



Proclamation of Vision Zero in Berkshire County

January 28, 2025

Proclamation of Vision Zero Leadership Commitment and Goal Setting to Reach Zero Fatalities and Serious Injuries on Berkshire County Roads, and to Report Annually on Progress Toward Achieving Said Goal.

WHEREAS The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission has been the recipient of a Safe Streets and Roads for All grant (Grant) as promulgated by the United States Department of Transportation, and

WHEREAS the goal of the Grant program is to reduce and eliminate fatalities and serious injuries on American streets and roads as laid out in the National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS), and

WHEREAS the Grant sets forth certain requirements of Leadership Commitment and Goal Setting in order to be fully compliant and aligned with the Grant goal of reducing and eliminating fatalities and serious injuries, specifically the following directives:

- *A high-ranking official and/or governing body in the jurisdiction publicly committed to an eventual goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries; and*
- *The commitment includes either setting a target date to reach zero OR setting one or more targets to achieve significant declines in roadway fatalities and serious injuries by a specific date.*

WHEREAS the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) is recognized by the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as the officially designated regional planning agency for the Berkshire region and as such has statutory responsibility for the coordinated and orderly development of the region, including regional growth planning and transportation planning as provided for under the provisions of Chapter 40B of the Massachusetts General Laws and which serves as the principal source of transportation planning for local and regional transportation projects, and

WHEREAS the reduction and elimination of fatalities would save on average 13 lives per year, and the reduction and elimination of serious injuries would prevent an adverse impact on an average of nearly 60 individuals per year in Berkshire County at the time of this proclamation's adoption, and

WHEREAS the Berkshire MPO recognizes that safety and security while traveling should be equitably afforded to all modes of transportation and all communities in Berkshire County.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Berkshire MPO declares that the goal of reaching zero fatalities and serious injuries on streets and roads within Berkshire County shall be targeted for the year **2040**. Recommendations contained within the *Berkshire STEPS Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (Action Plan)*, and any other resources determined relevant, shall be the main source of guidance toward achieving this goal. To carry out and track progress toward the achievement of this goal, a Vision Zero Working Group shall be established to monitor implementation of the *Action Plan's* recommendations, provide input on the prioritization of said recommendations, and to provide transparency for and involvement with the public on its proceedings. The Working Group shall be comprised of volunteer members residing in any of Berkshire County's 32 municipalities and/or public officials whose duties fall within one of the county's 32 municipalities. Progress shall be reported yearly, at minimum, during a publicly accessible meeting of the MPO. The *Action Plan* and items documenting progress toward the goals will be publicly accessible on the Internet.

The MPO membership so authorizes the Chair to sign this document into effect on their behalf.

Signed: _____, on this _____ day of January 2025.
Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Berkshire MPO Chair