

**Action Requested/Required:**

- ☒ Vote/Action Requested
☐ Discussion or Presentation Only
☐ Public Hearing
Report Date: _____
Hearing Date: _____
Voting Date: 3/6/25

Department: City Management **Presenter(s) & Title:** Nathan Ingram, Assistant City Manager

Agenda Item Title:

Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed Resolution of the City Council of Canton, Georgia Adopting a Vision Zero Policy

Summary:

City staff has worked with County, as well as other municipal participants, as a stakeholder in a joint project "Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan". The County and representatives from Pond Engineering, will be presenting City Council an update on this plan at their February Council Meeting. As part of this project, they are asking that the County and the participating Municipalities adopt a "Resolution Adopting a Vision Zero Policy".

Budget Implications:

Budgeted? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Total Cost of Project: Check if Estimated ☐

Fund Source: General Fund ☐ Water & Sewer ☐ Sales Tax ☐ Other:

Staff Recommendations:

Staff asks Council Consider: Motion to Approve A Resolution of the City Council of Canton, Georgia Adopting a Vision Zero Policy.

Reviews:

Has this been reviewed by Management and Legal Counsel, if required? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Attachments:

Resolution Adopting a Vision Zero Policy

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CANTON, GEORGIA ADOPTING A VISION ZERO POLICY

Whereas, Cherokee County experienced 87 roadway fatalities and 436 crashes that resulted in life-altering injuries between 2018 and 2022; and

Whereas, traffic deaths and serious injuries are preventable and often result from roadway designs that are ineffective in accommodating multimodal use; and

Whereas, a Safe System Approach to roadway safety acknowledges that humans make mistakes and therefore, roadways must be designed to minimize the impact of crashes on the human body; and

Whereas, Cherokee County received a federal Safe Streets and Roads for All Action Plan grant in 2023, and the cities of Ball Ground, Canton, Holly Springs, and Woodstock each contributed matching dollars; and

Whereas, Cherokee County and the Cities of Ball Ground, Canton, Holly Springs, and Woodstock, as well as the populace, have a collective responsibility to contribute to a safe system; and

Whereas, Cherokee County and the cities collaborated with stakeholders, including major employers and nonprofit partners, to develop a data-driven and community-based Safety Action Plan over 2024 and early 2025; and

Whereas, public input collected during the Safety Action Plan development process provides evidence of the citizenry's desire for roadway safety improvements; and

Whereas, Safe Kids Cherokee County (led by Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services) is one of over 20 local coalitions in Georgia implementing safety programs and hands-on training; and

Whereas, Vision Zero is a holistic strategy aimed at eliminating all traffic fatalities and severe injuries suffered by all road users while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all;

Whereas, streets and transportation systems have traditionally been designed primarily to move cars efficiently, and Vision Zero supports a paradigm shift by designing streets and transportation systems to move all people safely, including people of all ages and abilities, pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit users, and motorcyclists, as well as drivers and passengers of motor vehicles; and

Whereas, Cherokee County must manage population growth and development to ensure that growth does not put undue burden on the existing roadway network and increase safety risk; and

Whereas, the Cherokee County population is aging, and as such, specific initiatives for older driver safety are needed; and

Whereas, Vision Zero resolutions have been adopted by many jurisdictions across the United States,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City Council of Canton, Georgia:

The City of Canton joins the Vision Zero movement by committing to a goal of zero deaths and serious injuries that are a result of roadway crashes in Cherokee County by 2040.

The City commits to safer streets for all users, including drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, and individuals utilizing various modes of transportation.

The City commits to continued collaboration with neighboring jurisdictions and other partners to advance projects identified by the Safety Action Plan.

The City commits to monitoring and reporting on progress toward the Vision Zero goal.

The City Clerk shall certify the adoption of this Resolution, effective immediately, by the Canton, Georgia City Council.

RESOLVED, this 20th day of February, 2025.

Bill Grant, Mayor

Attest:_____

Annie Fortner, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:_____

Robert M. Dyer, City Attorney