



Vision Zero in North Carolina: Working to Create a Safe and Equitable System



INJURY PREVENTION
RESEARCH CENTER



About Vision Zero in NC

As a leading cause of death for North Carolinians and the #1 cause of death for children, addressing fatal motor vehicle crashes is a critical priority in the state and across the US. Following the declaration of NC as a Vision Zero state by the NCDOT in 2015, several municipalities in NC garnered support to move forward with initiatives to achieve zero deaths and serious injuries in their communities.

At least fourteen communities across the state have now convened diverse coalitions, each of which looks different and reflects the unique strengths and characteristics of each community. Several of these communities have also passed formal resolutions to commit to Vision Zero as well as adopting formal plans to achieve the goal.

Growing Support

Among the first, Charlotte, Durham, and Greensboro passed resolutions with defined goals beginning in 2017. As of 2023, eighteen more NC communities across the state have joined them to pursue Vision Zero initiatives of their own, with four communities passing Vision Zero resolutions in the year 2021 alone.

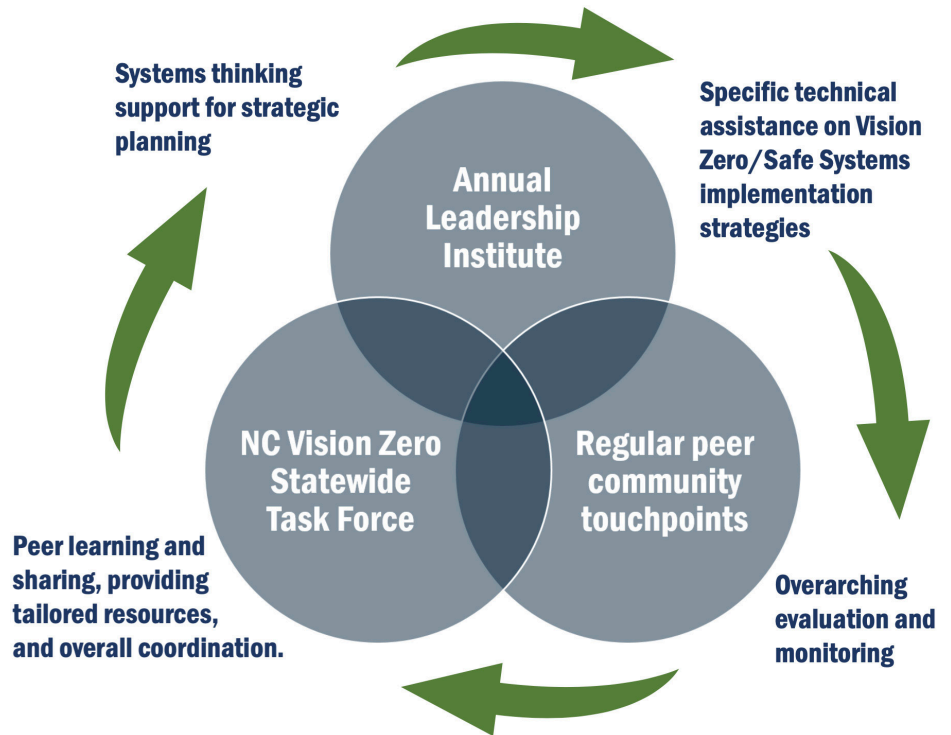


How UNC supports local Vision Zero Coalitions

Since 2020, with support from the NC Governor’s Highway Safety Program, UNC has provided technical assistance to Vision Zero communities across North Carolina to strengthen community capacity to address road violence through effective, multi-sector coalitions. The UNC team represents a diverse collaboration between the UNC Injury Prevention Research Center, UNC Highway Safety Research Center, the Collaborative Sciences Center for Road Safety, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, and the NC Institute for Public Health.

NC Vision Zero supports communities through three primary activities:

1. **Regular peer community touchpoints:** The UNC team hosts monthly small group and “all-hands” community meetings for peer learning and sharing, tailored coaching, and coordination.
2. **Annual NC Vision Zero Leadership Institute:** Building from the regular touchpoints, this team-based, multi-sector training institute is hosted annually by UNC for Vision Zero community leaders to learn and apply system strengthening tools and training for sustainable Vision Zero planning and implementation.
3. **NC Statewide Vision Zero task force:** Convened by UNC and NC GHSP, this group of diverse stakeholders meet quarterly with the purpose of providing direction and mobilizing resources to help communities in North Carolina work toward achieving Vision Zero in the state.



Future Directions

With increasing road traffic injury and death rates, and particularly among individuals who ride and cycle, there is an urgent need to create a safer and more equitable transportation system in NC and across the US. Vision Zero and Safe System strategies can help us achieve this goal, and in NC, we have observed several successes and tangible movement towards a Safe System for all. However, large scale change will require sustained resources, multisector collaboration, and authentic attention to equity. We believe mutual support and collaboration models, such as this model utilized in NC, are critical to supporting and strengthening the life-saving work of community leaders across the state.