

Councilmember O'Brien
SDOT Red Light Cameras SDOT-21-A-1
November 1st, 2019

Despite Seattle's commitment to Vision Zero — the goal of achieving zero traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2030 — we are in the middle of a pedestrian safety crisis.

It is important to acknowledge that our Pedestrian Safety Crisis impacts the elderly, wheelchair users, black and indigenous people at higher rates. Part of this is reflected in historic underinvestment in redlined neighborhoods.

The funds from Red Light Cameras should be reinvested into funding safe streets projects.

In the first 10 months of 2019 (January 1 - October 21), **crashes on Seattle roads caused 17 fatalities and 118 serious injuries.**

Of the above, there were:

- **11 Pedestrians and bicyclists killed** Jan. 1, 2019 - Oct. 21, 2019
- **70 Serious injuries** to pedestrians and cyclists
- **80 Total Serious injuries or fatalities to pedestrians and cyclists**
- **62 Pedestrians killed or seriously injured**
- **23 Bicyclists killed or seriously injured**

Behind each statistic is a human life lost or greatly impacted by each of these incidents.

"Maria Banda's passing [after the hit and run on September 30, 2019] has been felt deeply in the community and among her family and friends. Maria was beloved by all of those who knew her, and her passing has left a gaping hole in the community. Her presence was one of calmness and kindness, and those who were fortunate to have interacted with and known Maria, particularly her husband Agustín, are heartbroken over the loss. Maria's granddaughter also expressed her grief over the loss of her grandmother, noting that "She was always someone who remembered everyone."

"At the same time, the community has also been grappling with feelings of anger and frustration, not comprehending how anyone could leave two people so precious to us on the road and drive off. And it wasn't until we contacted Councilmember Debora Juarez did, we hear that a police detective was finally assigned to the case on 10/9, as the police had not been aware that the hit and run had resulted in a fatality. Concurrently, SDOT had no knowledge up until that point that a fatality had occurred in the very spot the community had been asking for

a crosswalk for years.

“The community continues to feel Maria’s absence daily, seeking ways to commemorate her life and find comfort within the community which has demonstrated its strength, unity, and love.”

Vedrana Durakovic