

New York City Recognized for Excellence in Prioritizing Children’s Safety, Receives National Vision Zero for Youth Leadership Award

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (Feb. 28, 2019) – The National Center for Safe Routes to School is pleased to announce that New York City’s Mayor Bill de Blasio and Vision Zero Task Force are the recipients of the Vision Zero for Youth Leadership Award. This national award, now in its second year, recognizes cities that are leading the way in prioritizing children’s safety while also improving pedestrian and bicyclist safety for all ages through Vision Zero.

“New York City stands out in the growing number of cities across the U.S. that are adopting Vision Zero and committing to ending deaths and serious injuries caused by crashes on its roadways,” said Nancy Pullen-Seufert, Director of the National Center for Safe Routes to School. “Mayor de Blasio and the Vision Zero Task Force’s steadfast commitment to children’s pedestrian safety in New York City is exemplary, and we are honored to present the Vision Zero for Youth Leadership Award to a city that is using roadway design improvements and safety cameras to reduce speeds and make crossings safer for its residents. New York is an exceptional Vision Zero for Youth model for the rest of the country.”



Front row left to right: Julia Kite-Laidlaw, Dir. of Strategic Initiatives, New York City Dept. of Transportation; Kim Wiley-Schwartz, Asst. Commissioner of Education and Outreach, New York City Dept. of Transportation; Nancy Pullen-Seufert, Dir., National Center for Safe Routes to School; Natalie Draisin, Dir., North American Office & United Nations Representative at FIA Foundation; Geraldine Sweeney, Chief Strategy Officer, New York City Mayor’s Office of Operations
Back row left to right: Inspector Dennis Fulton, New York City Police Dept.; Michael Repogle, Dep. Commissioner for Policy, New York City Dept. of Transportation; Madeline Labadie, Director of Strategic Initiatives, New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission

New York City’s Vision Zero work has resulted in significant safety changes that have benefitted youth throughout the city. The city demonstrates leadership with its engineering, enforcement, education and legislation as well as its unprecedented interagency collaboration of the Mayor’s Office with the NYC Departments of Transportation, Police, Health and Mental Hygiene, and Citywide Administrative Services along with the Taxi and Limousine Commission, Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the District Attorney’s offices. Bold engineering in school zones including leading

SafeRoutes

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pedestrian intervals, school speed zones and speed bumps along with the successful and recently revamped speed camera program have led to lower injuries and fatalities in and around schools.

“We are proud to receive national recognition for our success in reducing traffic fatalities – even while national trends are pointing in the other direction,” said Laura Anglin, New York City’s Deputy Mayor for Operations. “We will continue to aggressively implement Vision Zero strategies across New York City and save lives.”

The award was presented at the launch of the United Nations Internal Road Safety Strategy on February 28, 2019, at United Nations Headquarters and made possible by the FIA Foundation and other sponsors.

The City of Los Angeles received the [2017 Vision Zero for Youth Leadership Award](#).

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National Center for Safe Routes to School

Established in 2006, the National Center for Safe Routes to School helps communities change their culture around safe and active travel. Its role includes national coordination and technical assistance for US Walk to School Day and Bike to School Day, and providing tools, training, research and evaluation for safe walking and bicycling for children and youth. The National Center for Safe Routes to School served as US Federal Highway Administration’s clearinghouse for the federal SRTS program for eleven years. It is located at the UNC Highway Safety Research Center, hsrc.unc.edu.

Vision Zero for Youth

Launched by the National Center for Safe Routes to School in 2016, the Vision Zero for Youth initiative encourages communities and elected officials to focus safety improvements and efforts to slow traffic speeds where children and youth travel. Starting with youth can be the spark that creates community support for a broader Vision Zero program to eliminate all traffic fatalities. The initiative includes resources, ideas for taking action, opportunities for city leaders to commit and a national recognition program. Support for the initiative provided by the FIA Foundation, UNC Highway Safety Research Center and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center. For more information about Vision Zero for Youth, visit visionzeroforyouth.org.