

Leeds Safer Roads Vision Zero 2040



Consultation summary

Context

Road crashes kill people, devastate families and ruin health. They destroy lives, hopes, futures. The toll on victims and their loved ones is unconscionable. In the five years to 2020, road crashes in Leeds killed 83 people and seriously injured another 1,498 (1,581 in total), an annual average of 316 people killed or seriously injured while using our roads. Road crashes typically involve motor vehicles, but most (66%) of those who were killed or seriously injured were on foot, on a bike, or riding a motorbike. The offence of causing death by dangerous driving is equivalent in law to manslaughter. Road danger and the fear of traffic puts many people off walking or cycling, impeding urgent efforts to cut carbon, reduce congestion and improve air quality. Until 2013, deaths and serious injuries had been falling steadily. Since then, though, casualty numbers have plateaued, and it has become clear that we must do something different to put an end to harm on our roads.

Our ambition: Vision Zero

'Vision Zero' is an ethical position that states no one should die or suffer serious injury from using roads. It has been trialled by several cities around the world; Leeds is the first city in West Yorkshire to adopt Vision Zero. We want to eliminate fatal and the most serious road injuries from our city within the next 18 years. By putting human life and health first, Vision Zero will also make the roads feel safer for all. This will encourage more people to walk or cycle instead of driving and make travel more affordable and accessible, in keeping with our inclusive growth ambition. It will help to remove cars from the road, in line with our Transport Strategy's aim to be a 'city where you don't need a car', improving air quality, promoting public health and wellbeing, and supporting our climate emergency commitments.

Our approach: Safe System

Traditional approaches to traffic danger assume that humans can be faultless road-users and that people can be taught, persuaded or compelled to behave safely. A Safe System way of thinking, by contrast, considers at the wider context. It asserts that while road-users should behave safely, carefully and legally, people do, sometimes, make mistakes. Some of these mistakes can lead to crashes, and some crashes can inflict serious harm. We must change the system so that people make fewer mistakes in the first place, and any mistakes don't result in tragedy. Responsibility for this extends to those who plan, design, invest, legislate, prioritise, build, maintain, enforce, educate or otherwise shape the whole traffic system. This creates a safe holistic mobility system that is forgiving of human error and eliminates serious harm.

Equity, inclusion, health and climate emergency

Safe roads underpin many of the wider aims of the city, particularly around climate emergency, health and wellbeing and inclusive growth. Traffic danger is a greater threat to some groups of people than to others (children and cyclists, for example). Vision Zero will help Leeds to address this inequity in relation to exposure to road danger and opportunities to travel safely. Safe roads will also help people to choose more affordable, greener ways to travel, removing more cars from the roads. This will improve air quality and cut congestion for all and help the city meet its carbon reduction commitments. As well as eliminating acute bodily harm caused by violent crashes, Vision Zero also helps to reduce the chronic harm to health and wellbeing caused by toxic air and inactive lifestyles.

Partnerships and funding

Vision Zero will be led by the Leeds Safer Roads Partnership. This comprises representatives from teams across Leeds City Council, West Yorkshire Police, Yorkshire Ambulance Service and National Highways. A panel of external experts will help to inform the partnership's work, and the partnership will also collaborate regionally with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, West Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership groups and a broad range of stakeholders with academic, professional and/or personal interest and expertise. Funding for Vision Zero will be met by a range of statutory, grant and other revenue-generation streams, with the understanding that every serious injury averted is estimated to save £200,000.

Data

We will take an evidence-based approach to achieve our Vision Zero ambition. We get data from various sources, particularly from the Department for Transport (DfT), Leeds City Council's own data and data from partners. Since April 2021, police have been using a new, more accurate computerised system to recognise 'slight' and 'serious' injuries. This will result in an increase in the number of serious injuries correctly identified as 'serious'. For the initial phases of Vision Zero, we will use the historic data that has informed our work to date, alongside retrospectively adjusted data, as we manage the transition to this new system.

Delivery: Five pillars

A Safe System creates a safety net. If one part of the system fails, the other parts unite to prevent tragedy. We have identified five 'pillars' that will underpin a Safe System for Leeds.



Each pillar includes a comprehensive suite of proposed actions to help achieve Vision Zero 2040.

Safe Behaviours and People

We will encourage behaviours that help to keep all road-users safe. This means a focus on the 'fatal four' driver behaviours most likely to result in serious or fatal crashes: speeding (which has its own pillar), seatbelt offences, drink and drug driving, and distraction. This pillar reflects the Highway Code Hierarchy of Road Users, which states that those who can do the greatest harm have the greatest responsibility to reduce the danger or threat they may pose to others.

Safe Speeds

Speeding is when drivers choose to exceed the speed limit or to drive too fast for the conditions. We will take a collaborative approach to reducing speeds on our roads. That includes working in partnership to address illegal, dangerous and inappropriate speeds, including targeted enforcement activity, action to improve speed compliance through design and innovation and awareness-raising to change behaviour and encourage safe traffic culture.

Safe Roads

We will design streets that put the needs of people above those of vehicles. That means creating streets that are safer for active travel

through design, implementing a network of safe routes to create environments that make people safe, not vulnerable and measures to reduce the dominance of motor vehicles. This will make it easier for people to travel in greener, healthier ways.

Safe Vehicles

We will encourage the use of safe vehicles to reduce the likelihood of collisions and severity of outcome. Work will include raising awareness about responsibility for roadworthy vehicles, enforcing offences and considering how technology and design features can help to prevent crashes.

Post-collision Learning and Care

The response following a collision can mean the difference between a slight injury and a serious one, between life and death. Early intervention care and support can help victims, families and friends. We will learn from the devastating harm crashes cause to victims, their loved ones and the community, raise awareness of support services for victims and others impacted and advocate for justice for victims of road collisions where there is crime or other culpability.

Our journey to Vision Zero



FEBRUARY:
Consultation draft approved

28th FEBRUARY:
Consultation opens



24th APRIL:
Consultation closes



APRIL - MAY:
Review consultation and engagement feedback

SUMMER 2022:

Final Strategy adoption and publication of first action plan



ANNUAL:
Monitoring and evaluation report

BIENNIALLY:
Review and update
action plan



CIRCA 2030:
Revise Vision
Zero Strategy



Having your say on Leeds Safer Roads Vision Zero 2040

The draft Leeds Safer Roads Vision Zero 2040 strategy is open for public consultation from **28 February until 24 April 2022**.

Here is how you can take part in this consultation:

Online: Complete the survey form online: leedstransport.commonplace.is

Email: Email your survey form to: visionzero@leeds.gov.uk

Post: Send your survey form to us using the prepaid envelope provided, or post to:

Influencing Travel Behaviour, Highways and Transportation
8th Floor East, Merrion House, Merrion Way, Leeds, LS2 8BB

Public drop-in session:

Visit us to discuss the Leeds Safer Roads Vision Zero 2040 strategy, ask questions and give your feedback in person.

Date: **TBC** Time: **TBC** Location: **Kirkgate Market**

Online Webinar:

Join our online webinar for a presentation of the strategy and a Q&A session.

Date: **TBC** Time: **TBC**

Next steps

After the consultation has closed, we will consider the responses and use your feedback to help develop the Leeds Safer Roads Vision Zero 2040 Strategy. The final version will be published in summer 2022.

Accessibility

If you need the survey form or any information in a different format or language, please contact using the email address above or by phone on 0113 3787306.



To learn more and have your say, please visit
<https://leedssaferroadsvisionzero.commonplace.is/>