

Vision Zero: The Five Keys to NYC's Success

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Since January 2014, when New York City became the first major US city to commit to a Vision Zero policy, dozens of US cities have followed. Yet as other cities have adopted their own versions of Vision Zero, in practice none have come close to matching New York City's results. As traffic casualties in the Big Apple have fallen more than 30%, other cities have seen casualties rise. What is New York City doing differently?

New York City's Vision Zero program is far from perfect. There is much that can and should still be done to save lives, such as expanding its still geographically limited automated traffic enforcement programs. Yet despite this and other shortcomings, New York City has pursued five key Vision Zero best practices. The first is Mayoral leadership and accountability. In his presentation, Paul will explain why Mayoral leadership is the first step towards effective Vision Zero, and identify and explain the other four factors that have proven critical to NYC's Vision Zero success.

Paul Steely White, Transportation Alternatives



Paul Steely White is executive director of Transportation Alternatives, New York City's leading advocates for bicycling, walking and public transportation. Before joining Transportation Alternatives in April 2004, he served as Africa Regional Director for the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, a non-profit group based in New York City.

In 2011, Mr. White was selected to receive the Rockefeller Foundation's Jane Jacobs Medal, which recognizes those whose creative uses of the urban environment build a more diverse, dynamic, and equitable city. In 2015, Paul was recognized by the New York Academy of Medicine for his work to make streets safer and healthier. He took a leadership role in making New York the nation's first US city to embrace Vision Zero, and that work has resulted in hundreds of lives saved in few years since its adoption. Paul is a thought leader in transportation whose name appears regularly in the New York Times and other leading media outlets in NYC and beyond.

He relishes his weekends, largely spent frolicking on the Brooklyn waterfront with his wife Zoe and their nine-year-old daughter Anna Jane and toddler twins Ivy and Ray.