
2020 OPERATING & CAPITAL BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Projects that can accelerate Vision Zero implementation

Issue:

At its meeting of January 17, 2020, the Budget Committee requested that the General Manager, Transportation Services submit a budget briefing note on projects that can accelerate Vision Zero implementation. This briefing note responds to the Committee's request.

Key Points:

- The Council approved Vision Zero 2.0 Strategy sets out how Vision Zero can be accelerated to most effectively improve safety outcomes for all road users. Implementation of the most effective initiatives is underway including:
 - the Speed Management Strategy,
 - road design improvements,
 - pedestrian head start signals, and
 - proactively addressing high-risk mid-block crossings.
- Acceleration and enhancement of these Road Safety Plan programs are reflected in the staff recommended 2020 - 2029 Capital Budget and Plan for Transportation Services. At this time staff resources are the most significant limiting factor in our ability to accelerate implementation of Vision Zero. Quite simply, staff are needed to do the work necessary to design and deliver projects in order to ramp up delivery.
- The staff recommended 2020 operating budget includes 15 additional staff to support Vision Zero delivery of traffic signals and pedestrian crossovers, intersection design and complete street improvements, signs and markings, as well as data-driven prioritization.
- Once hired, the additional staff will be able to establish the mechanisms needed in 2020 to further accelerate implementation in 2021. The need for additional staff will be reassessed each year as part of the annual Budget Process to ensure that limited staff resources do not continue to be a barrier to accelerated implementation.

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