



## **ITE Vision Zero Standing Committee: Statement of Intent**

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) has launched a new initiative to aggressively advance the Vision Zero and Towards Zero Deaths movements. Vision Zero's goal is zero traffic fatalities among all road users. Toward Zero Deaths is the United States' national strategy on highway safety. According to the World Health Organization, traffic crashes claim 1.25 million lives annually and are the leading cause of death for individuals aged 15 to 29 years. In the United States, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration projected that 36,120 people died in 2019, an estimated decrease of 1.2% from the reported 36,560 fatalities in 2018. The goal of Vision Zero is to continue and accelerate this recent downward trend. ITE Past President Paula Flores Benway called on ITE members to bring their expertise to bear in reducing the crash toll on transportation systems across the globe: "No loss of life on the transportation system is acceptable. As transportation professionals we have no greater responsibility than protecting the lives of the public we serve."

ITE's initial efforts will focus on large and medium-size cities to support and complement the work of the Vision Zero Network. Through these efforts, ITE has established a Vision Zero Standing Committee, under the auspices of the ITE Safety Council. The Standing Committee, chaired by Gerard Soffian, NYU Tandon School of Engineering and co-chaired by Timothy E. Barnett, Transportation Institute, University of Alabama is focusing on enhancing ITE's partnerships with other impactful organizations in the transportation industry and bring greater visibility to the goals of Vision Zero and Toward Zero Deaths. It is also developing specific products that can be used to enhance agency programming aimed at eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries. The first product was a *Vision Zero Toolbox*, which became available for general use in 2016 and is planned for substantial updating in 2020. The Toolbox utilizes ITE's online forum, ITE Community, to collect best practices, analytical techniques, policy guidance, and communication and educational tools and make them easily accessible to practitioners.

ITE has developed several Vision Zero products including an ITE Talks Transportation Podcast featuring Matts Belin from the Swedish Road Authority talking about the origins of Vision Zero, challenges and successes in Sweden, and thoughts on implementing Vision Zero in the United States. Also an ITE webinar—Toward Vision Zero: Tools and Tips for Achieving Target Speeds in Your Community—addressing one of the primary safety challenges in cities was developed.

ITE's work to develop Vision Zero partnerships and products reflect ITE's strong commitment to safety and its focus on supporting the profession in finding solutions that save lives and enhance communities. ITE Executive Director and CEO, Jeffrey F. Paniati, effectively captures the intent of this effort, stating: "ITE's unique network of practitioners at all levels of government and in the private sector can play an important role in helping cities identify the policies, tools, and techniques that save lives and move us closer toward achieving Vision Zero."

