

VISION ZERO MONTCLAIR TASK FORCE
PROGRESS REPORT #5
For the period from January 1 to March 31, 2024

Work Completed for This Quarter:

Created agendas and slide decks for monthly meetings
Facilitated TF Meetings 1/10/2025, 2/7/2025, 3/7/2025 via Zoom
Provided meeting summaries for monthly meetings
Followed up with working groups and checked in on outstanding action items

Status Updates

Complete Streets Policy/Ordinance

- The legal review of the draft ordinance had to wait until the new interim township attorney was hired.
- Montclair hired new Interim Township Attorney Joseph Garcia on January 1, 2025.
- CS Policy shared with Mr. Garcia for review.
- CS Policy shared with all council members for review and comment.
- Awaiting to share with new Township Manager to be hired April 1
- Anticipated first reading on April 8

Complete Streets Director

- A draft job description was created by Councilor D'Amato for the Complete Streets Director outlined in the above mentioned ordinance. It is a first draft of the primary responsibilities a designated Complete Streets Director may be expected to handle under the ordinance currently under consideration by the Montclair Township Council.
- The legal review of the draft job description had to wait until the new interim township attorney was hired.
- Montclair hired new Interim Township Attorney Joseph Garcia on January 1, 2025.
- CS Director job description shared with Mr. Garcia for review.
- CS Director job description shared with all council members for review and comment.
- CS Director job description shared with the finance committee for review and comment.
- Awaiting to share with new Township Manager to be hired April 1
- Anticipated first reading on April 8

Grove Street Urgency

- The Mayor has formally requested a meeting with County Exec, Admin, and Commissioner Gill to discuss the Grove Street issues and getting the speed limit reduced to 25 mph.
 - Meeting was held January 13, 2025 at the Essex County Public Works Building
 - The following decisions were made:

- Reduce Grove Street speed limit to 25mph
- Allow reflective delineators at crosswalks on Grove Street
- County to purchase 10 driver feedback speed signs for installation along county roads

Alerts to Action Safety Improvements & Mapping Community Concerns

- DCS has placed free standing reflective delineators at Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) crosswalks and other crosswalks town-wide (including county roads).
- DCS is implementing some temporary “daylighting” at Claremont & Fullerton and Grove & Oxford
- DCS is developing new striping plans for school zones
- Township staff is looking into modifying the 311/QAlert System in order to capture community traffic concerns.
- Township staff is also exploring [Urban SDK](#) (currently being used by Verona). A demonstration meeting was held March 12, 2025.
 - *Summary: Access would be shared among the police department, DCS and Vision Zero among others. It can identify traffic volume, speed and crash injury data in real time. It also identifies specific patterns at any time of the day. It would make it easier to do speed studies and decide where to place enforcement as well as to pinpoint areas for VZ to implement traffic calming. It can also be used to serve the same purpose as QAlert. Residents would be able to pinpoint the issue on a map and report it. The platform would track the request and send the relevant traffic data to the recipients on staff and VZM.*

Better Communication on Accomplishments

- VZM Task Force and Montclair Township Communications Director have been working together on communications.
 - [January, February, March Township Newsletters](#)
 - [March VZM Newsletter](#)

Data & Mapping

- A spreadsheet was created showing all crash data for all intersections from 2021 - 2023 (Montclair’s most recent data).
- The data was analyzed and summarized into two documents (attached):
 - ALL Crash Injury 2021-2023
 - Fatal and Severe Injury Crash data 2021-2023
- The planning department is currently working on an [Interactive Crash Map](#) which will be accessible through the Vision Zero Montclair website this year.

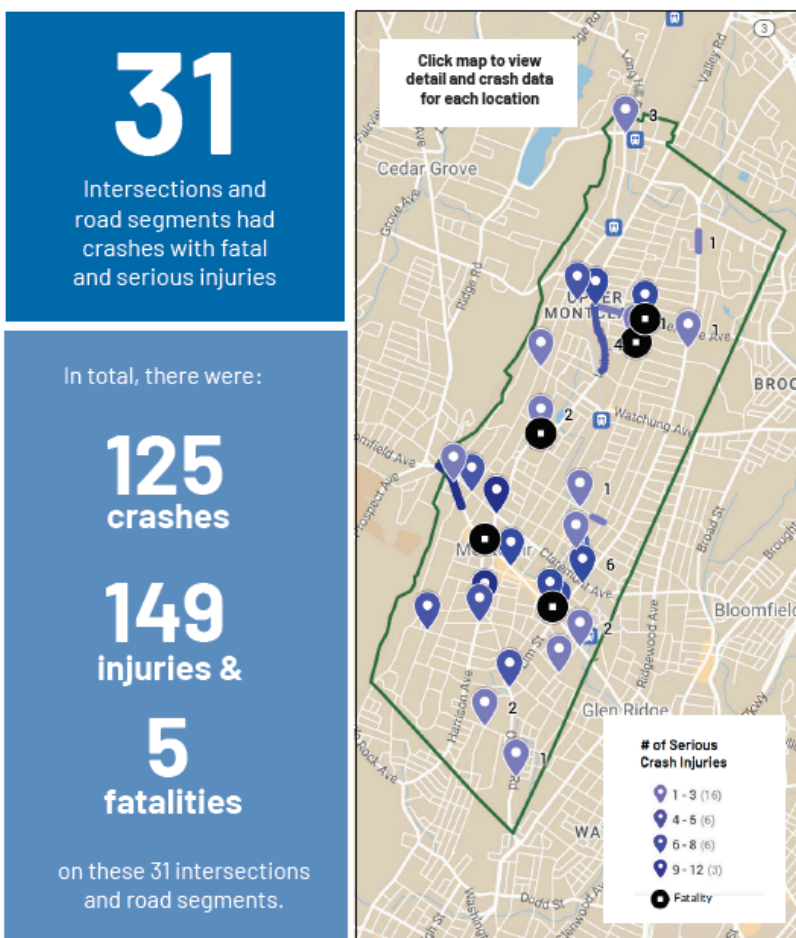


Image: Fatal & Severe Injury Crash Data (2021 - 2023)

Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant Demonstration Projects and Safety Action Plan

- Initial request for proposals (RFP) was advertised in January. No consultant responses were received.
- Planning Department reissued the RFP with a new deadline of April 4, 2025.
- [Notice to Vendors: RFP - 25 P04: Local Safety Action Plan Township of Montclair, NJ](#)
- Montclair Township is also currently participating in Essex County's SS4A Safety Action Plan and has promoted the [Essex County Safe Streets for All Survey](#) broadly. As of March 31, 2025, Montclair had the highest number of responses to the county survey. This data will be used for Montclair's work going forward.

Safe Routes to School

- Throughout phases 1, 2, and 3, the VZM Task Force has been working with the Township and the Board of Ed and School Principals to re-initiate a [Montclair Safe Routes to School](#) program.
- During Phases 2 and 3, the VZM TF conducted School Surveys at all Montclair public schools. These surveys are complete and being summarized.
 - The first three alphabetically are complete:

- [Bradford Elementary](#)
 - [Buzz Aldrin Middle School](#)
 - [Charles Bullock Elementary](#)
- The VZM TF has reached out to the [EZ Ride Transportation Management System \(TMA\)](#) for SRTS Assistance.
- EZ Ride is currently tasked with assisting municipalities with their SRTS programs funded through the NJDOT.
- Montclair's SRTS History:
 - In 2013, Montclair received a NJDOT technical assistance grant to create [Safe Routes to School Travel Plans - Montclair](#) for all elementary and middle schools.
 - In 2014, [Montclair received SRTS Gold Recognition](#) from the State of NJ.
- EZ Ride and VZM TF are currently working together to update the public school travel plans and reapply to the State of NJ for current recognition. This status can help with NJDOT, Sustainable Jersey, and other state grants, as well as federal grants.

Work Anticipated Next Quarter:

- The last meeting of the VZM Task Force was held on March 7, 2025. This completes the timeframe for which the Task Force was authorized.
- Council liaisons (Baskerville, Shin Andersen, D'Amato) have proposed an extension to be presented to Council in April (once the new Township Manager begins his term). The resolution suggests the VZM TF continue monthly work until the new Complete Streets Advisory Board is appointed.
- If the resolution passes in April, the VZM Task Force will:
 - Continue to hold and summarize monthly task force meetings
 - Work to pass the CS Policy/Ordinance and create an Implementation and Operational Strategy

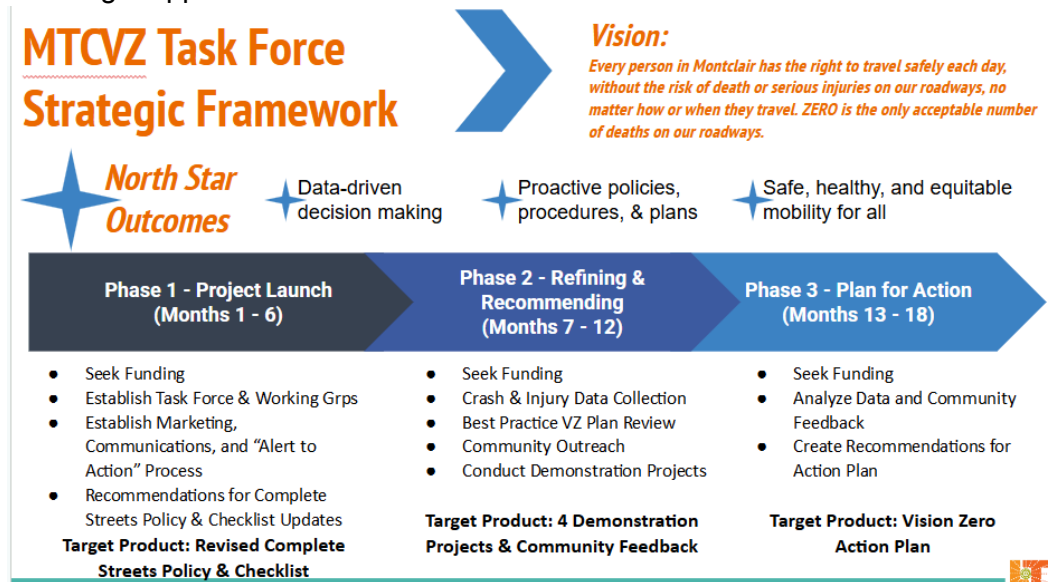
Scope and Schedule Changes since October 2023:

Delays to anticipated deliverables outlined in strategic framework:

- Phase 1 - Complete Streets Policy & Ordinance - on hold per new council. A significant number of calls, emails, listening sessions, and meetings have been held since July and very little movement by council has been made to present or adopt the policy due to onboarding and other priorities.
- Phase 1 - Alerts to Action Process - delayed due to Communications Specialist leaving. Staff has put this on hold in order to explore ZenCity software. Then staff put ZenCity on hold. VZM Chair has asked for status updates for the last 3 months and have received none.
- Phase 1 - Website and Public Engagement - delayed due to staff turnover and lack of a Communications Specialist.
- Phase 2 - Data & Mapping - delayed due to staff turn over in the Planning Department. New planning staff has gotten up to speed, coordinated with Police Department, and is currently able to provide crash data from 2021 - 2023.
- Phase 2 - Demonstration Projects - anticipated SS4A Grant and some initial demonstration projects during Phase 2. SS4A grant has been delayed and is anticipated to launch during Phase 3.
- Phase 2 - County road speed limits - VZM TF has spent significant time trying to work with Essex County to provide input on intersection improvements and coordinate appropriate speed/traffic study measures beyond the 85th percentile approach (as

outlined in the MUTCD). This was the focus of several tf meetings as well as attempting to communicate with the County Engineer per request of the County Commissioner. Still awaiting response.

- Phase 1 Strategic Approach



- New Priorities for Phase 3 (as determined by the VZM Task Force)
 - Most Immediate -
 - Complete Streets Policy & Ordinance
 - QAlert & Rapid Response (Alerts to Action) System
 - Soon
 - Start Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper (LQC) Demonstration Projects like "daylighting"
 - Community Survey (Could inform SS4A Consultant Team OR could have SS4A Consultant Team conduct it in late spring/summer.)
 - Later
 - List of town wide LQC Recommendations (might help to inform Demos and Rapid Response)
- Phase 3 - possible delay to Phase 3 (October - March) if Township does not confirm funding the BID for task force management and to confirm/extend the end date of the task force 18 month term.
- Phase 3 - List of short-term interventions to correspond with crash data locations is being explored by DCS staff. This list was targeted for this quarter but is running behind schedule.
- Phase 3 - An "alerts to action" process was targeted for this quarter. At this time, Q-Alert and Urban SDK are being explored by staff.
- Norma and Amy attended
 - *Summary from Amy: Access would be shared among the police department, DCS and Vision Zero among others. It can identify traffic volume, speed and crash injury data in real time. It also identifies specific patterns at any time of the day. It would make it easier to do speed studies and decide where to place enforcement as well as to pinpoint areas for VZ to implement traffic calming. It can also be used to serve the same purpose as QAlert. Residents would be able*

to pinpoint the issue on a map and report it. The platform would track the request and send the relevant traffic data to the recipients on staff and VZM.

- Phase 3 - The federal Safe Routes for All grant was expected to be implemented this quarter. The request for proposals for a consultant team to assist with Montclair Township's Safety Action Plan, Conceptual Complete Streets Network, and 4 Demonstration Projects received no submittals. The Township Planning Department reissued the RFP with a new submission date of April 4, 2025.
- Phase 3 - It was anticipated that the Complete & Green Streets Policy and Ordinance would have been passed and implemented within the 18 months of this Vision Zero Montclair Task Force. A part of the ordinance is to transition this Task Force into a Complete Streets Advisory Board. However, this proposal is not expected to go before council until April.
- Phase 3 - In order to maintain momentum and bring the new Township Manager up to speed, Council Liaisons Baskerville, Shin Andersen, and D'Amato are proposing a resolution extending the terms of all VZM Task Force members until a Complete Streets Advisory Board is appointed. This resolution will go before Council in April.

Unanticipated advances in safety interventions:

- Phase 2 - Implementation - Staff was able to be creative with the capital budget and purchase speed limit signs, painted curb extensions at two intersections, and ordered reflective delineators for flashing beacon locations. Although no VZM recommendations were budgeted for 2024, staff was able to move on some inexpensive interventions.
- Phase 3 - Implementation - Staff made a wise decision to NOT permanently install reflective delineators at the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) crosswalks and opt for rubber base stands during the winter months. This allowed them to place fewer delineators per crosswalk but cover many more crosswalks throughout town. In addition, the Township was able to secure agreement from Essex County to allow delineators at crosswalks on county roads.
- Phase 3 - Implementation - Staff is currently working on new striping plans for school zones.

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Submitted:

April 6, 2025