



March 23, 2023

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support House Bill 3374 to replace “accident” with “crash”

Dear Co-Chairs McClain and Gorsek and members of the Committee,

BEST, The Street Trust, 1000 Friends of Oregon, and OEC support House Bill 3374 to replace references to “vehicle accident” and “vehicle collision” with “vehicle crash.”

Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation (BEST) is an advocacy organization that is building a successful community by bringing people together to promote transportation options, safe streets, and walkable neighborhoods. In 2015, BEST introduced the greater Eugene-Springfield area to the Vision Zero approach to transportation safety after a driver ran a red light, hitting and killing three young children in a crosswalk.

The Street Trust (TST) is a membership advocacy organization representing street users from across Greater Portland. TST advocates to break the political gridlock to address unsafe and incomplete public streets that threaten lives and livelihoods, and to win policy and investments that save lives, reduce barriers, and expand opportunities to the people and neighborhoods our current system neglects.

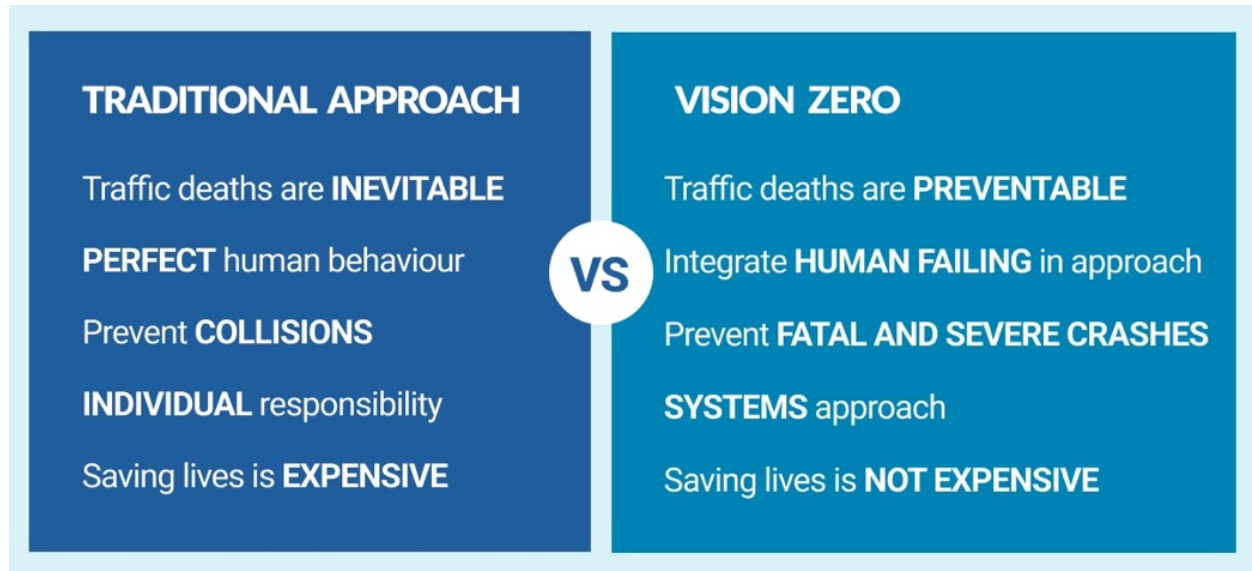
1000 Friends of Oregon works with Oregonians to enhance quality of life by building livable urban and rural communities, protecting family farms and forests, and conserving natural areas.

Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) works to ensure Oregonians live healthier lives because our air, water and land are cleaner; our food is more sustainably produced; and the products, energy and transportation we rely on are safer for our environment.

As the Vision Zero Network explains,¹ Vision Zero is a systems approach to eliminating all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.

Safe Systems = Safe Mobility





Words matter. Changing how we talk and think about tragedies is part of the Vision Zero approach.

For too long, we've considered traffic deaths and severe injuries to be inevitable side effects of modern life. While often referred to as "accidents," the reality is that we can prevent these tragedies by taking a proactive, preventative approach that prioritizes traffic safety as a public health issue.

As Transportation Alternatives and Families for Safe Streets explain:²

Before the labor movement, factory owners would say "it was an accident" when American workers were injured in unsafe conditions.

Before the movement to combat drunk driving, intoxicated drivers would say "it was an accident" when they crashed their cars.

Planes don't have accidents. They crash. Cranes don't have accidents. They collapse. And as a society, we expect answers and solutions.

Traffic crashes are fixable problems, caused by dangerous streets and unsafe drivers. They are not accidents. Let's stop using the word "accident" today.

For BEST,

Rob Zako

Rob Zako
Executive Director

For TST,

Sarah Iannarone

Sarah Iannarone
Executive Director

For 1000 Friends,

Brett Morgan

Brett Morgan
Transportation and
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For OEC,

Jacqui Treiger

Jacqui Treiger
Campaign Manager - Climate
& Transportation Programs

¹ What is Vision Zero? <https://visionzeronetWORK.org/about/what-is-vision-zero/>

² Crash Not Accident, <https://crashnotaccident.com>