Section 6

NEXT STEPS

The City has identified roadway safety as a top priority, and adopted the Vision Zero philosophy that people making minor mistakes using the transportation system shouldn't result in a potential life-altering event for someone.   Improving the safety of all roadway users requires everyone – the City, community and individuals – to share the effort and responsibility of improving and ultimately ensuring safety.

Under the umbrella of the *Vision Zero Action Plan*, the analysis in this *Roadway Safety Report* as well as the extensive data that supports the review is a critical step in the complex and multi-faceted challenge of roadway safety. The document provides a holistic and comprehensive look at roadway safety in Fort Collins and outlines specific action steps for the next year.

WORKING ON PRIORITIES

The compilation of identified priorities in the previous section (*Table 18*) provides a starting point for safety efforts in the coming year. Utilizing a systems-based approach ensures that the highest priorities are incorporated into daily work within the City. Next steps may include infrastructure review through safety audits, low cost improvements, signal timing refinements, and other elements in the education, and enforcement arenas.

IMPROVING THE DATA

The City has undertaken significant efforts in partnership between Traffic Operations and Police Services to improve the available data for this document. The data is critical as it informs the Vision Zero Plan, the High Injury Network, and the analysis in this document. With appreciation to all those involved, the data accuracy and level of detail is improving.

With the state's implementation of the new crash reporting form (DR 3447), collaboration should continue to further understand the complexity of the new form, the most beneficial fields for safety analysis, and the process to get that information from the form into the analysis database. Specific areas of focus include:
- Ensuring location data through geocoding is accurate.
- Consistent identification of whether crashes are intersection related or not.
- Details regarding crashes involving vulnerable road users (such as pedestrian and bicyclist age).
- Crashes involving impairment.
- Noting whether crashes occur on an arterial or not.

The ability to 'move the needle' on numbers and severity of crashes is dependent on the continued improvement of the quality of data and analysis to develop and implement effective strategies and countermeasures.

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

In coming years, there are a number of potential initiatives that can dramatically impact roadway safety.
- Collision Avoidance Systems are becoming more standard on new vehicles. With almost half of all crashes being rear-end crashes, this has the potential of profound improvements.
- Connected and autonomous vehicles have the potential to increase capacity and improve safety on the roadway system.
- Within the analysis realm, the use of big data including video analytics of near crash events could be one way to pro-actively detect systematic safety concerns before crash patterns in crash reports identify the issue.

All these initiatives and others that are not yet even identified can support transportation safety.