



WASHINGTON AREA BICYCLIST ASSOCIATION

2599 ONTARIO RD NW | WASHINGTON, DC 20009 | (202) 518-0524 | WABA.ORG

February 4, 2015

Mayor Muriel Bowser
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Implementation of Vision Zero Commitments for Roadway Safety

Dear Mayor Bowser:

Congratulations on a successful first month in office, and on the swift construction of an administration with accomplished leaders in key positions. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your administration to ensure the District remains and grows as a national leader in bicycle ridership across all demographics, and to make bicycling a safe, healthy, affordable means of transportation for people of all eight wards.

However, we need support from your administration to improve roadway safety—especially for bicyclists and pedestrians. During the campaign, you committed to implementing Vision Zero—a roadway safety standard based on the principles that (1) no one should be killed or seriously injured on the roadway, and (2) that system designers should have primary responsibility for correcting the system when anyone is killed or seriously injured.

Sad as it is to know, we do know that as Spring comes to the District there will be an increase in crashes involving bicyclists and pedestrians. Whether the government is capable of preventing or appropriately responding to such crashes in a systemic way depends your administration's ability to coordinate an effort to improve our transportation network to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries—and this begins with your own commitment to Vision Zero, which you pledged during the campaign.

To date, we have seen no progress on this front and request an update on the Bowser administration's plans for implementing this Vision Zero commitment. There are numerous ways to implement Vision Zero, but they all require a firm and defined commitment, timeframe, and implementation framework involving police, transportation, health, and regulatory officials. While it is still early, we have not yet seen any defining commitment or effort on Vision Zero from your administration.

We ask that you provide an update to WABA, the District's Bicycle Advisory Council, and the District's Pedestrian Advisory Council regarding your implementation plan for Vision Zero, and that you begin implementing in earnest before the annual Spring uptick in crashes.

Thank you for your attention to this commitment. If I can be of any assistance as you approach this issue, I look forward to the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Shane Farthing
Executive Director