



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Regional Vision Zero

Monday, January 13, 2025

1 PM – 3 PM

Presented Via Zoom; 92 attendees

All presentations and related meeting materials are available on the [RSTF Website](#).

Welcome Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 1 PM by Kaylen Phillips, DVRPC. First, Kaylen went over housekeeping items and highlighted the DVRPC policy to not drive while attending a virtual meeting. Attendees are encouraged to adopt this policy for their own virtual meetings and start conversations with colleagues about distracted driving at work. Kaylen then introduced Betsy Mastaglio, Associate Director of Multimodal Planning at DVRPC.

Betsy introduced DVRPC's Regional Vision Zero (RVZ) Plan and the meeting agenda which featured presentations from the November 2024 Regional Vision Zero Partner Summit. She noted that 2025 marks the 60th year anniversary of DVRPC and the 20th year anniversary of the RSTF. She reminded the group of RSTF's primary goal to reduce roadway crashes and eliminate serious injuries and fatalities from crashes in the Delaware Valley by 2050. Betsy then thanked Christine Norris, retired Communications Manager at the Center for Injury Research and Prevention at CHOP, for serving as RSTF Pennsylvania co-chair and invited her to say a few words about her tenure. Nominations for Pennsylvania co-chair are now open.

Kevin Murphy, Manager, Office of Safe Streets, DVRPC, presented a crash trend update. With the inclusion of 2023 data, fatalities have declined approximately 8%, which is a four-year low, and serious injuries were down from 2022. KSI, the combined crash data metric for killed and serious injuries used by the states and federal government, also dipped below 2021 numbers (note that 2023 serious injury data is estimated). Kevin emphasized the noteworthiness of these reductions but stressed that we must dig deeper into the recent data to identify specific trends. He then introduced the Regional Vision Zero Program, outlining the goals of: uniting to eliminate crash deaths and serious injuries, creating a data-driven safety management system and process, and sharing resources along the way. He closed by sharing common data-driven improvement recommendations of Vision Zero plans that will inform the RVZ process, including FHWA proven safety countermeasures such as roundabouts and road diets, system improvements such as rumble strips and stripes, policy recommendations such as complete streets and Vision Zero policy, and maintenance program best practices.

Kevin then invited Rebecca Wetzler, DVRPC, to give an overview of the RVZ Equity Analysis and Regional High Injury Network (RHIN). Rebecca first offered a reminder of the impacts of crash events, which go beyond numbers and affect real human lives. She then explained how DVRPC worked with partner counties to develop a data-driven shared understanding of where high concentrations of KSI

crashes are occurring. Rebecca noted the intention to develop a replicable process that encourages safety priorities in decision-making, focusing on road segments with more than one crash event with someone killed or severely injured. DVRPC also included bicyclist and pedestrian injuries at any level as a second layer. DVRPC's RHIN does not include Philadelphia or Trenton as they have established high injury networks. Rebecca mentioned the RHIN does not include limited access roadways as the number of KSI and opportunities for intervention are different. Rebecca then previewed the equity analysis currently underway, which is considering how the RHIN interacts with various equity factors and what safety professionals can do with this information. She closed by encouraging audience members to explore how to integrate the RHIN into their work and offered instructions for how to access the tool on the DVRPC website.

Kaylen then gave a brief overview of the Safe System Approach to roadway safety, which serves as a guiding principle for DVRPC's Vision Zero work, and introduced guest speakers Matt Johnson, Matt Lawson, Cathy Spahr, and Marco Gorini.

Presentation 1: Matt Johnson, Open Space Acquisition & Park/Trail Development Coordinator, Burlington County Resource Conservation Department

Matt Johnson gave an overview of the work Burlington is doing for vulnerable road users (VRUs) in their Complete Network Plan, which centers safety and mobility. The plan will identify opportunities to develop bike and pedestrian infrastructure where none currently exists, and will use a data-driven approach to prioritizing and identifying countermeasures where possible. Matt quoted Strong Towns by saying "every fatal crash has something to teach us" and that in the Strong Towns study, a lack of cyclist and pedestrian infrastructure was identified as a contributing factor to crashes. Matt acknowledged Burlington County's work will include looking at circuit trails and past best practices (such as Rancocas Creek/Route 130 Crossing Bridge).

References include:

Gil Penalosa (notable Ted Talk [here](#), work on [8-80 Cities](#))
DVRPC [Crash Data Viewer](#) and [Circuit Trails](#)
[Rancocas Creek Greenway/ Route 130 Crossing](#)
[Strong Towns Study](#)

Presentation 2: Matt Lawson, Assistant Director, Mercer County Planning Department

Matt Lawson observed the databases currently compiled by FHWA, NJDOT, and at the County level, as well as municipal zoning, and the opportunity to automate identifying what possible proven safety countermeasures could be applied to which portions of the road network. Mercer County recently won an SS4A award to develop a screening tool to do this. Matt provided a high level overview to other relevant data sources (such as the horizontal curve analysis) and how the plan will connect with regional Vision Zero efforts.

References include:

[2020 Mercer Bicycle Master Plan](#)
[NJ Straight Line Diagrams](#)
[NJ Regional Curve Inventory](#)
[FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasures](#)

Presentation 3: Cathy Spahr, Transportation Planner & Vision Zero Program Manager, Delaware County Planning Department

Cathy Spahr provided an overview of the Delaware County safety ambassadors program, starting with guiding principles. She explained how the safety ambassador program is a key part of Delaware County Vision Zero's outreach and engagement, and ensures the plan is rooted in the community. The intention was to engage the residents, be inclusive, uplift perspectives and experiences, and be innovative. Cathy shared how they selected safety ambassadors that care about their neighbors, are invested in their community, and want to make Delaware County a safer place to get around using all modes of transportation. Ambassador training encompassed background on Vision Zero, engagement tools and practices, and walk audit basics. The county also provided a safety ambassador hub with helpful links, training documents, maps, and graphics, as well as office hours and other support.

The safety ambassadors served as community representatives, developing relationships and collecting relevant information. In total, 16 ambassadors engaged over 1,600 people across more than 90 engagement events, conducted 15 walk audits and collected 1,105 surveys to advance Vision Zero priorities and gain community feedback in the county.

References include:

[AARP Walk Audit Toolkit](#)

[Vision Zero Delco](#)

Presentation 4: Marco Gorini, Vision Zero Program Manager, City of Philadelphia

Marco Gorini spoke about Vision Zero planning in Philadelphia, starting with an executive order in late 2016. Marco shared that the City's first plan was drafted in just 120 days. With an iterative process, they have built on and improved the plan over time, including adding a capital plan. Marco also noted that by using a data-driven approach, they were able to identify and prioritize their most at-risk areas in top priority corridors. The City of Philadelphia and DVRPC partnered for Vision-Zero focused studies in several of these priority corridors. Marco also shared that the work increased city grant eligibility, leading to over \$440 million in federal and state grants.

References include:

[Vision Zero Action Plan 2025](#)

[Vision Zero Capital Plan 2025](#)

[Vision Zero Annual Report 2023](#)

[Philadelphia Vision Zero Website](#)

[Hunting Park Ave Corridor Study](#)

Panel Q+A

A facilitated Q&A panel session was moderated by Kaylen Phillips before transitioning to breakout sessions.

Kaylen kicked off the discussion by asking panelists to share insight concerning the importance of leadership in advancing Vision Zero. The panelist guidance included:

- Safety comes before anything else, and being confident in that guiding principle between different levels of government and among staff allows you to move forward with your Vision Zero work.

- Don't expect solutions to come overnight. Effective leadership requires a long-term commitment to work through an iterative process through different elected officials, and is bolstered by continued advocacy to advance safety priorities.
- Executive leadership can be critical, and having top officials make safety work a priority can be extremely helpful. This can also lead to a trickle-down effect where executive leadership kicks off institutional priority-setting at all levels.
- Grassroots citizen support empowers elected officials and other leaders to prioritize safety work and is vital to making priorities known.

Kaylen followed up by asking for ways in which planners and decision makers can be held accountable for what happens on the roadway system, and recommendations from panelists for how audience members can get involved.

- Interactive websites that include resources like data, maps, dashboards, and other tools encourage public participation and feedback. Intentionally including more interactive pieces of plans like a Vision Zero pledge, toolkits, or direct comment and feedback opportunities give more people a voice in bringing about change.
- Using existing plans to familiarize yourself with ongoing work and decide what you'd like to see from decision makers.
- Signing up for updates on plans in your community and engaging at outreach events with agencies, or utilizing initiatives like task forces and ambassador programs.
- Practitioners and agencies can improve accessibility and ensure that they are communicating effectively with stakeholders and the general public.

Breakout Sessions

Breakout group discussion lasted approximately 30 minutes and each began by talking about reactions to the presentations. When finished sharing these thoughts, group members were encouraged to brainstorm who they'd like to see as a future RSTF co-chair. After the breakout sessions finished, RSTF members left their groups and returned to the main session. One person from each group reported back on their discussion.

In reaction to the presentations, breakout groups discussed the following points:

- The importance of engagement to understand what is happening, and how community engagement is about dialogue in both directions. Additionally, the need for ongoing communication even after plans are finalized and projects are implemented.
- The selection and engagement process of Delaware County's ambassador program and the difficulty of managing scale of engagement in projects.
- The importance of considering all modes of transportation, shifting focus from cars to vulnerable road users and ensuring that decision makers have personal experience to relate to stakeholders.
- How spread thin many municipalities are, and the resources that agencies like DVRPC make available to reduce that strain.
- The recently created New Jersey Target Zero Commission, and the opportunity for non-DOT agencies to spur progress and encourage meaningful action on safety priorities.
- Frustration with politics and the need to jump through hoops when trying to improve safety, and an idea to invite legislators or politicians to come to future RSTF meetings.

Closing Remarks

Cheryl Kastrenakes, Executive Director of Greater Mercer TMA and the new New Jersey co-chair, concluded the meeting with gratitude to the attendees for participating in the program and asked

attendees to complete the meeting survey. As attendees filled out the survey, Cheryl encouraged participants to share any feedback on the breakout sessions and presentations, future RSTF topics, and co-chair nominations.

Next, Cheryl shared several announcements with RSTF members. These included:

- DVRPC Website Update [Survey](#) closes 1/31
- January 20-27 is [National Passenger Safety Week](#)
- Philadelphia Vision Zero Action Plan community member [survey](#)
- New DVRPC "[LINK](#)" webtool!
- DVRPC is [hiring!](#)

Cheryl finished by sharing that the topics and dates for the next RSTF meeting and coffee hour are to be determined and reminded meeting participants that applications are open for the next RSTF co-chair.

Meeting Attendee List

Alan Huff, FHWA-NJ
Alyssa Driscoll, DVRPC
Amani Reid, PADEP
Anton Kuhner, Bowman
Ashlei Tracy, Fishtown Neighbors Association
Ben Guthrie, TPD
Betsy Mastaglio, DVRPC
Bianca Panunto, Michael Baker International
Cathy Spahr, Delaware County
Charlie Romanow, WSP
Cheryl Kastrenakes, GMTMA
Chris Townley, GMTMA
Christine Norris, Center for Injury Research and Prevention at CHOP
Craig Way, Pottstown Community Action
Cynthia Burch, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Danielle Baer, Urban Engineers
Deanna Stockton, Municipality of Princeton, NJ
Deborah Flynn, New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
Denice daCunha, NV5
Diana Pope, League of Women Voters Delaware County
Edward Boothman, Highway Safety Network
Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT
Elise Turner, DVRPC
Eric Marsh, The Fathering Circle
Ernie Bristow
Geoff Hickman, Upper Merion Township
Greg Krykewycz, DVRPC
Greg Woltman, Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center, Rutgers University
Hanna Jacobs, DVRPC
Heather Martin, WSP
Ian Henderson, Municipality of Princeton, NJ
Ian Schwarzenberg, DVRPC
Jacob Cummings, SJTPO
James Miller, Michael Baker International
Janaye Evans, City of Philadelphia
Jason Wager, Lower Frederick Township
Jen Farris, DVRPC
Jenna Monaghan, SJTPO
Jennifer Marandino, SJTPO
Jerrett Johnson
Joe Nowak, Borough of Kennett Square
Joey Toto, City of Philadelphia
John Davis, Doylestown Borough
Jon Dugan, Rutgers University
Joseph Platt, TPD
Judith Fagin
Kate Russo, RK&K
Katie Law, Brain Injury Alliance of NJ
Kaylen Phillips, DVRPC

Kevin Murphy, DVRPC
Leah Bakely, City of Philadelphia
Liz Cao, DVRPC
Marco Gorini, City of Philadelphia
MaryAnn Sandone, DCTMA
Matt Johnson, Burlington County
Matt Ludwig, NV5
Matthew Anderson, PennDOT
Matthew Colflesh, Lower Merion Township Police Department
Matthew Lawson, Mercer County
Matthew Popek, Montgomery County
Michael Christie, DRPA
Nick D'Angelo, McCormick Taylor
Nicole Rodowicz, BCTMA
Paishants DePalma, Hopeworks
Parker Frohlich, Bucks County
Patrick Farley, CCCTMA
Patty Quinn, CCPC
Paul Donnelly, Lower Providence Township
Randy Waltermeyer, Bowman
Rebecca Wetzler, DVRPC
Renee Wise, DVRPC
Richard Brahler, Bucks County
Ruchi Shrivastava, HDR
Ruth I Birchett, Heritage Community Development Corporation
Sam Rosenthal, Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center, Rutgers University
Samantha Zrillo, Whitmarsh Township
Sara Freed, CHOP
Seal Russell, Ohio State University
Sean Meehan, Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center, Rutgers University
Shannon Wise, City of Philadelphia
Sophia Peterson, Delaware County
Steve Baron, Temple University
Steve Mead
Suzanne Hill, CHOP Center for Injury Research and Prevention
Timothy Tieperman, Montgomery County
Tom Stanuikynas, Burlington County
Tracy Barusevicius, DCTMA
Valerie Brown, Camden County
Vichika Iragavarapu, WSP
Vittorio Anepete, McCormick Taylor
Wayne Hill, Numetric
William Riviere, NJDOT