Winner!
Los Angeles, California

In August 2015, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti launched the Vision Zero Los Angeles initiative with the goal of eliminating all traffic deaths by 2025. This initiative initially focuses on the most vulnerable road users, including children, older adults, pedestrians, and cyclists. Vision Zero Los Angeles uses data—a focus areas of the Mayors' Challenge—to identify problem areas and prioritize improvements. The city's Vision Zero mapping initiative and intersection safety scoring system exemplify the "Gather Data" focus on systematic data collection related to safer walking and bicycling.

Demonstrated Successes

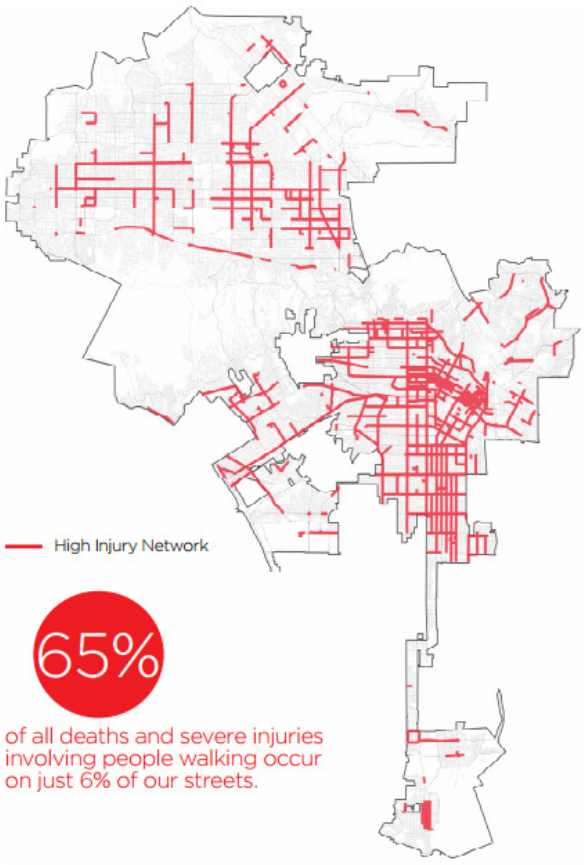
Mapping Problem Areas Helps Set Priorities for Street Improvements

To determine baseline priorities for Vision Zero activities – which include engineering, education, and enforcement– the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) used five years of collision data to identify a High Injury Network (HIN) of streets where most non-motorized crashes occur. Through this analysis, the priorities became clear: the HIN represents just 6 percent of Los Angeles's street miles, but 65 percent of deaths and serious injuries involving people walking and bicycling occur on this street network.

Scoring System Prioritizes Intersection Improvements to Reduce Pedestrian Injuries and Fatalities

To prioritize improvements within the HIN, the city developed a scoring system for intersections based on the following characteristics:

- High number of severe or fatal injury collisions;
- Vulnerability of road users (i.e. presence of a child or older adult in a collision that resulted in a fatal or severe injury); and
- Location in traditionally underinvested communities.



Map of the High Injury Network.

These three characteristics were selected after analyzing the results of a survey distributed through the city's Vision Zero Task Force and the Vision Zero Alliance, a coalition of community based organizations dedicated to Vision Zero. Based on this public input, LADOT developed an intersection score for each location in the HIN. The forthcoming Vision Zero Action Plan, set to be published in late fall 2016, will include a prioritized list of corridors and intersections based on this analysis, as well as key strategies to reduce fatal and severe injury collisions in these locations.

Linking Transportation and Environmental Data Lays Groundwork for Better Health Outcomes

LADOT also worked with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to develop the Vision Zero Geohub, a database that connects collision data and environmental conditions. This geospatial database has already helped the city proactively identify locations with a collision history that warrants safety improvements. In the past, due to limited time and resources, engineers often relied on citizen requests before analyzing an intersection to determine if it requires improvements. This new system allows for comprehensive querying of historical collision information to proactively identify safety improvements, and has proven especially helpful for grant applications.

Statistical Analysis Develops Patterns for Improvements that Reduce Injuries and Fatalities

Vision Zero Los Angeles is also using collision data to inform the development of safety countermeasures. In addition to developing location prioritization, LADOT used the geo-database to perform a statistical analysis to determine relationships between collision patterns and the built environment. This resulted in a set of 12 "Collision Profiles" that diagnose specific issues at any given intersection and provide a starting point for a countermeasure analysis. These collision profiles have been overlaid on the High Injury Network so that every engineer can reference them in their daily work. For example, at the intersection of Hollywood and Highland, a pattern of left and right turn injury collisions helped inform the development of a diagonal crosswalk, dramatically improving safety at this location.

Next Steps

Building off of its work during the Mayors' Challenge, Los Angeles will use the intersection scoring and prioritization to develop the Vision Zero Action Plan, which will be released in late 2016. This Action Plan will provide a strategic focus on actions that will achieve Vision Zero's goals.

"With Vision Zero, we can reduce the likelihood of death and severe injury through strategic, data-driven approaches to engineering, enforcement, education, evaluation, and community engagement. Our robust data analysis – informed by the Mayors' Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets – has set the foundation for directing our efforts. We may not be able to prevent every collision, but we can – and must – take important steps that can make a difference and save lives." – Mayor Eric Garcetti

For more information about the Mayors' Challenge results and award winners see:
www.transportation.gov/mayors-challenge/awards-and-results