

Representative Caddy McKeown
House Committee on Transportation Policy
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Mr. McKeown and members of the transportation Policy Committee,

Today I am writing to you to ask for your support on the House Bill 2667 to create a Task Force on Vision Zero.

As a new member of the Eugene community in 2007 I had to face the unexpected loss of my son Vaclav Hajek of ten years of age on August 27 of that year. He was struck by a speeding 16 year old driver, my son was walking his bicycle across the street. Bailey Hill Road at that time it was a four lanes road, not much traffic at the time of the crash. Many factors were involved in this crash, from which many of them could have been prevented.

The community and myself took action, asking for changes to make Bailey Hill Road safe for all users, the infrastructure was changed but it came too late for my son. A small plaza was also built in his memory.

Usually changes take place after a tragedy, my heart aches every time somebody dies unacceptably on the streets especially when it could have been prevented. I ask myself how many more people have to die, how many more memorials have to be built in order to take action for a safer transportation system.

I try to get involved and support any effort the citizens and the city makes to improve the safety of all users of the roads, but we can not do it alone we need your help. Vision Zero helps us change our thinking from collision reduction to injury prevention, and represents a significant shift from an engineering to a public health perspective. Instead of asking "Why did that person crash?" a Vision Zero framework examines "Why was that person so seriously injured in the crash?"

A couple of weeks ago I got to think about the soaring of the traffic fatalities in Oregon in the year of 2016, the highest number over a decade. I thought about it because I was riding my bicycle on Willamette St. downtown Eugene when a pickup truck almost hit me when attempting to make a left turn, it was 5pm I had my red bicycle jacket, front light flashing but it was not enough for the driver to realize I was on the street until his passenger got his attention and me yelling to stop, he did apologize. I kept going and two hundred meters ahead I noticed that a bicyclist had been hit by a car at the corner of 18 Ave. and Willamette St. he seemed OK people were helping him to get up. Two days later I am riding in the bus and I see a vehicle crash on the corner of East 11 Ave. and Oak St.

I just had a thought about how much more we will see through the year. Please help us to put a stop to these preventable situations.

Thank you very much,
Marina Hajek



