

Letter from the Mayor



Dear Friends,

Every life in New York City is precious. It is our responsibility, as residents, workers, and visitors of this great city, to save every life we can.

This administration made Vision Zero, and the elimination of traffic fatalities, a priority from day one. The fundamental message of Vision Zero is that death and injury on city streets is not acceptable, and that we will no longer regard severe crashes as inevitable. This is reflected in the Vision Zero Action Plan that set out directives for city agencies, including the New York City Department of Transportation, the New York Police Department, and the Taxi and Limousine Commission.

Traffic crashes can claim the lives of anyone in New York City. They kill people who drive and those who bike, but overwhelmingly, the deadly toll is highest for pedestrians. This Plan acknowledges this injustice toward pedestrians and the synergies that can be realized by improving pedestrian safety for overall traffic safety, well-being, and urban livability.

In close partnership with our community and advocacy groups and our families and friends of lost loved ones, we are dedicating ourselves to ending this epidemic. NYCDOT and NYPD representatives were out in our communities this past summer listening to us, preparing us for the changes that are taking place, and explaining how to be more conscious—and conscientious—street users. Meanwhile, we have been working to improve our collection and understanding of the data behind traffic fatalities, where the ‘hot spots’ are, and what can be done to erase them from the map. The Pedestrian Safety Action Plans help us do just that.

Our recent success in reducing the citywide speed limit to 25 MPH, redesigning intersections and corridors and increasing enforcement of the most dangerous driving behaviors are just some of the ways we are making our city’s streets safer. The Pedestrian Safety Action Plans are the next step in achieving Vision Zero in your community.

New Yorkers deserve to feel safe on their streets. Thank you for your input into this process, together we will save lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill de Blasio". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill de Blasio
Mayor