

**RESOLUTION 2023 -016**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO TO DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT, AND MONITOR A VISION ZERO PLAN TO ELIMINATE TRAFFIC FATALITIES AND SEVERE INJURIES WHILE INCREASING SAFE, HEALTHY, AND EQUITABLE MOBILITY FOR ALL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**WHEREAS** the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) by the Governor, acting through the Ohio Department of Transportation and in cooperation with locally elected officials in Summit and Portage Counties and the Chippewa Township and Milton Township areas of Wayne County; and

**WHEREAS** AMATS endorses development, implementation, and monitoring of a Safety Action Plan and Vision Zero goal to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all road users with an emphasis on protecting the most vulnerable users; and

**WHEREAS** one death or severe injury on AMATS streets is one too many; and

**WHEREAS** collisions resulting in death or severe injury are not inevitable but can be prevented through changes in human behavior, technology, and designs that accommodate multimodal uses; and

**WHEREAS** a commitment to Vision Zero is a commitment to life and equitable opportunity for all people in the AMATS area; and

**WHEREAS** AMATS promotes a focus on reducing single occupancy vehicle rides and encouraging walking, bicycling transit, and carpooling, and also promotes safety for all roadway users; and

**WHEREAS** choosing active transportation options like walking and biking decreases mortality and morbidity from obesity-related diseases such as heart disease and diabetes, and creating safer streets is likely to encourage more active transportation, thereby increasing population health; and

**WHEREAS**, AMATS has a strong history of prioritizing safety and completing crash studies for all modes of transportation and has made demonstrable progress to improve safety for walking and biking by making systemic changes in the way the transportation network is planned, programmed, designed, constructed, and operated; and

**WHEREAS** between 2016 to 2020, the average number of collisions per year in the AMATS area was 17,650 and the average number of collisions resulting in injury was 4,152. Out of the injury crashes 363 per year (or nearly one per day) were considered serious injury; and

**WHEREAS** between 2016 to 2020, 37 people walking or in wheelchairs, 10 people riding a bicycle, and 215 people driving or riding in a vehicle have been killed; and

**WHEREAS** the number of people dying and suffering serious injuries on our streets is a serious public health problem which necessitates public action; and

**WHEREAS** preventing collisions in the AMATS area necessitates an analytical and systemic approach to street planning, design, policy, enforcement, legal processes, education and communications; and

**WHEREAS** implementing a Vision Zero commitment requires the continued support of residents, business owners, and visitors – acting as individuals and collectively through neighborhood or advocacy organizations to improve the safety, comfort, and usability of AMATS streets for all users; and

**WHEREAS** AMATS will join other MPO's and government entities around the nation in a commitment to eliminate traffic deaths and severe injuries and promote work which has demonstrated success when coupled with adequate funding, staff resources, and top-down support for its implementation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio:

**SECTION 1.** That Kent City Council endorses development, implementation, and monitoring of a Vision Zero goal to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all road users by 2050.

**SECTION 2.** That Council acknowledges that achieving this goal requires significant effort and resources.

**SECTIONS 3.** That Council affirms that the development of a Safety Action Plan and Vision Zero goal will put equity at its forefront, striving to impact the most vulnerable and dependent users of the most dangerous parts of the transportation network to improve the health and well-being of those traveling on AMATS roads and streets.

**SECTION 4.** That Council affirms that the Safety Action Plan and Vision Zero goal will use data and best practices to outline steps in planning, engineering, policy, enforcement and education to reach interim steps toward zero deaths.

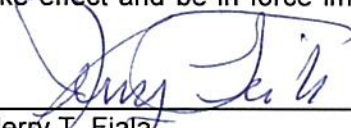
**SECTION 5.** That Council affirms that AMATS is dedicated to measuring the progress, challenges, and successes of the Vision Zero commitment and will do so with tangible, reportable metrics that will be reported on a regular basis with progress reports.

**SECTION 6.** That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal

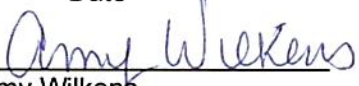
action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**SECTION 7.** That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: March 15, 2023  
Date

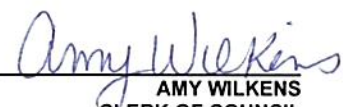
  
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Jerry T. Fiala  
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: March 15, 2023  
Date

ATTEST:   
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Amy Wilkens  
Clerk of Council

I, AMY WILKENS, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF RESOLUTION No. 2023-016, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON March 15, 2023.

(SEAL)

  
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AMY WILKENS  
CLERK OF COUNCIL