

VISION ZERO

Kick-Off Meeting

January 14, 2015 5:30-7:00pm

Stockton Boulevard Partnership Office

Meeting Summary

The agencies represented at the Vision Zero Kick-Off meeting included:

California Highway Patrol, The California Endowment, LPC Consulting, Sacramento BHC, Code4Sacramento, Legal Services of Northern California, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, Safe Routes to School National Partnership, Southgate Recreation and Park District, Sacramento Police Department, San Juan Unified School District, Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates, Sacramento County, Echelon Transportation Group, Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment, Mutual Housing California, Sacramento BHC Youth Media Team, Access Local.TV, WALKSacramento and local advocates and residents

What is “Vision Zero?”

Vision Zero is a campaign to reduce the number of pedestrian deaths to ZERO. It involves a culture change to reclaim streets for people rather than cars, and relies on significant collaboration across agencies, organizations, and community residents to work towards improving street safety. WALKSacramento is launching the Vision Zero initiative in the Building Healthy Communities (BHC) neighborhood of South Sacramento to improve street safety for all road users.

Meeting Goals

Emily Alice presented the goals for the evening. The first goal was for the meeting participants to develop an understanding of “Vision Zero” principles and successes. The second goal was to brainstorm pedestrian safety needs and possible steps for a Vision Zero Action Plan. This was done, and WALKSacramento staff will compile the comments to inform the action plan.

Background on Walking Safety in South Sacramento

Teri presented background on walking safety in South Sacramento. The presentation included images of current conditions in South Sacramento, which prioritize cars over people. Wide

roads encourage high speeds, intersections are not safe for crossing, and sidewalks are often too narrow. Teri mentioned recent successes at Stockton and Fruitridge, including the construction of the traffic signal at 58th and Fruitridge, pedestrian countdown signals at Stockton Blvd, and painted stop lines adjacent to crosswalks. Teri showed examples of what streets in Sacramento could look like with better street design, improving safety for everyone, ages 8 to 80 years.

Pedestrian Safety Data

Kirin discussed current data needs and the collection process. The two primary types of data WALKSacramento is using for the Vision Zero initiative are community input and collision data. Data have been collected through the August 2014 BHC Charrette, a community planning process, and the Metroquest Survey, an online tool for collecting community input for priority locations and rankings. Kirin showed maps of pedestrian collisions and deaths from 2005 – 2013, stressing that even one death is too many. WALKSacramento is seeking data from local law enforcement for traffic violations that impact pedestrians at specific locations, to combine with collision data to inform where walk audits will take place.

Vision Zero Initiative in South Sacramento

Goals

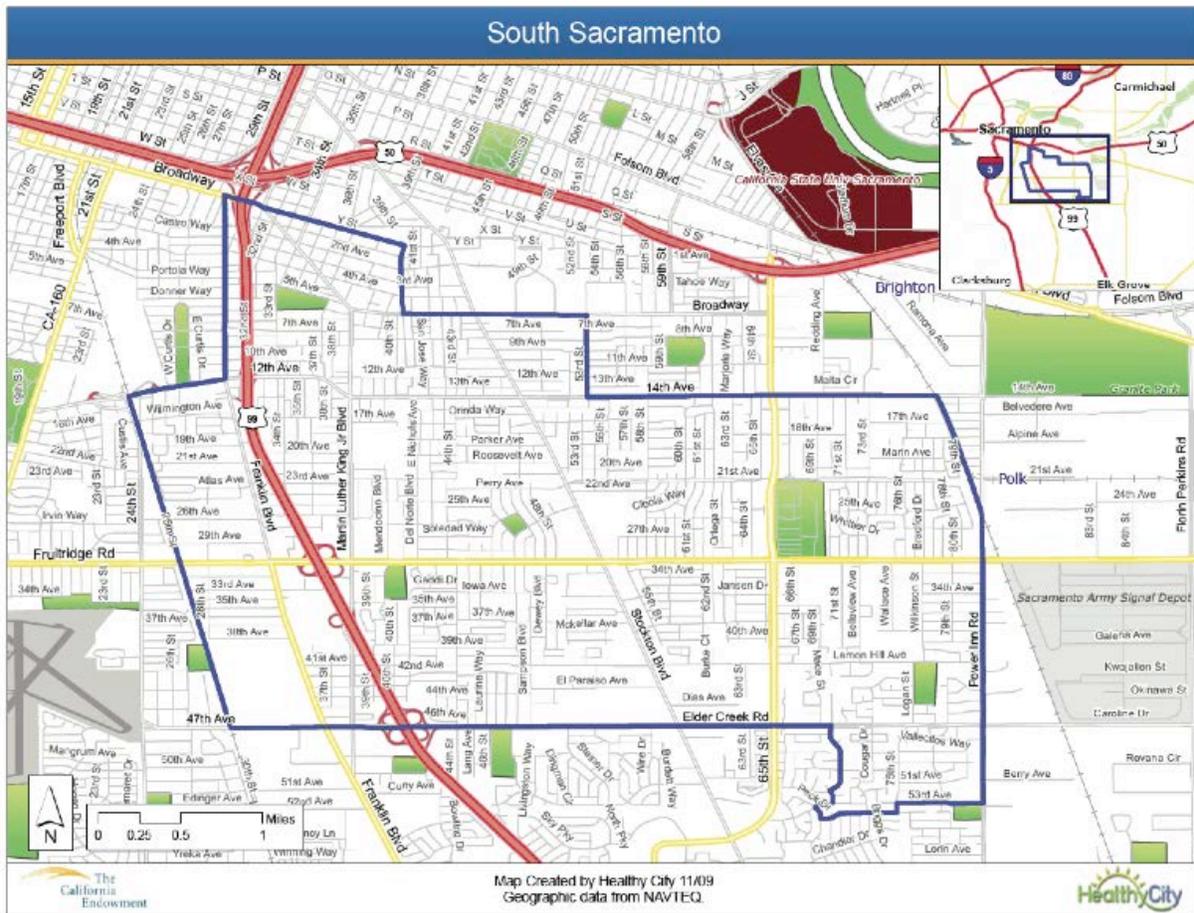
1. Decrease the number of pedestrian collisions in the BHC.
2. Improve the conditions and safety of the BHC streets for all users.
3. Increase awareness by drivers and pedestrians on safe travel on BHC streets.
4. Create a model program for a Vision Zero initiative to be proposed to the City of Sacramento.

The group watched a video which included success stories from Vision Zero campaigns in Sweden, New York City, and San Francisco. The video can be watched here: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WH1NNGGqp44>). The group brainstormed how Sacramento differs from cities that have already launched Vision Zero campaigns. They came up with:

- Lower density levels
- Less taxi cabs
- Fewer transit options
- More cars
- Less use of public transportation

- The BHC crosses city/county boundaries, so that there are two transportation departments and two police departments with different set of improvements
- More dedicated expressways
- Different political leadership from SF and New York, which started campaigns from a top-down approach
- Roads are wider here, higher speeds, harder to get people to support road diets
- Motorized scooters are an issue with older people who can't walk

The Vision Zero initiative will focus on the Building Healthy Communities neighborhood of South Sacramento which is located within the blue boundary line:



WALKSacramento is building off of work already funded by The California Endowment and other partners to strengthen the project.

Emily Alice presented three main elements of Vision Zero: street design, education, and enforcement. The goal for improving street design is to design for slower speeds, prioritizing quick, lower-cost infrastructure. The goal for enforcement is to increase compliance with safe

traffic laws. The third component, education, supports the larger cultural shift to make safety a greater priority than moving vehicles quickly.

WALKSacramento will organize a Vision Zero Steering Committee to direct the implementation of the project. The group brainstormed who should be invited to join the Steering Committee:

- Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates
- City of Sacramento Police Department
- Transportation Officials
- California Highway Patrol
- Jerry Way, Public Works Director for the City of Sacramento
- Neighborhood Association Members/Presidents
- Business Leaders (they might initially be resistant)
- Developers who may be working in the community
- Youth

One group member suggested that at least a third of the group should be residents. WALKSacramento is also organizing a second group, Families for Safe Streets, a coalition of family members or friends of victims of pedestrian collisions. This coalition will be coordinated by Najma Merchant - to find out more information about the coalition, email nmerchant@walksacramento.org.

Brainstorming

The group split up to gather around maps of the BHC and to put stickers on locations that they identified as unsafe. They discussed why they felt unsafe there and how to address the problems with street design, education, and enforcement ideas.

A representative of the County Department of Transportation said that the County is looking for input to add to county plans so infrastructure can be prioritized and funded.

WALKSacramento will incorporate the comments provided in this brainstorming activity to draft the Vision Zero Action Plan. Group members were invited to email Emily Alice with additional comments.

Conclusion

Emily Alice concluded the evening with next steps, including drafting the Vision Zero Action Plan, and organizing the Steering Committee and Families for Safe Streets Coalition. Community residents, local organizations and agencies are invited to participate this summer in

walk audits that will be held at priority locations identified by collision data. Everyone is invited to help with Vision Zero outreach and publicity.

For more information, including how to get involved, contact Vision Zero Project Coordinator Emily Alice Gerhart, egerhart@walksacramento.org.