehicle speed is one of the most important factors determining severity of injury or fatality when a pedestrian or bicyclist is struck by a vehicle, and that traffic calming techniques provide an effective approach to slowing vehicle speeds. (Sonoma County [Vision Zero Action Plan](#), pg 19)