

Automated Traffic Safety Camera and Vision Zero Program Update

Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board



October 14, 2026

VISION
ZERO
SAFER STREETS FOR SEATTLE

 **Seattle**
Department of
Transportation

Our Vision

Seattle is an equitable, vibrant, and diverse city where moving around is safe, fair, and sustainable. All people and businesses can access their daily needs and feel connected to their community.

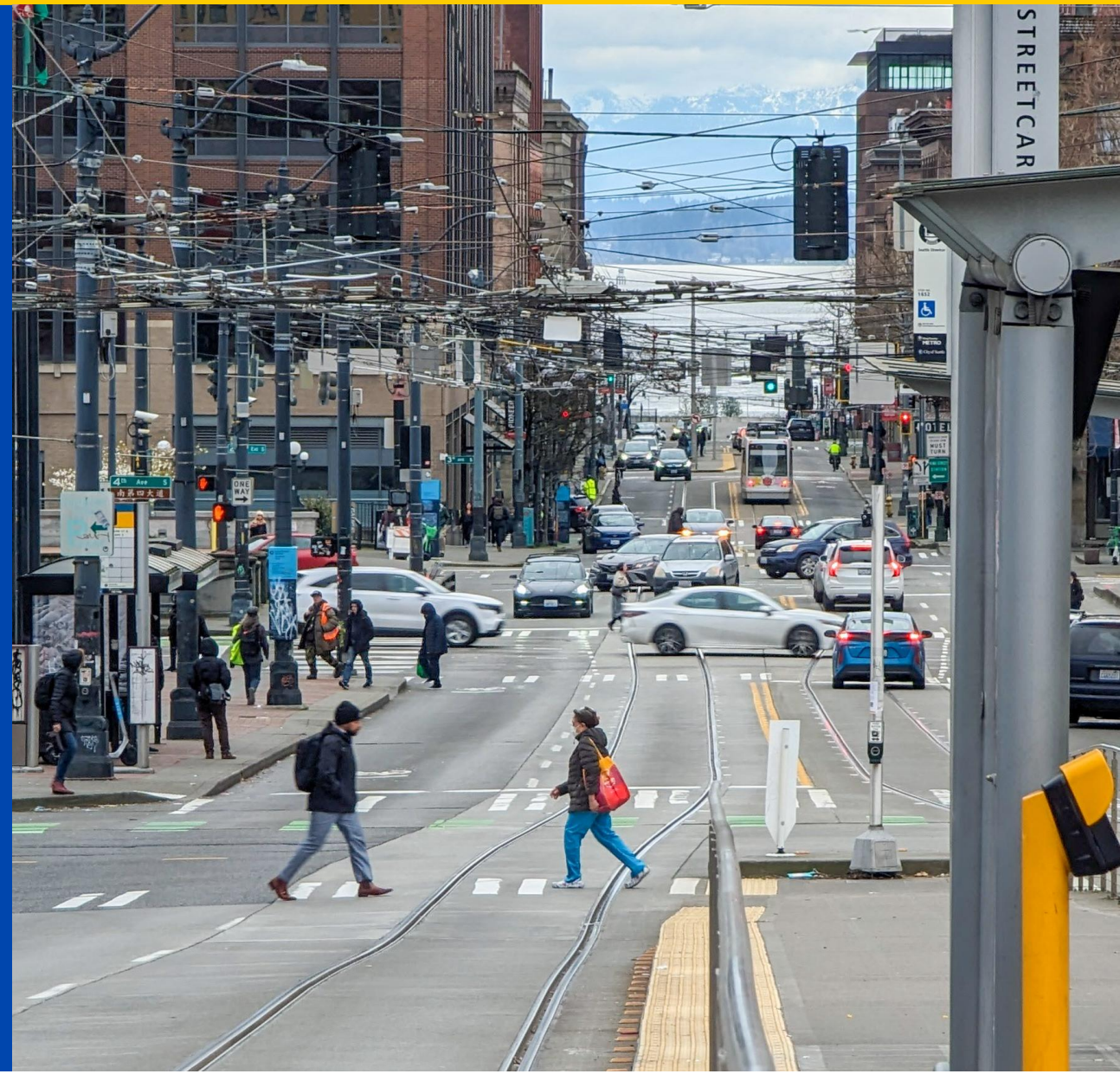
Values & Goals

- Safety
- Equity
- Sustainability
- Mobility & Economic
- Vitality
- Livability
- Excellence
- Maintenance & Modernization



Presentation Overview

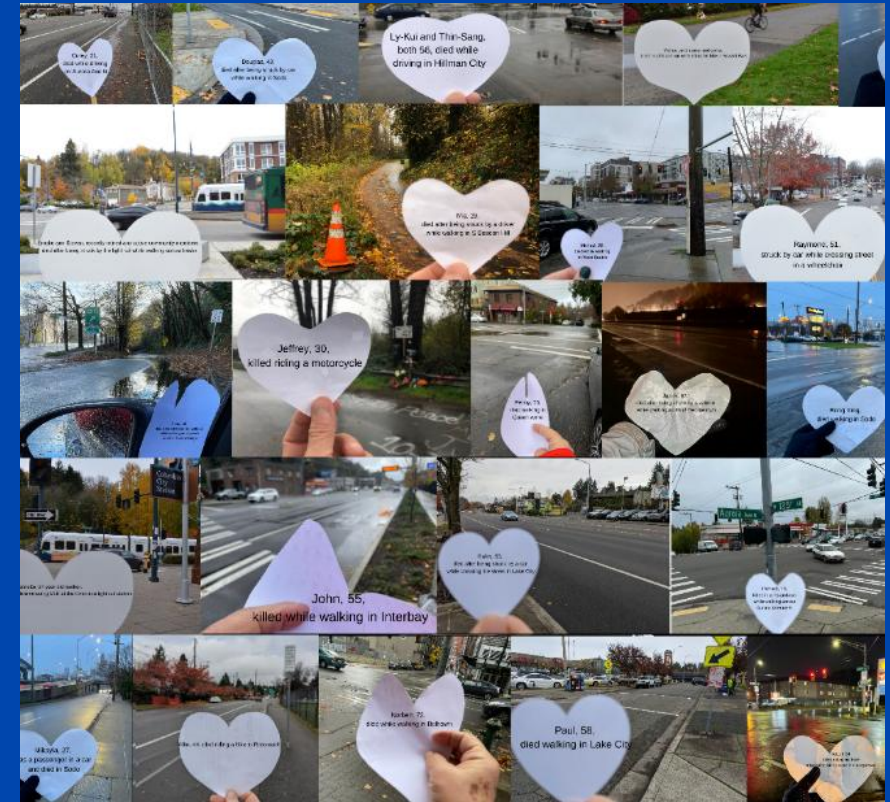
- 2026 Crash Trends
- Vision Zero Executive Order
- Fatal Crash Response Policy
- Automated Traffic Safety Cameras



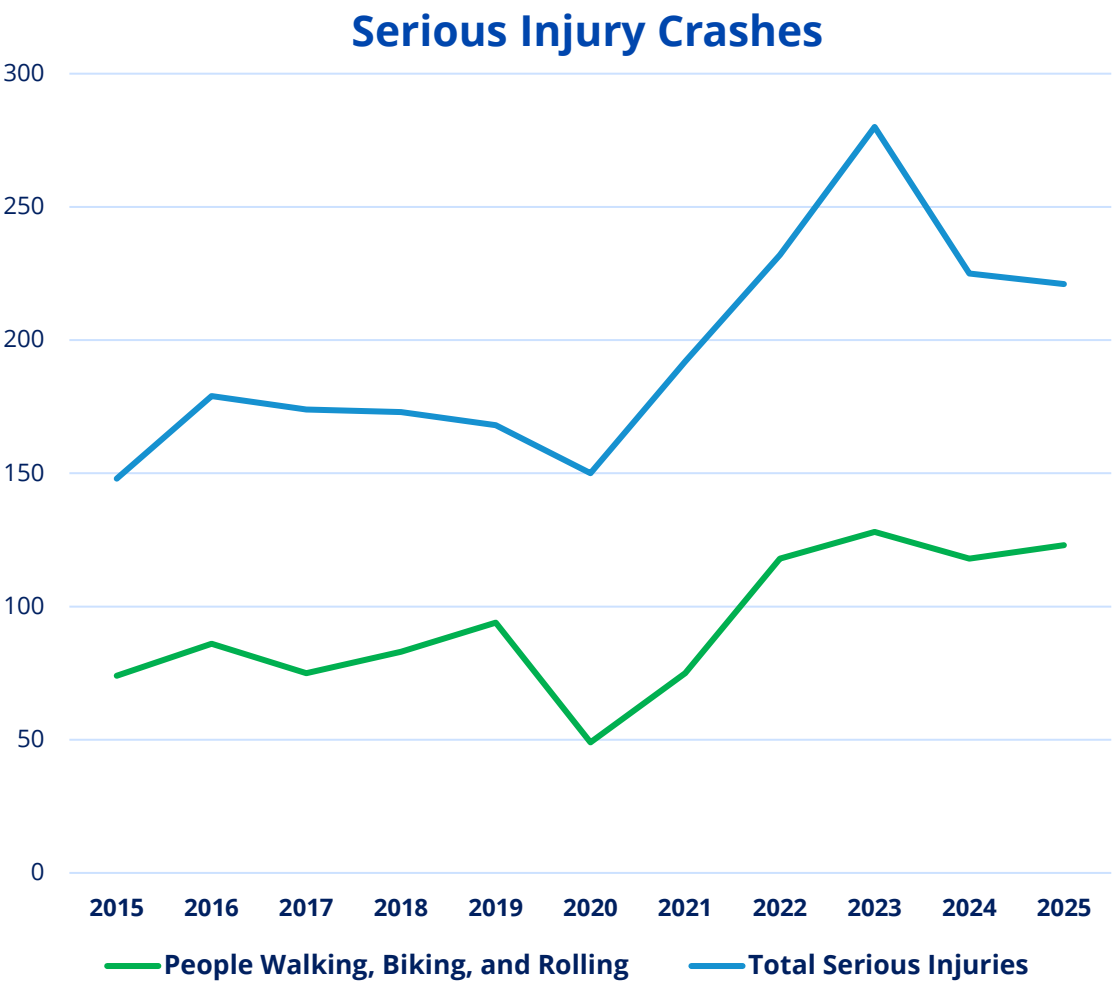
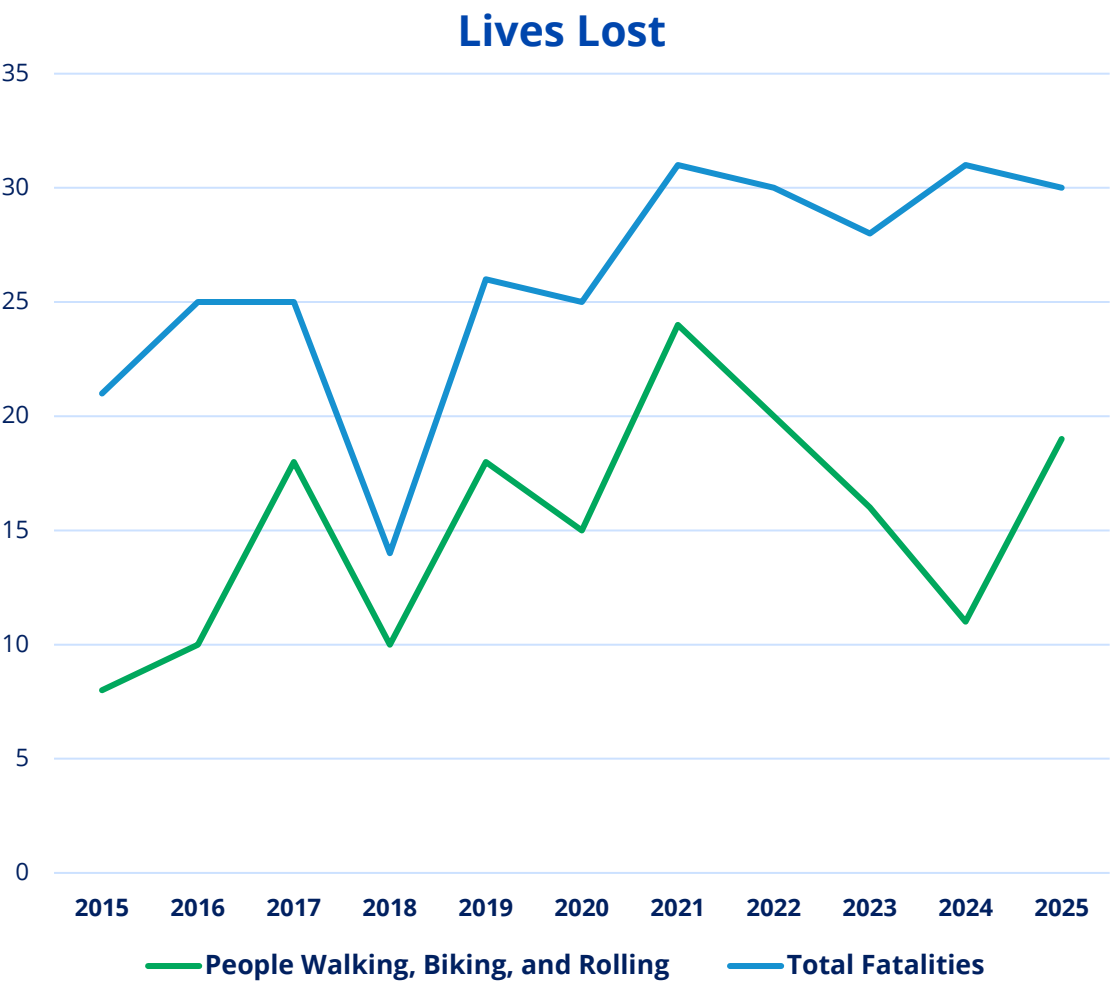
Memorial and Acknowledgement

Between January and September this year, there have been **139 crashes resulting in serious injuries** and **14 people** have lost their lives in crashes on our streets.

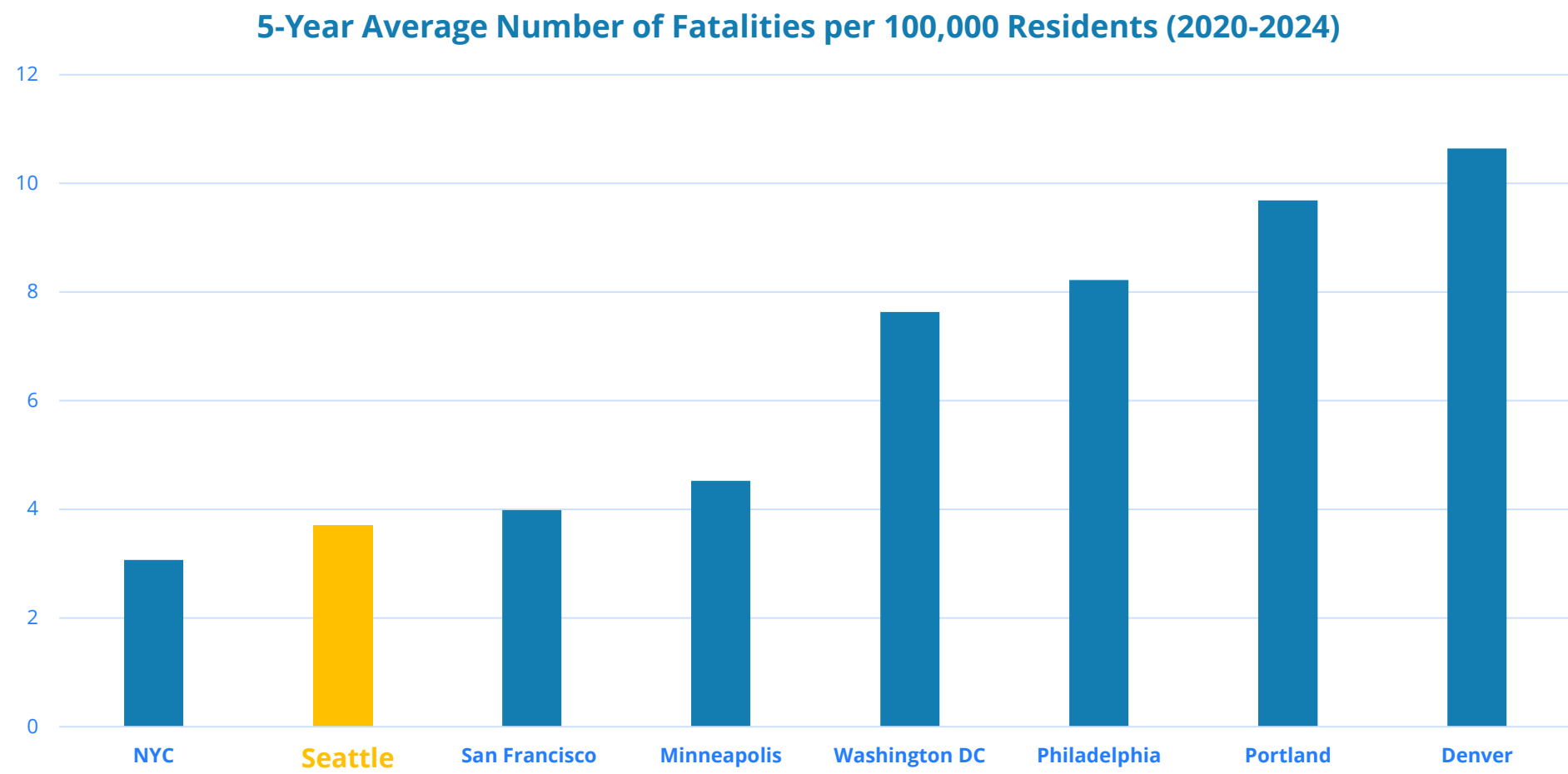
Together, we hold space for them and commit to taking action to end traffic deaths and serious injuries on city streets.



Vision Zero Crash Trends

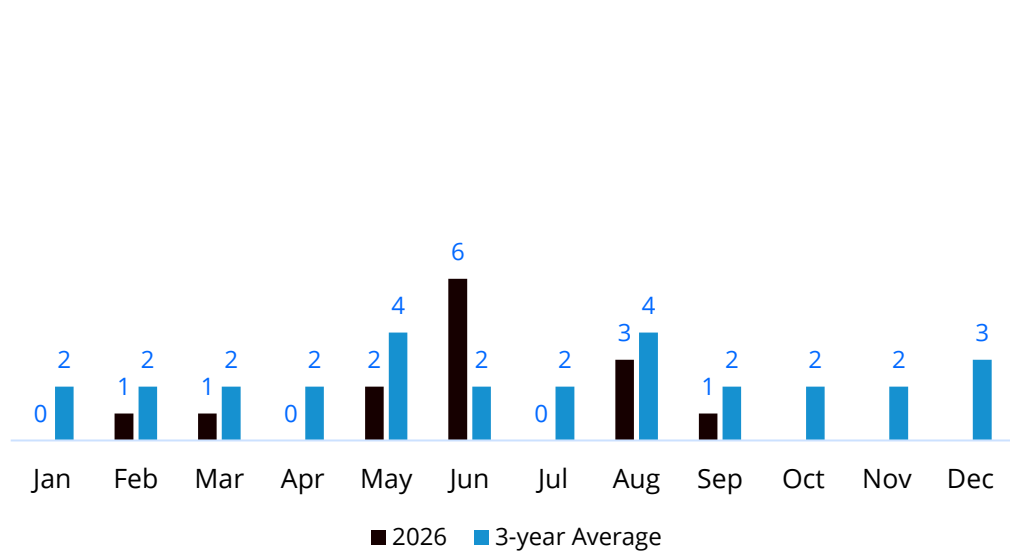


Fatality Rates In Peer Cities



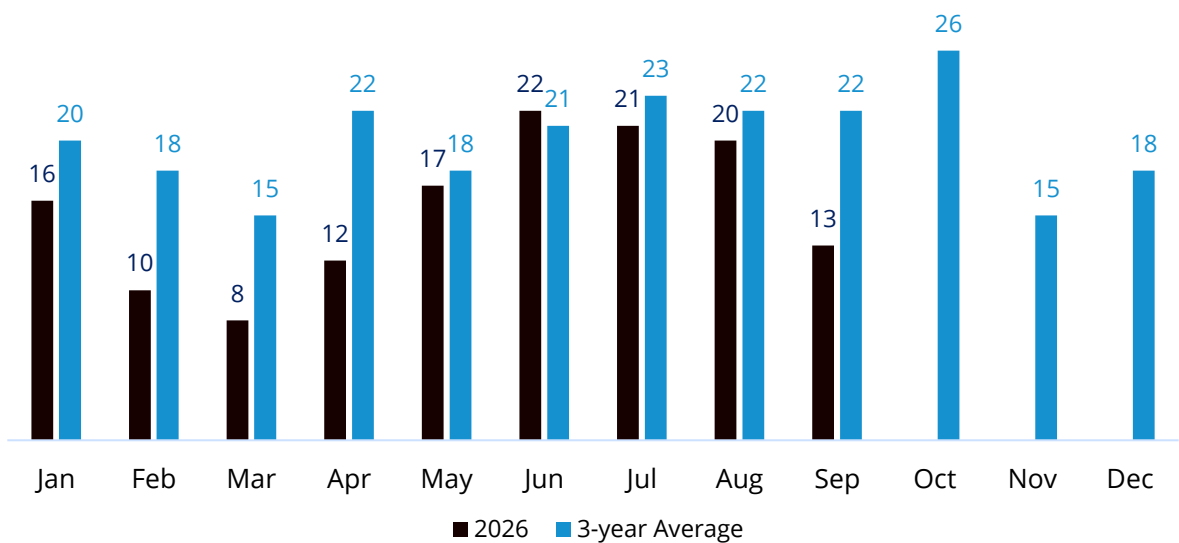
2026 Crash Trends

Lives Lost



Jan - Sept: 14 lives lost
3-year average (Jan-Sept): 22 lives lost

Serious Injury Crashes



Jan - Sept 2026: *139 serious injury crashes
3-year average (Jan-Sept): 181 serious injury crashes

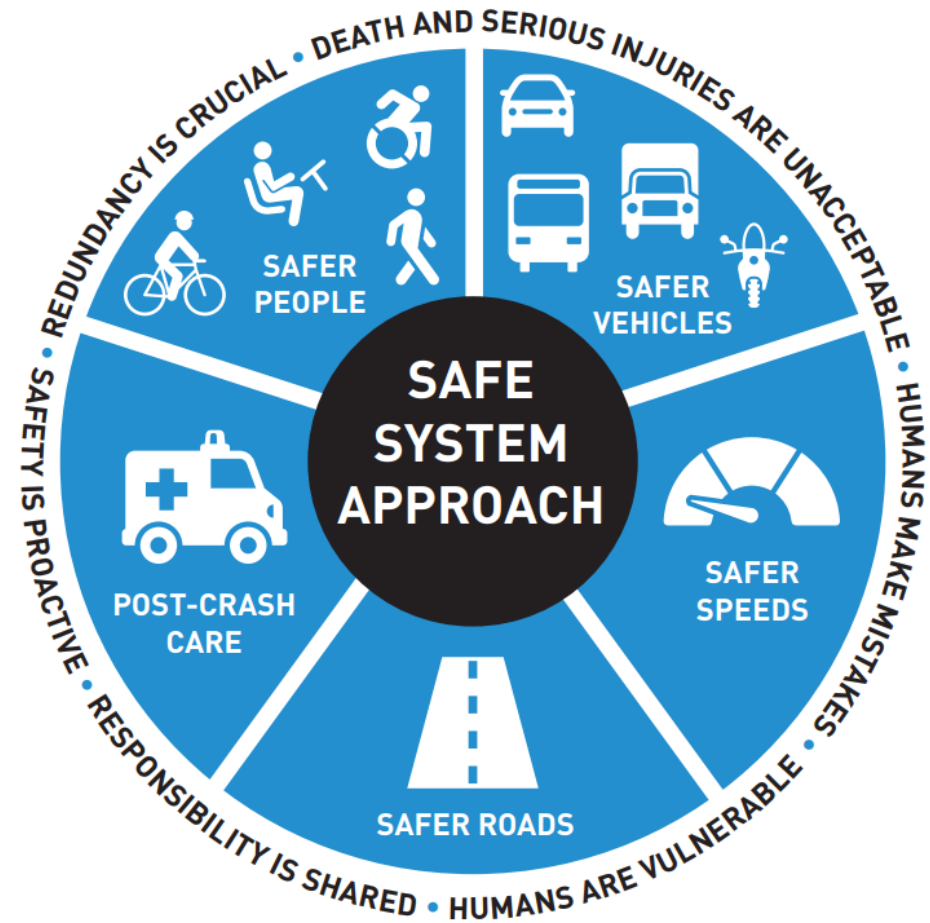
*Preliminary data as of 10/9/2026 - excludes exceptions

Vision Zero Executive Order

On August 21, the Mayor signed **Executive Order 2026-05**.

This accelerates and strengthens Vision Zero efforts by:

- Advancing priority safety projects
- Expanding tools to reduce dangerous speeds
- Strengthening coordination across City departments.



Accelerating Projects for Safer Streets

- Add **early delivery phase** to High Injury Network corridors such as *Aurora Ave N, Rainier Ave S, S Jackson St, 4th Ave S, MLK Jr Way S*.
- **Streamline project delivery** through improved utility coordination, expedited community engagement, and tailored scopes and partnerships.
- Implement **intersection daylighting** where capital improvements occur.
- In partnership with Seattle City Light, publish new **arterial lighting guidelines** and complete a citywide lighting analysis and implementation strategy.

Accelerated Vision Zero Projects

Project	Previous Timeline	Accelerated Timeline
SW Wildwood PI Protected Bike Lane	--	Q4 2026
12th Ave S Phase 2 Safety Corridor	Q4 2027	Q3 2027
Traffic calming on high-speed arterial corridors, including MLK Jr Way S, 15 th Ave NE, 1 st Ave S, Swift Ave S, and Dexter Ave N	Q4 2027	Q2 2027
Safety upgrades at 19 identified high-collision locations , including Aurora, Rainier, 5 th Ave	Q4 2026	Q3 2026
Head-start walk signals at 40 intersections	Q4 2026	Q3 2026
Intersection daylighting at 20 intersections	Q4 2027	Q2 2027

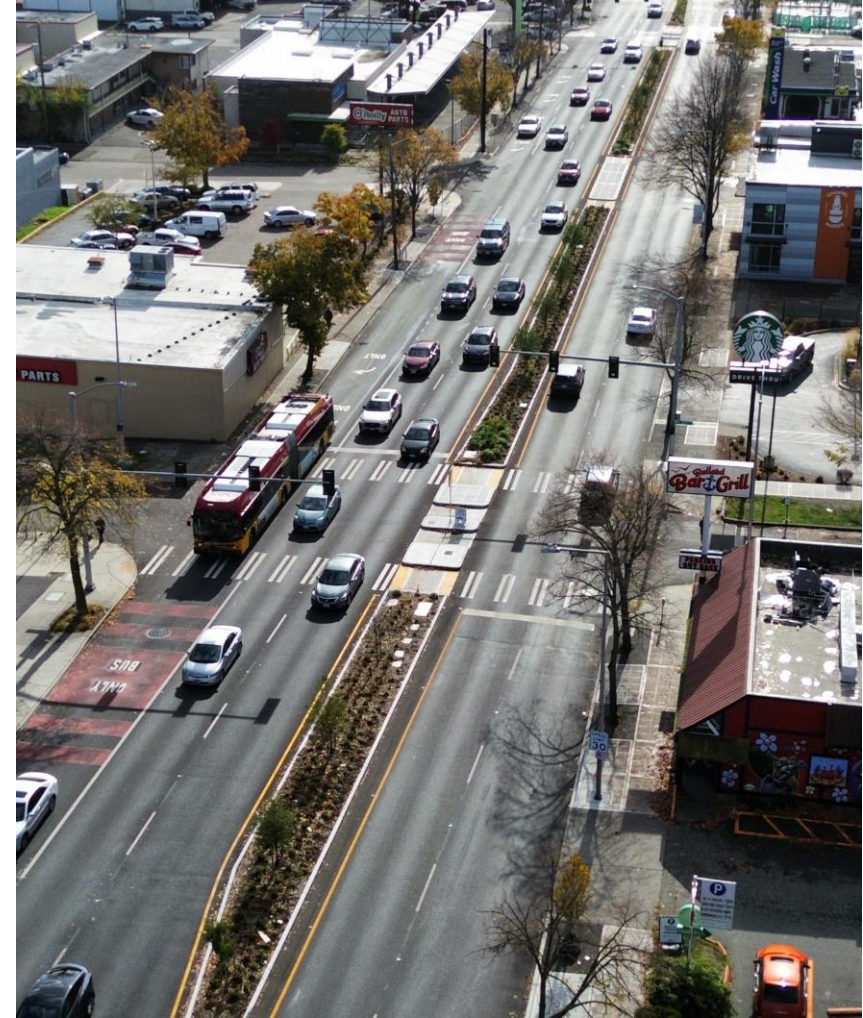
Safer Fleets and Vehicles

- Seattle Finance and Administrative Services to develop **fleet transition plan** to right-size fleet vehicles and retrofit vehicles with safety features.
- Report on opportunities to require all **contractor vehicles** to have similar features.
- Actions mark first mandate to include **truck sideguards** on City vehicles.



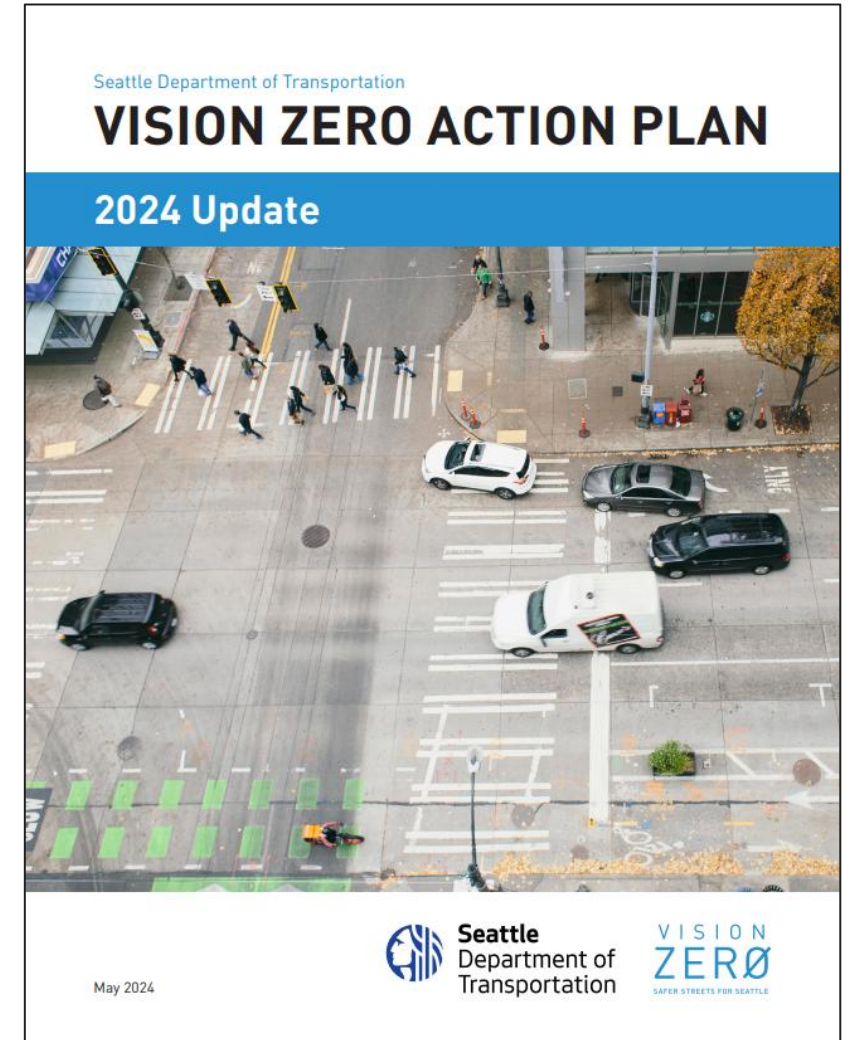
Promoting Safer Speeds

- Deploy **full-time speed safety cameras** at up to 10 locations, starting with an initial phase of 4 locations.
- Identify corridors where **signal operations can be adjusted** to improve safety.



Whole City Approach

- Update **Vision Zero Action Plan** and report on progress.
- Convene a Vision Zero **interdepartmental team**.
- Launch a public-facing **Vision Zero data dashboard** by April 2027.
- Increase promotion to scale up the **School Streets Program**.

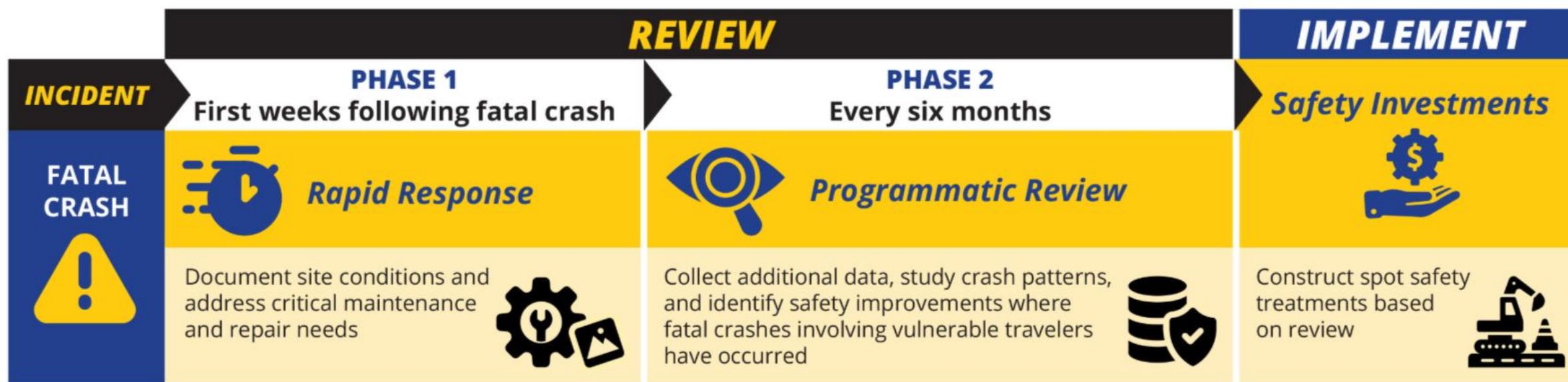


State Legislative Agenda

- Support state legislation to improve local safety outcomes:
 - Lowering the **blood-alcohol content limit** to 0.05%.
 - Raising the **vehicle weight threshold** subject to transportation benefit district fees.
 - Giving cities the authority to implement citywide **“No Turn on Red”** policies.
- Develop and propose legislation to extend legal immunity to local jurisdictions when **street improvements are made after a fatal or serious crash**.
- Explore legislation to reduce **project delivery inefficiencies**.
- Research best practices among peer states regarding barriers for Vision Zero implementation to incorporate into future legislative agendas.

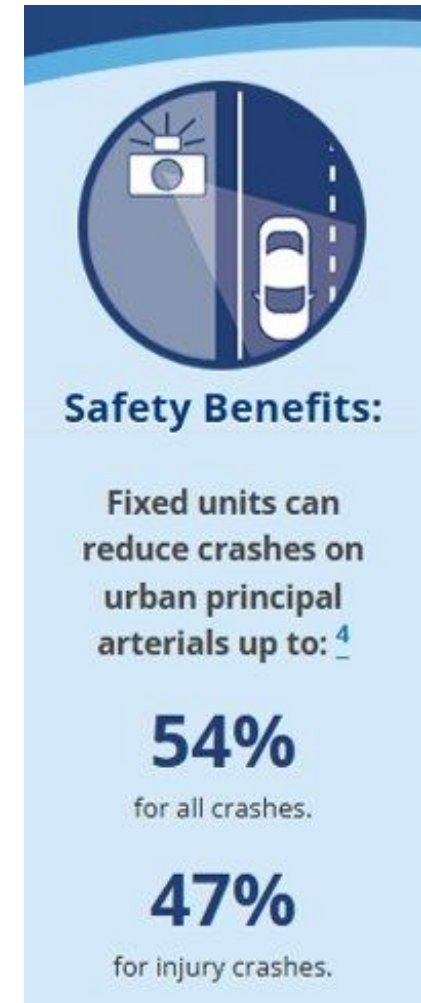
Programmatic Fatal Crash Response Policy

- Adopted new policy in May 2026 requiring:
 - Initial site safety review within the first few weeks after all fatal crashes.
 - Citywide review of fatal crashes involving vulnerable travelers every 6 months.
 - Identify and construct safety investments based on these findings.



Automated Traffic Safety Camera Program Background

- Safer Speeds is a key element of the **Safe System Approach**.
- Traffic safety cameras are a **Proven Safety Countermeasure**.
- Traffic cameras have been used in Seattle since 2006.
- **Seattle currently has:**
 - 37 school zones with speed safety cameras
 - 23 intersections with red light cameras
 - 6 bus lanes with cameras
 - 7 intersections with “block the box” cameras

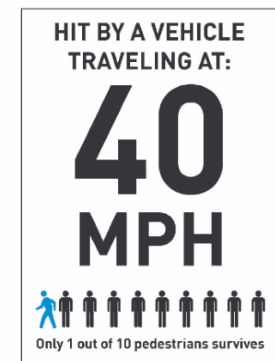


Proven Safety Benefits

A person is **twice as likely** to be killed if hit by someone driving 30 mph than a driver going 25 mph.

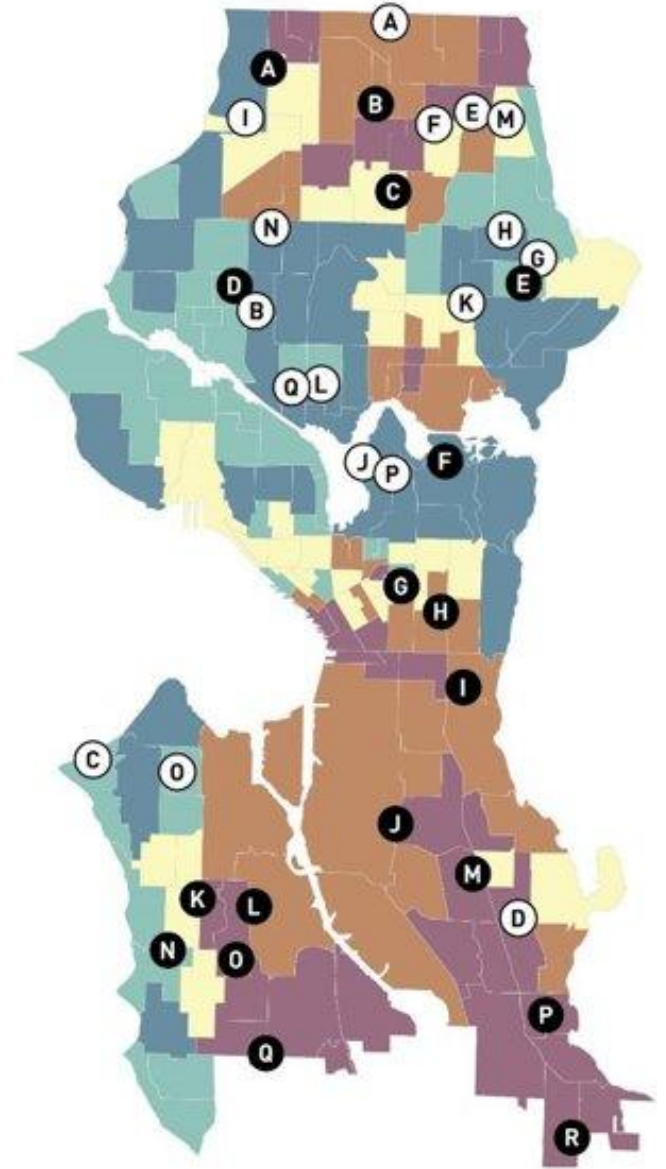
National studies on speed safety cameras:

- 50% reduction in crashes and injuries.
- Nearly 95% drop in speeding violations in New York City.
- 70% drop in extreme speeding (10+ mph over speed limit) in Washington D.C.
- 95% of people in Seattle who receive and pay a ticket never receive another citation at the same camera location



School Zone Speed Camera Expansion Update

- Initiated by City Council several years ago, expanded school zone cameras to 19 new locations.
- Completed construction and active for Fall 2026.
- There are now a total of 37 locations with 70 active cameras.



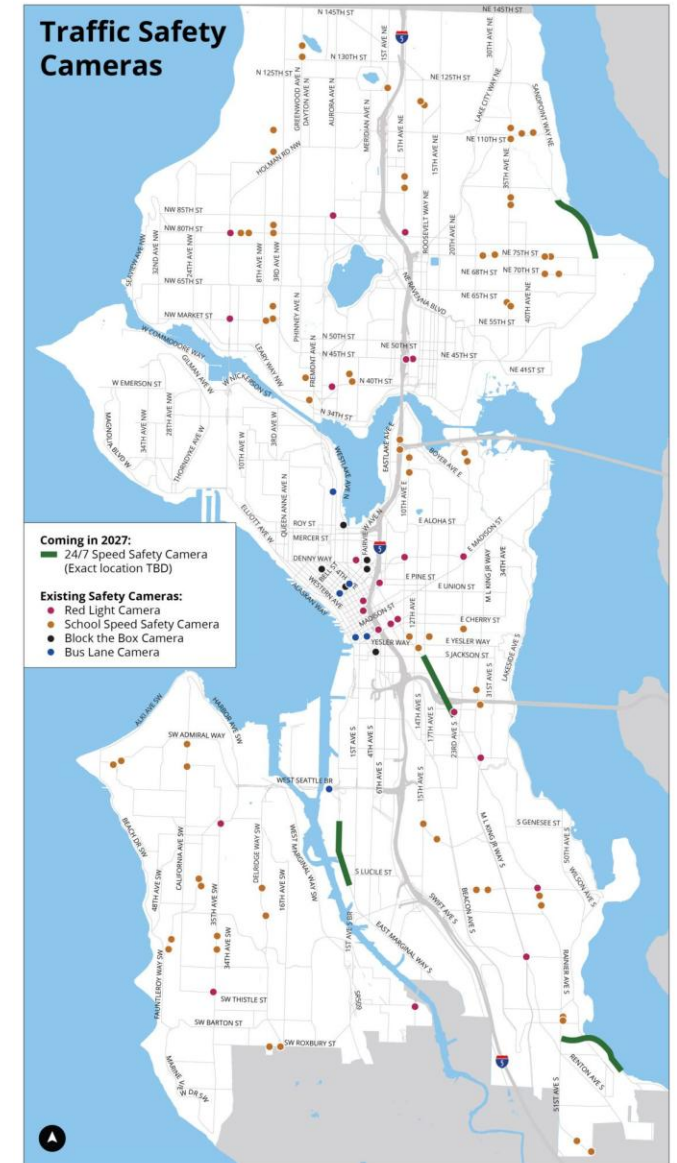
24/7 Speed Safety Cameras

Initial set of 24/7 speed cameras coming in 2027:

High Injury Network Corridor	85 th % Speed
Rainier Ave S – S Holgate St to S Jackson St (northbound)*	37 MPH
E Marginal Way S – S Fidalgo St to Diagonal Ave S	50 MPH
Rainier Ave S – S Norfolk St to 51 st Ave S * and **	37 MPH
Sand Point Way NE – NE 74 th St to Matthews Ave NE* **	39 MPH

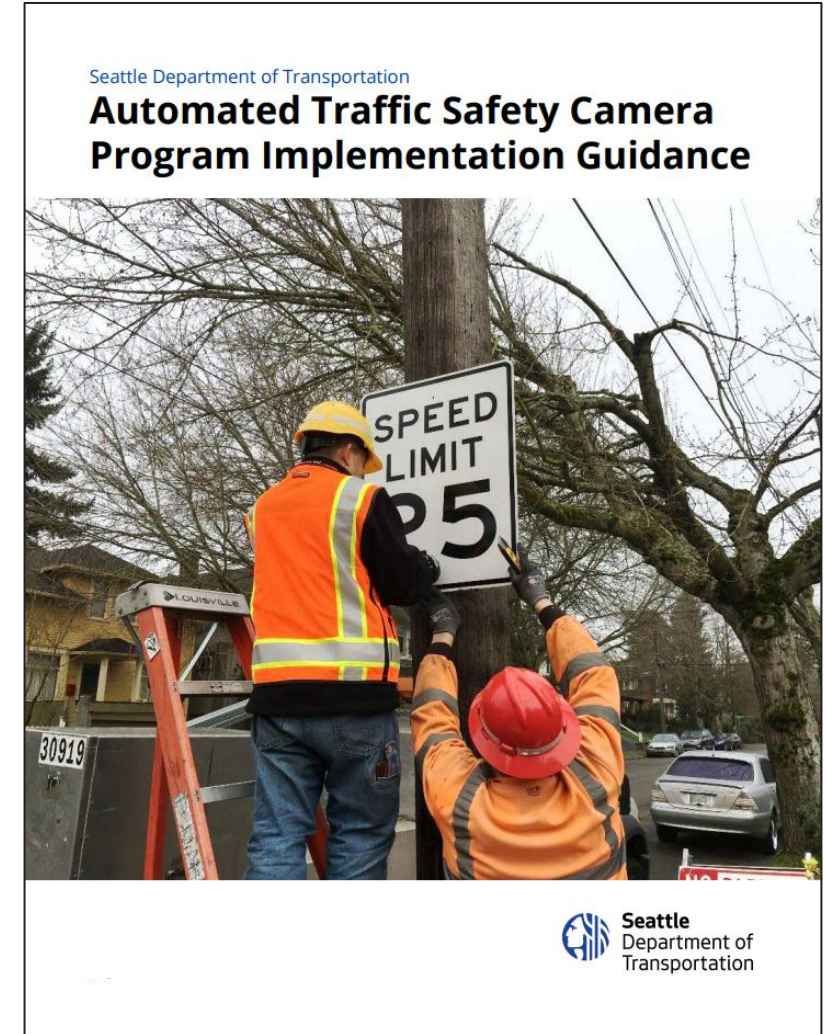
* Community request

** Formerly designated racing zone



Safety Camera Implementation Guidance

- Establishes a **transparent protocol** for program administration.
- Forms **Traffic Safety Camera Interdepartmental Team**, comprised of SDOT, SPD, Seattle Municipal Court, City Attorney's Office, and City Budget Office.
- Includes the **siting criteria** for each camera type.
- Identifies **requisite and desired countermeasures** for each camera type.
- Outlines evaluation procedures to **remove, relocate, and add** cameras.
- Establishes **community engagement** strategy.



How Locations Were Chosen

Safety and equity analysis used to select locations where cameras would have the greatest benefit:

- **Safety considerations:**
 - Rates of excessive speeding
 - Collision history.
 - Roadway characteristics and planned projects.
- **Equity considerations:**
 - Conversations with community groups.
 - Racial and Social Equity Index demographic data.



Camera Privacy Guidelines

Privacy Protections in State and Local Law:

- Cameras may only film when they detect a traffic violation.
- Video cannot be used as evidence to prosecute other kinds of crimes aside from speeding.
- Cannot store images of people's faces.

Technological Safeguards:

- Different kind of cameras than CCTV or Automated License Plate Readers (like Flock).
- Video feed not connected to city's other camera networks or shared with other law enforcement agencies.
- Video deleted after 31 days unless citation is issued.

License Plate Image

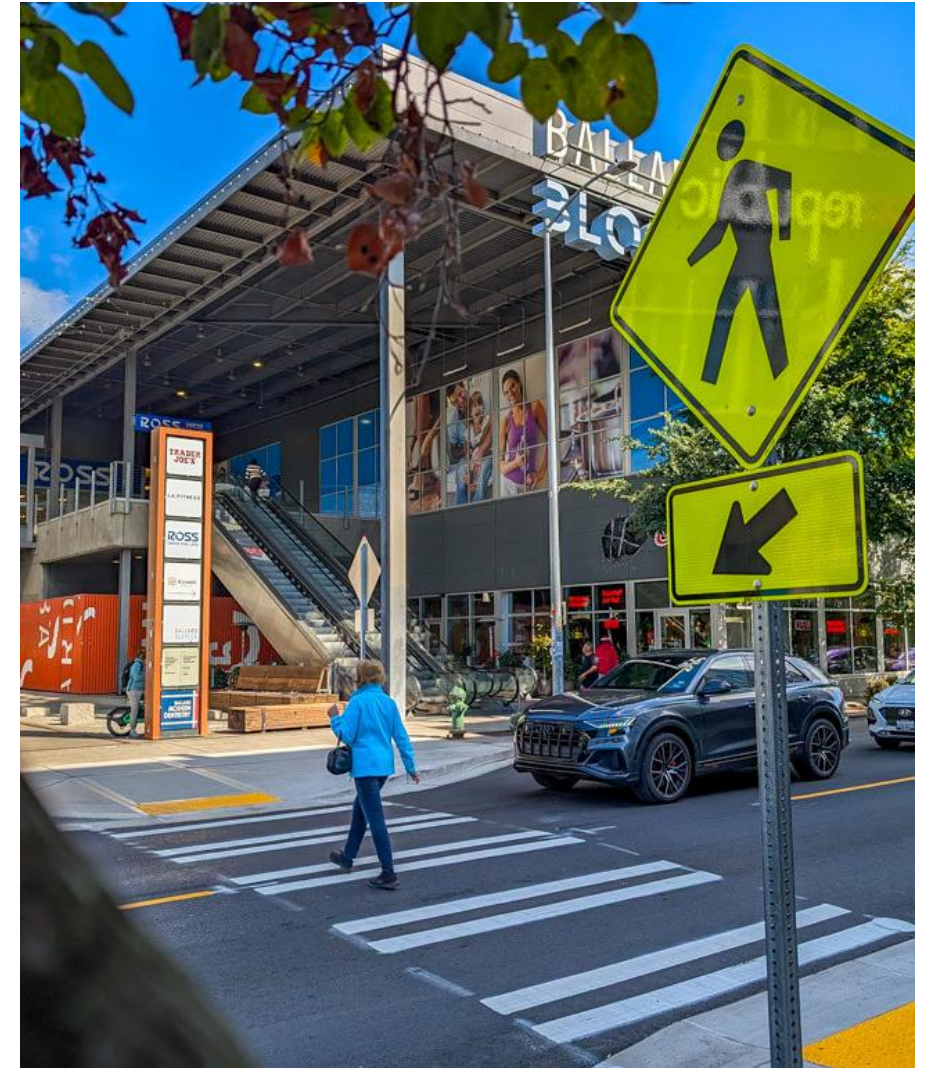


Vehicle Image



Vision Zero Look-Ahead

- Focus on executing projects and priorities identified in the **executive order**.
- Deliver key **safety corridors**, including 12th Ave S and Rainier Ave S (Henderson to Ithaca Pl) in 2027.
- Initiate update to **Vision Zero Action Plan** and launch **Vision Zero Dashboard**.
- Support Vision Zero **Program Audit**.
- Complete **review of fatal crash locations** per the new policy and initiate spot improvements.



Questions?