

Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Vision Zero and Safe System Statement:

Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. In 2021, 65 people died and 297 people were seriously injured due to roadway crashes in the Pioneer Valley region. We acknowledge that deaths and severe injuries on our roadways are preventable and the Pioneer Valley MPO's top priority is ensuring the safety of all roadway users: whether they are taking transit, walking, bicycling, or using any other mobility device; driving a vehicle, truck, or motorcycle; or riding as a passenger. One life lost or seriously altered is one too many.

The Pioneer Valley MPO is committed to the goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries. The MPO has incorporated elements from the Massachusetts 2023 Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) into its 2024 Update to the Regional Transportation Plan for the Pioneer Valley MPO (RTP). This provides a framework for how the MPO will work to make regional roadways safer for all people. The RTP includes specific safety strategies that can aid in achieving a Vision Zero regional transportation network in the Pioneer Valley. These strategies include the following:

- Advocate for a Safe System Approach, as defined by the Federal Highway Administration, to place safety first in roadway investment decisions.
- Partner with MassDOT and other regional authorities to improve the consistency of crash records and reporting, and to assist in identifying the contributing factors to crashes, fatalities, and severe injuries.
- Promote connectivity as part of all transportation improvement projects and provide accommodations for pedestrians, transit users, and bicyclists in roadway and bridge design and the maintenance of existing facilities.
- Implement communications and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technologies to improve vehicle safety, public transit safety, and security.
- Improve intersection geometry and upgrade traffic signal control equipment to enhance safety. Consider roundabouts as alternatives to new traffic signals.
- Promote and advance the use of roadway safety audits and vulnerable road user assessments in the Pioneer Valley and develop appropriate educational resources to promote safety for drivers, bicyclists, transit users, and pedestrians.
- Identify and advocate for additional revenue sources to bring the regional transportation system into a state of good repair.
- Promote and advance projects that address the impacts of climate and climate change on road safety in the Pioneer Valley Region.
- Aim to minimize the need for enforcement through design, engineering, and education of road users.