



December 2, 2021

Urbana City Council Members
Mayor Diane W. Marlin

Dear Urbana City Council Members and Mayor Marlin,

On behalf of Champaign County Bikes, we thank you for past support of Vision Zero through its inclusion in the City's Bike Master Plan (2016), Pedestrian Master Plan, and passage of a Vision Zero resolution (October 2020, [Resolution 2020-09-049R](#)). We thank Mayor Marlin for moving this forward with her recent work towards creation of a Vision Zero Task Force. I have included CCB's previous statement to the City Council as background. At this time, we are asking the City Council to include Vision Zero as a City Goal.

For 2021 through September, there have been 507 traffic crashes in Urbana with 111 injuries and 2 deaths. Average annual pedestrian deaths on a per capita basis have increased substantially in Urbana. Nationally, there are 6.7 million vehicle crashes yearly with about 40,000 deaths and over 2.7 million injuries ([National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#)). Individual driver behavior and poorly designed roadways with speed limits set according to maximum federal guidelines both play a role. We do not need to accept vehicle injury and death as a cost of doing business. We don't accept gun violence; we shouldn't accept vehicle violence.

As the only Gold-level Bike Friendly city in Illinois (an effort and goal of past councils), Urbana can continue to lead by making the roadways safe and equitable for all. Vision Zero is a framework for creating a street system that takes a Safe Systems approach but it is more than just engineering. Quoting from the [League of American Bicyclists](#):

"Safe streets for everyone is at the heart of the League of American Bicyclists' mission. Safe streets means more than slow streets, bike lanes, and sidewalks. It means that everyone is free to move on our streets, in our neighborhoods, and throughout our cities without fear of violence, racial profiling, or police brutality.

We must continually reflect on the inequities in our society and what we can do as an organization to address these in our work to make bicycling safe, comfortable, and accessible to all."

CCB supports efforts that increase livability in our communities by encouraging more bicycling and walking and eliminating all deaths and serious injuries for all roadway users. We hope the Urbana City Council will make Vision Zero a priority by including it as a city goal.

Sincerely,

Charlie Smyth
Chair, ChampaignCountyBikes.org

CCB Contact Information

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Champaign County Bikes ([CCB](#)) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working to make our area safer for all road users and to improve the cycling and walking experience in Champaign County. CCB coordinates efforts with local agencies and groups such as CU Safe Routes to School Project as well as the state advocacy organization, [Ride Illinois](#). CCB is working on youth education, and supports joint efforts such as Bike to Work Day, Bike Month, Light the Night, Vision Zero, and the expansion of local trails such as the Kickapoo Rail Trail.



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