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Project Proposal

**The Effectiveness of Vision Zero in NYC**

As a driver in NYC, I have directly experienced the changes in our city laws and regulations pertaining to traffic safety. Most if not all the changes in NYC traffic rules can be traced back to Vison Zero. So, what exactly is it? Vison Zero is a strategy adopted by NYC in 2014 to keep the streets of the city safe by reducing and ideally eliminating traffic related accidents, injuries, and deaths.

This strategy can be traced back to it’s first implementation in Sweden in the 90’s, where it was hugely useful and later adopted by many European cities. The Vision Zero strategy targets changes within the city designs and policies instead to prevent unforeseeable accidents, whereas the traditional approach just accepted these issues as inevitable.

The first and most prominent changes to NYC Traffic Laws after adopting Vision Zero was lowering the default citywide speed limit from 30mph to 25mph in 2014. Then in 2019, the city expande3d it’s network of school zone speeding cameras from 150 zones to 750 zones with limited times of operation. In 2022, the most recent change came after the Governor removed the restrictions of these camera’s operating time and made then 24/7. Some other changes include mandatory rear seat belt use, strengthening penalties for traffic violations, adding pedestrian islands and protected bike lanes.

After all this changes and many more proposals on the way, I want to figure out how effective is the Vision Zero strategy implementation in NYC. I plan to examine the “Motor Vehicle Collisions – Crashes” dataset on NYC Open Data which is complied from any MV104-AN police report submitted from 2012-present. This is a required form that is filled out when a crash leads to injury, death, or at least $1000 worth of damage. This dataset contains the date, exact coordinates, cause, number of people affected, and more details for each incident reported. I will also be examining the “Open Parking and Camera Violations” dataset to analyze the impact of increasing school zone cameras and the changes in different types of violation throughout the expansion of Zero Vision strategies over the years.

Vision Zero NYC Website: <https://www1.nyc.gov/content/visionzero/pages/>

Motor Vehicle Collisions – Crashes: <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Public-Safety/Motor-Vehicle-Collisions-Crashes/h9gi-nx95>

Vision Zero Map: <https://vzv.nyc/>

Open Parking and Camera Violations: <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/City-Government/Open-Parking-and-Camera-Violations/nc67-uf89>