



Memorandum

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mayor Sam Liccardo
Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco

SUBJECT: STORY ROAD: VISION ZERO

DATE: September 5, 2019

Approved

Date

9-5-19

RECOMMENDATION

1. Direct Department of Transportation staff to perform preliminary engineering for safety improvements to the Story Road and Jackson Avenue intersection – where two “Vision Zero” corridors meet.
2. Return in the mid-year Budget with a proposal to fund and implement improvements to the Story Road and Jackson Avenue intersection.

BACKGROUND

The bicyclist’s death at Story Road and Jackson Avenue on August 29 marked San José’s 31st fatal collision of 2019, the 17th taking of life of a pedestrian or cyclist, and the 9th person killed in a hit-and-run. Although the Department of Transportation’s preliminary analysis suggests that road design was not a factor with this particular fatal collision, there’s no question that safety enhancements at the intersection can be made, due to high speeds along both roads.

In the 5-year period between July 2014 and June 2019, we have seen 44 reported collisions there, 9 of which involved a pedestrian or cyclist. We also recognize that many crashes go unreported, especially in neighborhoods with high immigrant populations who may be reluctant to report.

Both Story Road and Jackson Avenue have been identified as Vision Zero corridors in the City’s Vision Zero traffic safety initiative – roadways with a high frequency of fatal and severe injury crashes. The street configuration requires further analysis for safety improvements. The Capitol Park neighborhood has also been identified as a “community of concern,” with a concentration of low-income and vulnerable residents likely to rely on walking and cycling.

While 7 out of 12 Vision Zero corridors have received grant funding to improve safety, Story Road and the southern portion of Jackson Avenue have not yet received funding. While it is a laudable goal to identify the corridors in need of safety improvements, the real work lies in identifying resources to implement those improvements. These corridors warrant the City’s investment of our resources to identify and implement improvements. We recommend prioritizing funding for safety solutions at the intersection of these two Vision Zero corridors – and taking a proactive approach to preventing any future loss of life or serious injury along Story Road and Jackson Avenue.