



May 1, 2020

Dear Committee Member:

**I am writing to you to voice our support for Vision Zero Resolution No. 200019.**

More than 20,000 households in Kansas City, Missouri have no access to a vehicle<sup>1</sup> and often live in areas without a grocery store nearby. Inconsistent access to food, or food insecurity, is closely related to negative health outcomes like diabetes, obesity and heart disease. In Jackson County, Missouri:

- 10.4% of households have no access to a vehicle<sup>2</sup>
- 22.3% of residents live more than 1 mile from a supermarket<sup>3</sup>
- 16.2% of residents and 18.1% of kids experience food insecurity<sup>4</sup>
- 11.2% of adults have diabetes and 31.0% of adults are obese<sup>5</sup>



Research has shown that people are more likely to walk, bike or use public transit to get to their destinations, including grocery stores, when it is safe and accessible. Bus riders in Kansas City told us they need to feel safe and comfortable to improve grocery shopping by bus.<sup>6</sup> Grocery stores are listed as one of the top destinations of bicyclists in the Bike KC Master Plan Draft.<sup>7</sup>

However, Missouri is the 18<sup>th</sup> most dangerous state for pedestrians<sup>8</sup> and Kansas City is the 45<sup>th</sup> most dangerous metropolitan area.<sup>9</sup> **Moreover, the elderly, people of color and people in low-income neighborhoods are disproportionately impacted by pedestrian fatalities.**

Vision Zero is a collaborative, data-driven and effective approach to pedestrian safety. The principles of Vision Zero compliment the Complete Streets approach, which was adopted by City Council in 2017.

**We support this resolution to improve access to healthy, affordable food, to lower food insecurity and to improve public health by making our streets safe for all users regardless of age, ability or mode of transportation.**

Sincerely,

Beth Low-Smith  
Director, Greater KC Food Policy Coalition

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau (2017)

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau (2017)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (2015)

<sup>4</sup> Feeding America (2019)

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (2013)

<sup>6</sup> Better by Bus: Ways to Improve Grocery Shopping by Bus in the Kansas City Metro (2018)

<sup>7</sup> Bike KC Master Plan Draft (2019)

<sup>8</sup> National Complete Streets Coalition (2020)

<sup>9</sup> National Complete Streets Coalition (2019)