



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pedestrian Fatalities Up 100% in Washoe County

Reno, Nevada (August 27, 2019) – Pedestrian fatalities are up 100% countywide between January 1 – July 31, 2019, according to data from the State of Nevada’s July Fatality Report. There were four pedestrian fatalities in Washoe County last year between January 1 – July 31, 2018. So far in 2019 for this same time period, there have already been eight pedestrian fatalities.

Recent pedestrian crashes in northern Nevada are a growing trend here in our community. Pedestrian fatalities in Washoe County account for 36% of overall vehicle crash fatalities this year between January 1 – July 31, which is more than twice the national percentage of pedestrian fatalities in 2018, which was 15%.

The Vision Zero Truckee Meadows task force would like to remind the community to use extra caution on area roadways. Drivers should always be scanning for pedestrians as they drive down the street. Pedestrians have the right-of-way whenever two streets intersect, as well as at marked midblock crosswalks. Even at 30 miles per hour, drivers may not see pedestrians in their field of vision waiting to cross the street without intentionally looking for them. The faster a car travels, the narrower the driver’s field of vision is and vehicles require more stopping time and distance.

Pedestrians and drivers should make eye contact with each other and pedestrians should give drivers time to stop for them. During darker conditions, people walking should wear reflective items or lights to make themselves more visible.

The Vision Zero Truckee Meadows task force reminds drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists and all road users to plan ahead and leave a little early to have the time to arrive safely at their destinations.

With recent pedestrian crashes in northern Nevada, these safety tips are useful for everyone. Look left, look right, let’s look out for each other.

New Website Promotes Pedestrian Safety:

The community is encouraged to visit the newly launched [Vision Zero Truckee Meadows website](#) to learn about how the task force is working to decrease the number of crashes in our community and improve safety for pedestrians and all road users. The website contains important safety information and provides a place to report areas of our community that need improvements, or where there are near misses. A near miss today can be a crash tomorrow. People can also read the [Vision Zero DRAFT Action Plan](#).

The Northern Nevada Vision Zero Task Force is a regional partnership focusing on pedestrian safety in our community. Their vision is to work together to keep everyone safe on our roads.

The multi-jurisdictional Task Force is comprised of staff members from the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Washoe County, the City of Reno, the Reno Police Department, the City of Sparks, Washoe County, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA Nevada Division), Nevada Department of Transportation, Office of Traffic Safety, Reno Bike Project, Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA), Reno & Sparks Chamber of Commerce, Renown Hospital Trauma Center, Safe Kids Coalition, University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), Washoe County School District, Washoe County Sheriff's Office and members of the public.

The task force, with the support of local leaders, has made a commitment to take action to bring the number of fatalities on our roadways to zero. The task force will make equitable, data-driven, and transparent decisions to improve safety throughout our community. By partnering together to make roads and sidewalks safer for pedestrians, we make our roads safer for everyone.

For more information, visit [VisionZeroTruckeeMeadows.com](#).

2019 Nevada Traffic Safety Summit:

The Nevada Traffic Safety Summit gather safety partners from throughout the state to share best practices for implementing strategies and action steps to reach the ultimate goal of Zero Fatalities in Nevada. This year, Vision Zero Truckee Meadows will be presenting at the Summit.

The 2019 Summit will be held October 15-17 at the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks.

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About Vision Zero: *The Vision Zero Truckee Meadows Task Force is a regional partnership focusing on pedestrian safety in our community. The multi-jurisdictional Task Force is comprised of staff members from the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Washoe County, the City of Reno, the Reno Police Department, the City of Sparks, Washoe County, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA Nevada Division), Nevada Department of Transportation, Office of Traffic Safety, Reno Bike Project, Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA), Reno & Sparks Chamber of Commerce, Renown Hospital Trauma Center, Safe Kids Coalition, University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), University of*

Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), Washoe County School District, Washoe County Sheriff's Office and members of the public. By partnering together to make roads and sidewalks safer for pedestrians, we make our roads safer for everyone.