



# 2021 Vision Zero Annual Report

**Vision Zero** is the City's plan to end traffic fatalities and severe injuries on our streets.

The City adopted its Vision Zero policy in 2017, and finalized the Action Plan in 2020. This annual report marks progress made during Year 2 of the Action Plan.

Read more about Vision Zero and the Action Plan at [somervillema.gov/visionzero](http://somervillema.gov/visionzero)



*College Ave at Kidder Ave*



*Blakeley Ave*

## Why is Vision Zero important?

Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death nationally. Each year, more than 40,000 people are killed on U.S. streets and thousands more are injured.

In 2021, more people died on Massachusetts roads than in any year since 2009.

## What is the City doing to accomplish Vision Zero?

The City is taking action to reverse these trends, make our streets safer for everyone, and advance our Vision Zero goals.

This report summarizes major Vision Zero accomplishments in 2021 and the City's plans for the future.



*Powder House Circle*

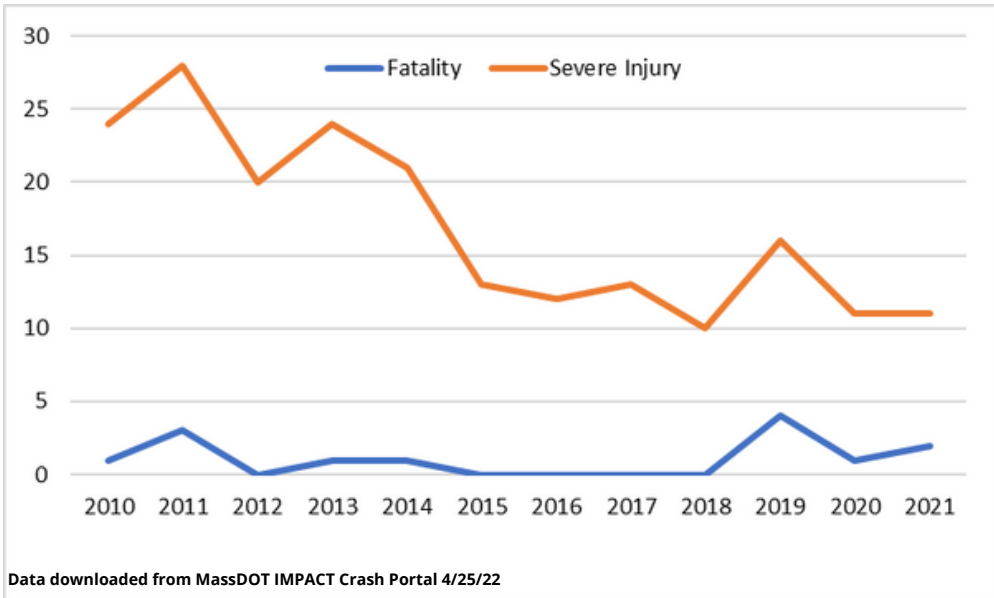


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# 2021 Data and Trends

Crashes reported in Somerville

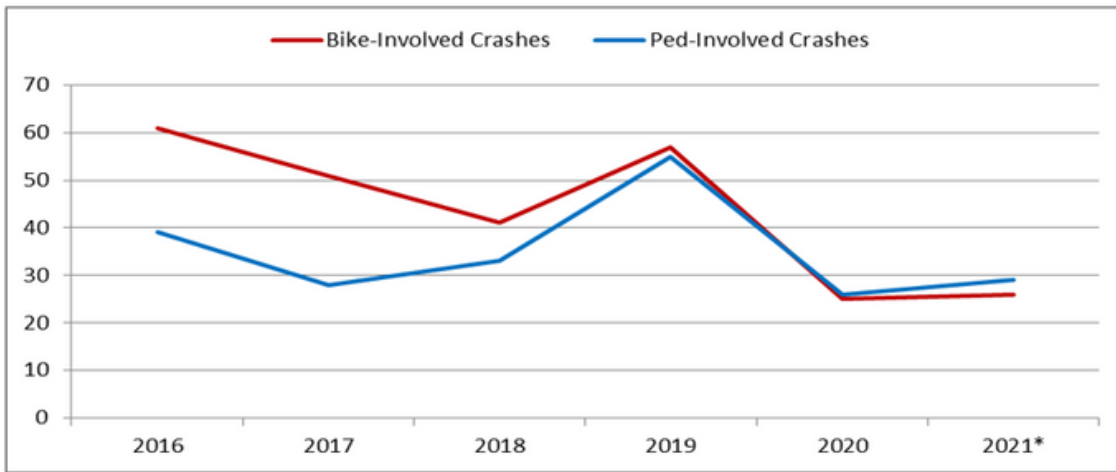


## Severe and Fatal Injury Crashes:

severe crashes have been trending downward over the past decade; although there were several fatal crashes in 2019 and 2020.

Over the past 11 years, there have been 13 crash fatalities in Somerville and over 200 severe injury crashes.

Crashes reported in Somerville



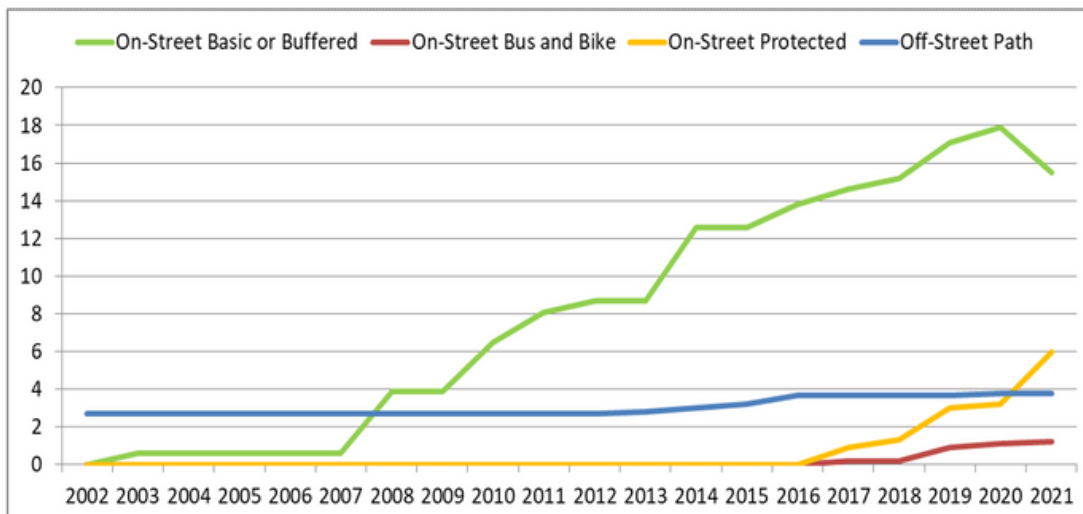
## Pedestrian-involved

crashes average ~35/year.

## Bicyclist-involved

crashes average ~45/year

Bicycle facilities in Somerville



**Somerville's network of safe bicycling routes grew in 2021**, with nearly 3 miles of new protected bike lanes created across the City.



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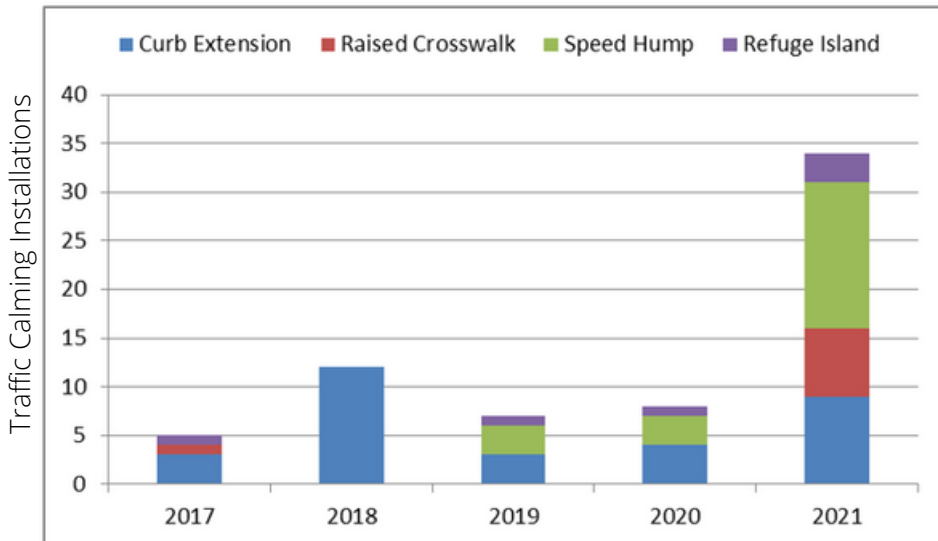
# 2021 Projects



**2020 quick build traffic calming showed significant decreases in vehicle speeds...**

- **Morrison Ave at Pearson St**
  - **Pre-quick build treatment = 34%** of vehicles travelling above 25mph
  - **Post-quick build treatment = 14%** of vehicles travelling above 25mph
  
- **Morrison Ave at Grove St**
  - **Pre-quick build treatment = 27%** of vehicles travelling above 25mph
  - **Post-quick build treatment = 11%** of vehicles travelling above 25mph

**These findings led to the construction of permanent traffic calming interventions, speed humps, on Morrison Ave in 2021. Speed humps often reduce vehicle speeds by 10 to 15 mph.**



## 2021 Traffic Calming:

The City built more than 30 permanent physical traffic calming treatments in 2021. This includes treatments such as raised crosswalks, speed humps, pedestrian refuge islands, and curb extensions.

This represents a tripling of recent production rates.



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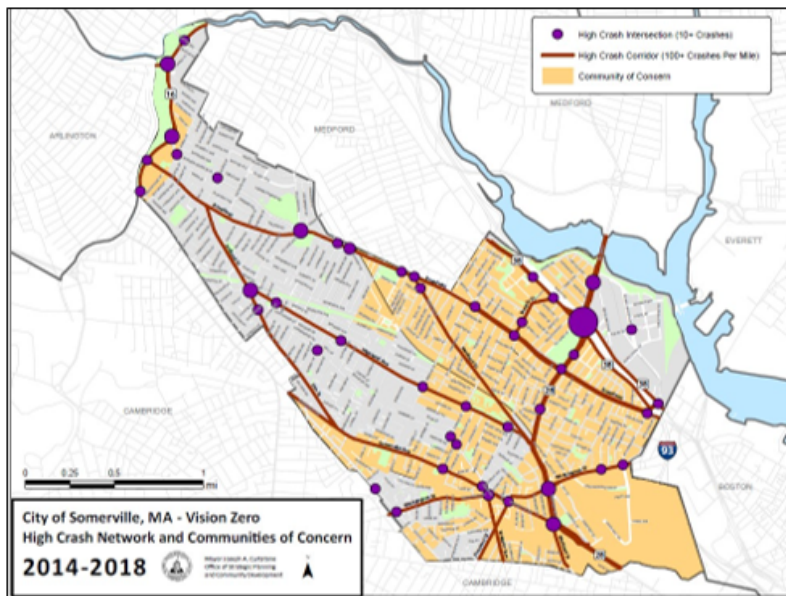


# 2021 Progress Reporting

**Objective: Build a Robust and Transparent Data Framework**

## The Action Plan directs the City to:

- Develop a traffic monitoring program
- Improve crash data collection
- Enhance the Vision Zero web page



*The combined map of the High Crash Network and Communities of Concern will guide our efforts under the Vision Zero Action plan.*

## In 2021, the City:

- Collected before and after data on five major safety and mobility projects.
- Coordinated with Engineering and Constituent Services to improve reporting, tracking, and responding to safety concerns on Somerville streets.
- Worked with Communications and Community Engagement to update and improve the Vision Zero web page.

## In 2022, the City will focus on:

- Continuing to improve safety and crash data on the Vision Zero web page.
- Continuing data collection efforts including for the analysis of safety and mobility improvement projects as well as for annual monitoring of key intersections and corridors.
- Continuing to improve communications around Vision Zero data.



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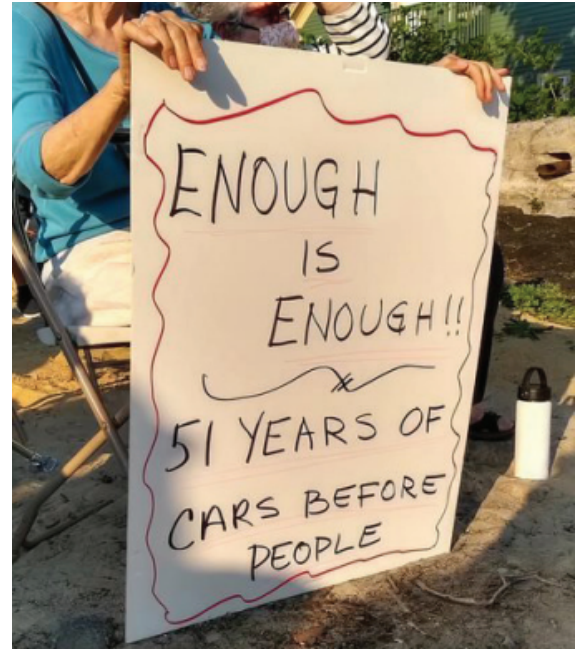


# 2021 Progress Reporting

**Objective: Prioritize Safe Street Design**

## The Action Plan directs the City to:

- Enhance design of major intersections
- Calm traffic in residential neighborhoods
- Build safe mid-block crossings
- Build safe pedestrian routes
- Enhance and expand Somerville Neighborways
- Grow the network of separated bicycle facilities
- Prevent blocking of bike lanes and crosswalks



**For more information on safe streets projects completed in 2021, check out the [Vision Zero map and action tracker](#) at [somervillema.gov/visionzero](http://somervillema.gov/visionzero)**

## In 2021, the City:

- Started a new speed hump program and installed 15 speed humps on residential streets and near future Green Line stations.
- Completed a significant safety and mobility quick-build improvement at Powder House Circle, a high crash intersection in the City.
- Installed six new quick-build flex post protected bike lanes.
- Constructed floating bus stops and transit signal improvements at three locations.

## In 2022, the City will focus on:

- Continuing to prioritize the construction of permanent traffic calming improvements on priority pedestrian and bicycle streets.
- Continuing to improve bus stops, signal timing and technology to prioritize transit on our streets.
- Continuing to explore the use of new types of delineators for quick-build traffic calming and protected bike lanes.



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# 2021 Progress Reporting

Objective: Operate Safe Streets

## The Action Plan directs the City to:

- Reduce traffic speeds
- Ensure equitable enforcement
- Evaluate and modernize traffic signals
- Provide safe routes through construction
- Mitigate the impacts of extreme weather



## In 2021, the City:

- Expanded the 20 mph safety zone speed limit to most residential streets throughout the City.
- Created and mailed Vision Zero educational materials to residents as part of parking permit renewals and a standalone Citywide mailer.
- Advertised and piloted the City's first sidewalk snow clearance program.
- Used Twitter, 311, and a specific City construction email address to improve construction communications.

## In 2022, the City will focus on:

- Evaluating the 20 mph speed limit zones and suggesting improvements.
- Continuing to work on education and engagement around Vision Zero and the City's safe streets projects and policies.
- Continuing analysis of improvements to signal equipment, timing and phasing at intersections.



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# 2021 Progress Reporting

**Objective: Promote and Institutionalize a Culture of Safety**

## The Action Plan directs the City to:

- Establish a framework of advisory and policy committees
- Educate and engage the public on Vision Zero
- Improve truck safety
- Create City policies and advocate for State legislation supportive of Vision Zero



***A pedestrian safety training for Somerville second graders with MassDOT's Safe Routes to School Program.***

## In 2021, the City:

- Began administering truck safety training to all City staff who drive City Trucks.
- Established the Interdepartmental Vision Zero Working Group; the group met twice in 2021 to begin discussing interdepartmental issues around Vision Zero implementation.
- The Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee released its first annual report.
- Continued communicating the City's commitment to safety to all contractors doing construction in the City.

## In 2022, the City will focus on:

- Continuing to require Vision Zero training for all City staff who drive as part of their job.
- Continuing Safe Routes to School pedestrian and bicycle trainings for 2nd and 4th grade students throughout the City.
- Continuing to work with neighboring cities, advocates and the state on safe truck policies and other legislation to improve transportation safety in the region.



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