




Executive Summary

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A group of children are walking on a paved sidewalk outdoors. In the foreground, a child is seen from behind, wearing a grey and yellow backpack. Further ahead, several other children are walking, some carrying backpacks. The background features green grass, trees with yellowing leaves, and a brick building under a clear blue sky.

“Communities thrive when we are safe and connected. Schools, parks, and neighborhoods do not serve their community if they are isolated by development. The report and proposed changes give us a path to a more equitable and connected township.”

Jennine Thomas,
Committee Member

Executive Summary

The Vision Zero Action Plan (VZAP) for Upper Macungie Township represents the culmination of planning work within the Township seeking to connect residents safely with the destinations and amenities that make the Township one of the faster growing in Pennsylvania. The most basic charge of Township government is to provide for the safety of its residents. With a 'vision zero' mindset, the commitment to eradicating deaths and serious injuries from traffic accidents is the foremost goal of this plan. Another goal is providing safe pedestrian and bicycling connections within the Township. Great parks, employments centers, schools, and regional attractions are in some cases just a 'stone's throw' from many residential communities. However, many possible connectivity facilities are non-existent. Correcting lost opportunities that might have provided these connections and setting the groundwork for connections to future growth areas is a natural extension of the 'vision zero' mindset.



Guiding principles presented in the VZAP with examples of key strategies are:

1

Important planning efforts in Upper Macungie Township and Lehigh County have been completed for safe multimodal connections.

- Don't re-invent the 'wheel'. Consolidate, update, and enact good ideas for future planning.

2

'Vision Zero' policies and efforts. Focusing municipal and community efforts toward the importance of planning, design and enforcement efforts into a culture where the protection of human lives in our transportation network is the highest goal.

- Educate, advertise, and collaborate with community leaders to advance the VZAP.

3

'Complete Streets' policies. Ensuring that all modes of transportation are accommodated within our Township right-of ways. Increasing the safety of even one mode of transportation increases the safety of all modes.

- Review and update land development review processes
- Update design standards for streets, sidewalks, and trails

4

Data-driven Analyses for Equity and Safety.

- Coordinate intra-Township data between law enforcement, emergency services, and community services into annual reviews of the VZAP and information mapping.
- Regularly review the priorities for transportation-related capital expenditures for transportation equity.

5

Connectivity. Providing the physical means for community members to safely travel via non-motorized modes between residential, retail, and recreational amenities improves the overall health of the community---vital to this fast-growing Township.

- Review annually the priority multimodal improvements highlighted in the VZAP Multimodal Safety Improvements Plan.
- Make commitment to a vigorous grant-funding effort to implement the VZAP Multimodal Safety Improvements Plan.
- Encourage public-private partnerships to implement connectivity improvements.

Eliminating fatal and serious-injury traffic crashes within Upper Macungie by the year 2032 is a community-wide effort that uses the VZAP as a 'blueprint'. Creating a culture of safe connectivity starts with a commitment to the process.

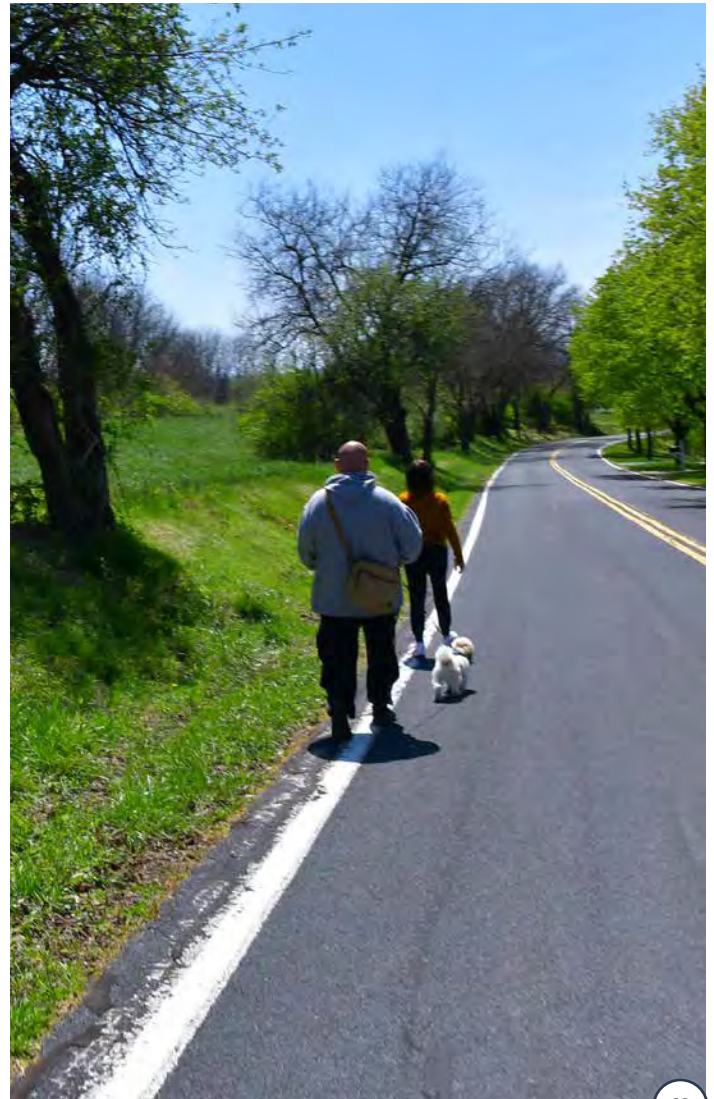
The Vision Zero Action Plan consists of the following efforts and deliverables:

Analysis of Existing Conditions & Planning Documents

- Review of current demographic data
- Existing UMT and regional planning documents documenting local and regional growth patterns and effects on transportation systems
- Significant public outreach and coordination with community leaders of the Township to assess perceptions, comments, and goals for multimodal safety improvements

Policy Recommendations

- Drafting of a Vision Zero policy for Upper Macungie Township
- Drafting of a Complete Streets policy for Upper Macungie Township
- A review of the current ordinances
- Suggestions for amendments or new ordinances to support the goals of both Vision Zero and Complete Streets



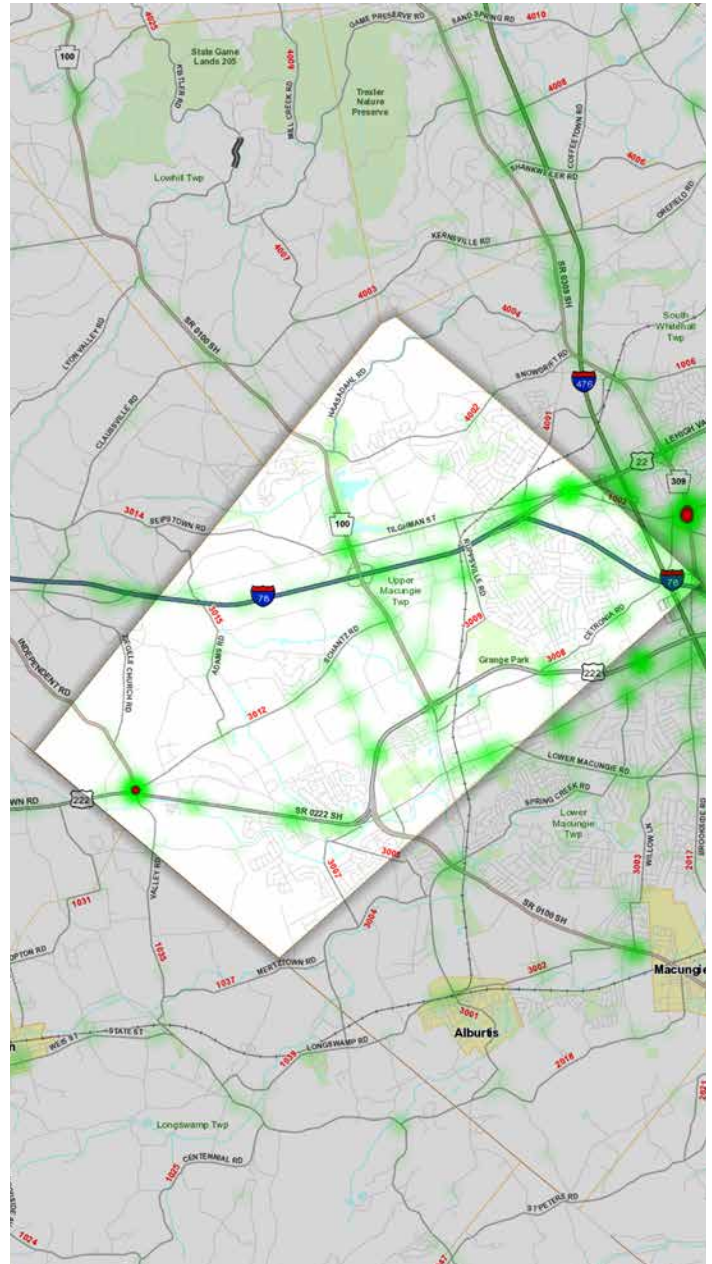
Equity

- Provide safe, equitable transportation options for residents and workers under-served due to geography, socioeconomic factors, age, and abilities



Safety

- Compilation of crash data for the past five (5) years
- Transfer of crash data in to geographic spatial imaging (GSI) data to create 'heat' maps of crash data in the Township



Multimodal Safety Improvement Recommendations

- Analyzing existing safety and connectivity issues throughout the Township through GIS and site reconnaissance
- Developing a 'toolbox' of safety and connectivity items that assist in the goals of Complete Streets and Vision Zero
- Producing a Multimodal Safety Improvements Plan for the Township with an estimate of engineering and construction costs

Plan of Action & Implementation

- Development of a Priority Improvements Plan representing a listing of those areas most in need of attention to safety and multimodal connectivity
- Development of a VZAP Matrix to track progress over time and to measure Township accountability to Complete Streets and Vision Zero goals



