Vision Zero and the Equity Lens

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PBOT Lunch & Learn
May 18, 2017
Equity lessons through Vision Zero Action Plan development:

1. Who is sitting at the table matters

2. Be specific about what “equitable” means

3. Be data-driven and ensure that equity data is significantly embedded in the decision-making process

4. Building an inclusive, equitable plan matters more than any one particular action

5. Equity work is ongoing
Vision Zero is the bold goal to eliminate all traffic deaths and serious injuries.
In June 2015, the Portland City Council unanimously passed a resolution committing Portland to Vision Zero.
PARTNERSHIPS

A 26-member Vision Zero Task Force shaped the vision, policies and actions in the Plan.
Lesson #1

Who is sitting at the table matters
I was alarmed that a pillar of Vision Zero was increased police enforcement of traffic violations, in the same year that multiracial groups were filling streets across the United States to call attention to the deadly effects of racial profiling in policing.

Adonia Lugo
“Unsolicited Advise for Vision Zero”
UrbanAdonia.com
September 20, 2015
VISION STATEMENT

Working together, we will take equitable and data-driven actions that will eliminate deaths and serious injuries for all who share Portland streets by 2025.
Lesson #2

Be specific about what “equitable” means
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

These principles will guide the actions and performance measures of the Vision Zero Action Plan.

**EQUITABLE**

- Address disproportionate burden of traffic fatalities on communities of concern
- Will prioritize filling gaps in infrastructure in communities of concern
- Will not result in racial profiling
- Will use equity data (demographics, risk factors, traffic enforcement data, infrastructure gaps) to prioritize needs in communities of concern
- Measure and report on investment in communities of concern

**DATA-DRIVEN**

**ACCOUNTABLE**
Communities of Concern is a composite index of 10 equity indicators.
Lesson #3

Be data-driven and ensure that equity data is significantly embedded in the decision-making process
Portland will prioritize investments where the High Crash Network and Communities of Concern overlap.
CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO PORTLAND TRAFFIC DEATHS

STREET DESIGN  57%

IMPAIRED  56%

SPEED  47%

OTHER DANGEROUS BEHAVIORS  51%
STREET DESIGN

57% of deadly crashes are on 8% of Portland streets.

- Long distance between signals
- Unprotected crossings
- No street lighting
- Fast moving traffic
- Wide street
- Unprotected bike lanes
STREET DESIGN

- **MORE STREET LIGHTS**
  Easier to see other people

- **SAFER CROSSWALKS**
  More flashing lights, stop lights, and median islands

- **COMPLETE SIDEWALKS**
  All gaps filled

- **RAISED CENTER MEDIAN**
  Safer turns for people driving

- **SAFER SPEED LIMIT**
  30 MPH will become permanent

- **BUFFERED BIKE LANES**
  Physical separation where possible

- **SHORTER CROSSING DISTANCES AT CROSSWALKS**
  Crossing distances shortened by center median and protected bike lanes

- **MORE MARKED CROSSWALKS**
  Shorter distances between safe crossings
ZEROING IN ON ACTIONS

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP THREE ROAD SAFETY TIPS AS YOU MOVE AROUND PORTLAND?
No actions should be included in Portland’s Vision Zero Action Plan that call for:

- Increased penalties or fines, or
- Increased enforcement by officers
Lesson #4

Building an inclusive, equitable plan matters more than any one particular action
Actions should be included in Portland’s VZ Action Plan that:

- Lead with street design
- Expand access to traffic education classes
- Support increased access to drug and alcohol treatment services
- Ongoing collection and analysis of data to ensure prioritization of needs of communities of concern
- Annual reporting on investments and traffic safety outcomes for communities of concern
“Vision Zero’s guiding principles and actions prioritize infrastructure investment on our most dangerous streets in traditionally under-invested communities. The enforcement actions in this plan are limited in order to reduce the possibility of racial profiling and disparate economic impacts.”

Portland Vision Zero Action Plan, p.5
Operationalizing Action Plan direction:

- Funding for street design and multicultural, multi-lingual outreach
- Vision Zero budget package to fund street design & education
- Supporting legislation on Speed and Distracted Driving
Operationalizing Action Plan direction, cont.

- Enforcement actions:
  - Speed safety cameras
  - Education classes w/ cameras
  - Existing enforcement focus on most dangerous behaviors on most dangerous streets, spread around Portland
Lesson #5

Equity work is ongoing
EQUITABLE IMPLEMENTATION WORK AHEAD

Proposed Task Force meeting topics:

• Citation fine structure in Oregon
• Expanding access to traffic education classes
• Examining Police traffic stops data
• Locations of Vision Zero enforcement missions
• Minority hiring procedures and opportunities

Annual reporting:

• Investments in communities of concern
• Engagement with people in communities of concern
• Safety outcomes in communities of concern
EQUITY INTEGRATED INTO PORTLAND’S VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN

Vision Statement
Guiding Principles
Actions
Performance measures
Language in the Plan
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KEEPING EQUITY AT THE HEART OF VISION ZERO