2024 Garrett Morgan Sustainable Transportation Competition

Theme: #VisionZero2030

September 2023

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*If you are a middle-school teacher, club leader, or program counselor, you and your students can compete to win up to **$1,000 for your classroom, club, or program**, plus an all-expenses-paid trip to San José, California, to be honored at the MTI Awards Banquet.*

*Teacher, club leader, or program counselor leading a competing team receives a **$500 honorarium** at the conclusion of the competition.*

More than 43,000 people die on roads in the U.S. each year and millions more are injured. Conventional viewpoints have held that collisions are an inevitable consequence of modern roads. However, armed with the right strategies, we can stop this trend and bring these grim statistics down to zero. This is #VisionZero2030—a commitment to stopping traffic-related deaths and injuries by the year 2030.

Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg called the number of traffic deaths a national crisis. Last year, the Biden Administration gave $5 billion to the Safe Streets & Roads for All to promote safety for all road users, especially vulnerable pedestrians and bicyclists. Despite these efforts, people are still dying—on average, four lives are lost every hour, every day, across the nation due to traffic collisions. The clock is ticking, and the time for action is now.

Teams, your task is to choose one of the prompts below and explore a solution that will bring your community closer to #VisionZero2030.

To learn more about Vision Zero, read A Primer on Vision Zero and Nine Components of a Strong Vision Zero Commitment from Vision Zero Network.

1. What technological innovation could make roads safer *and* make transportation more sustainable? What would this innovation look like? Drone-based traffic enforcement? Automated traffic cameras? Self-driving cars? What would they cost to create and implement? How would they help roads become safer while also making transportation more sustainable? Choose one technology and explain how they contribute to both sustainable transportation and Vision Zero, the implications of using this technology, and how to implement it.

   Additional resources:
   - "Can A.I. All but End Car Crashes? The Potential Is There." via The New York Times
   - "Why Data Is Key To Improving Pedestrian Safety" via Forbes
   - "Speed cameras would ticket drivers in these California cities under proposed bill" via San Francisco Chronicle

2. Imagine you're in charge of designing roads in your town. How can we improve the role of urban planning and infrastructure design to create safer roads? Provide 1-2 specific examples of how changes in road design can enhance safety. Consider materials & technology that would also contribute to reduce the impact of transportation on climate change.

   Additional resources:
   - "Why 'Vision Zero' Hit a Wall" via CityLab
   - "Where 'Vision Zero' Is Working" via CityLab
   - "A New Jersey city achieved 0 traffic deaths in 4 years with quick, high impact ideas" via NPR

3. Explore the intersection of safety and sustainability. If more people used more sustainable transportation options, would there be fewer traffic injuries and deaths? If more people walk and bike and use public transit, how can we keep them safe? How do we encourage more people to walk and bike? Propose a plan to 1) promote sustainable transportation options (e.g., a plan to get your community walking to school) and 2) how this plan fits in with Vision Zero.
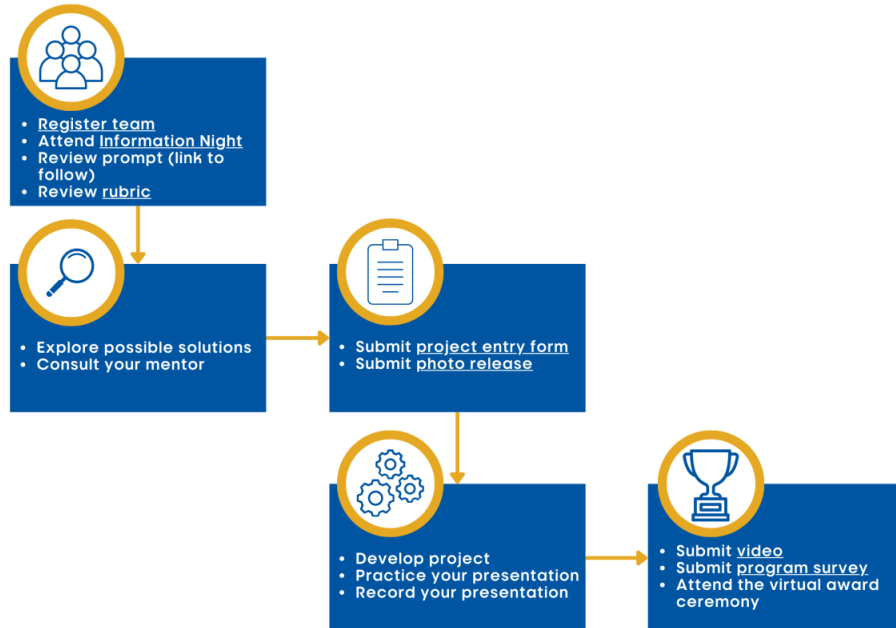
   Additional resources:
   - "Five Ways to Engage Youth in Road Safety Initiatives" via National League of Cities
   - "Public Transit: An Undervalued, Effective Vision Zero Strategy" via Vision Zero Network
   - "Vision Zero Cities: Driving as a Risk Factor: A New Paradigm" via Streetsblog

4. Imagine you're in charge of $5 billion for the Safe Streets & Roads for All project. How can you spend it to make transportation both safer and better for the planet? Devise a specific project for how to share and use the funds to meet Vision Zero goals and also lower the pollution from transportation.

   Additional resources:
   - "Feds Hand Money to Cities for Safer Streets and Resilient Infrastructure" via Governing
   - "Vision Zero: Maps Fuel Funding for Equitable Traffic Safety in Louisville" via Esri Blog
   - "North Carolina's Opportunity for Clean and Equitable Transportation" via NRDC Blog

How to Participate

• Register team
• Attend Information Night
• Review prompt (link to follow)
• Review rubric

• Explore possible solutions
• Consult your mentor

• Submit project entry form
• Submit photo release

• Develop project
• Practice your presentation
• Record your presentation

• Submit video
• Submit program survey
• Attend the virtual award ceremony

*Click on the image to view the enlarged flow chart and links to relevant forms.

Important Dates

October 24, 2023	Registration is due on this date by 11:59p.m. (PT).
	Please note that if you are interested in or waiting for MTI to pair your team with a transportation professional you may leave the second part of the form blank.
February 24, 2024	Ready to compete? Project Entry Form & Photo Release Form are due on this date by 11:59p.m. (PT).
March 24, 2024	Final videos due to alverina.weinardy@sjsu.edu by 11:59p.m. (PT). Approved video formats: MOV, MP4, Youtube, Google Drive. For Google Drive submission, the permission needs to be set so that anyone with the link can view the file.
	Program Exit Survey is due on this date at the same time.

Questions? Contact MTI's Program Liaison Susan Vinh (susan.vinh@sjsu.edu).