

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

)

RESOLUTION 06-26

COUNTY OF NEWBERRY)

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A VISION ZERO POLICY FOR NEWBERRY
COUNTY AND COMMITTING TO THE ELIMINATION OF TRAFFIC FATALITIES
AND SERIOUS INJURIES ON THE COUNTY'S ROADWAY SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the County of Newberry recognizes that no loss of life or serious injury resulting from a roadway crash is acceptable; and

WHEREAS, the life, health, and safety of all persons living in, working in, and traveling through Newberry County are of paramount importance; and

WHEREAS, an adopted Safety Action Plan and Vision Zero Policy is required as a condition of future grant funding of mitigation projects; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is a multidisciplinary and data-driven approach that seeks to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries while providing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all roadway users; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero advances the principle that transportation systems should be designed and operated to safely accommodate all users, including motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, freight operators, older adults, children, and persons of all abilities; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero recognizes that human error is inevitable and promotes a Safe System Approach whereby transportation infrastructure, policies, and operations are designed to reduce the likelihood that mistakes result in fatal or serious injury crashes; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1,038 people lost their lives in traffic crashes on South Carolina roadways during 2024, including 156 pedestrians and 34 bicyclists; and

WHEREAS, between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2024, approximately 2,614 crashes were reported on non-interstate roadways within the unincorporated jurisdiction of Newberry County, resulting in 40 fatalities and injuries in approximately twenty-six percent (26%) of all crashes; and

WHEREAS, between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2024, pedestrians and bicyclists were involved in approximately one-half of one percent (0.5%) of all reported crashes within the County's jurisdiction but accounted for a disproportionate share of fatal and serious injury crashes; and

WHEREAS, vulnerable roadway users, including pedestrians and bicyclists, experience significantly higher injury rates when involved in traffic crashes; and

WHEREAS, children, older adults, persons with disabilities, low-income populations, and other underserved communities often face disproportionately greater transportation safety risks; and

WHEREAS, improving roadway safety for all users can encourage walking, bicycling, and other active forms of transportation, thereby supporting public health, mobility, quality of life, and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, successful Vision Zero programs require coordination among governmental agencies, community stakeholders, public safety officials, transportation professionals, and the public; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration has committed to the elimination of roadway fatalities and serious injuries through implementation of a Safe System Approach and has established the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program to support local safety initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Newberry County is currently developing a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan through a collaborative public planning process consistent with federal Safe Streets and Roads for All planning grant requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan will identify policies, programs, infrastructure improvements, and implementation strategies intended to reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries throughout Newberry County.

Section 1. Vision Zero Policy

Newberry County hereby adopts Vision Zero as a guiding transportation safety policy and declares that no loss of life or serious injury on the County's transportation system is acceptable.

Section 2. Commitment to Safety Planning

Upon completion and adoption of the Newberry County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, the County shall utilize the plan to guide transportation programs, policies, investments, and projects intended to improve roadway safety for all users.

Section 3. Safety Goal

Newberry County adopts the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries on non-interstate roadways within the County's jurisdiction by the year 2036 and shall strive to achieve measurable annual reductions in fatal and serious injury crashes consistent with the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

Section 4. Safe System Approach

County departments and staff are encouraged to incorporate Safe System Approach principles into transportation planning, project development, maintenance activities, and operational decisions whenever practicable and consistent with available funding and legal authority.

Section 5. Equity and Accessibility

The County shall seek to implement transportation safety improvements in an equitable manner that addresses documented safety needs and improves mobility and accessibility for all roadway users, including historically underserved populations and vulnerable roadway users.

Section 6. Effective Date

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption by Newberry County Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Newberry County Council hereby adopts the Vision Zero Policy in its entirety as an official plan;

ADOPTED by the Newberry County Council in a meeting duly assembled on the 19th Day of August 2026, at which a quorum was present and voting.

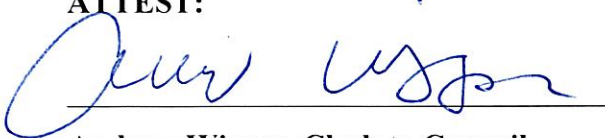
NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

BY: _____



Karl Sease, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:



Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council