

The City of Seattle

Ordinance _____

Council Bill _____

..title

An ordinance relating to traffic management and public safety; incorporating the responsibilities of the Chief Transportation Security Officer into the codified duties of the City Traffic Engineer; amending Seattle Municipal Code Sections 11.18.240 and 11.16.360.

..body

Be it ordained by The City of Seattle as follows:

Section 1. The City finds and declares:

A. Vision Zero is a strategy, implemented at the city or community level, for significantly reducing traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility.

B. The Vision Zero strategy is proactive and preventative, emphasizing infrastructure, mechanical design, and policies that minimize the risk of severe injuries or fatalities.

C. The 2023 Vision Zero Top-to-Bottom Review, commissioned by the Director of the Seattle Department of Transportation, identified as a Momentum Building Action the elevation of the City Traffic Engineer position to a new Chief Safety Officer Role.

Section 2. Section 11.16.220 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 118409, is amended as follows:

11.16.240 Director of Transportation – Authority – Review and Recommend

It shall be the function of the Traffic Engineer under the supervision of the Director of Transportation to:

- A. Review and make recommendations on all applications for street vacations, rezones, variances, conditional use permits and plats with respect to the effect on traffic and transportation;

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- H. Review and make recommendations concerning all applications for commercial driveways regarding facilitation of traffic with respect to the size, number, and location of such commercial driveways ((-)) ; and

- I. Review and provide recommendations to enhance the safety of roadways and transportation infrastructure.

Section 2. Section 11.16.220 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 118409, is amended as follows:

11.16.360 Traffic Engineer – Authority – General

It shall be the function of the Traffic Engineer under the supervision of the Director of Transportation to:

- A. Serve concurrently as the SDOT Chief Safety Officer;

- ((A-)) B. Issue permits in accordance with the provisions of this subtitle;

~~((B-))~~ C. Determine and make recommendations concerning arterial street and business district street lighting needs and in connection therewith determine design criteria necessary for traffic safety;

D. Act as the primary administrative authority and executive coordinator for the City's Vision Zero program; and

~~((C-))~~ E. Perform other such duties as may be appropriate for facilitating traffic and transportation.

Section 3. A new Section 11.16.361 is added to the Seattle Municipal Code as follows:

11.16.361 Traffic Engineer— Emergency Authority

The Traffic Engineer is authorized under the supervision of the Director of Transportation to:

- A. To direct and expedite safety improvements on the High-Injury Network, including requiring coordination across SDOT divisions and establishing binding priority protocols for rapid low-cost safety treatments; and
- B. To implement immediate, temporary, or pilot safety interventions (e.g. lane reductions, signal timing changes, street closures) to respond promptly to imminent risks.

This ordinance shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Sections
1.04.020 and 1.04.070.

Passed by the City Council and signed in open session in authentication of its
passage on _____.

President _____ of the City Council

_____ on _____.

Katie B. Wilson, Mayor

Attested on _____.

Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

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