The Ethics of Transportation Planning and Design

Priest Lake Conference

June 6, 2019

40,000 Fatal traffic collisions

6,227 Pedestrian Fatalities

840 Bicyclist Fatalities

Costs
Economic: $400-$500 billion
Human lives: immeasurable

In Washington State (2017)

536   **Fatal traffic collisions**

1,916   **Serious injury collisions**

109   **Pedestrian fatalities**

14   **Bicyclist fatalities**

Sources: FARS 1975-2015 Final File, 2016 ARF; Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT): FHWA

Is this Ethical?

Photo: Flint, MI Credit: Barbara McCann

Photo: Jackson, MS. Credit: Dr. Scott Crawford

40 mph speed limit

Operates closer to 50 mph
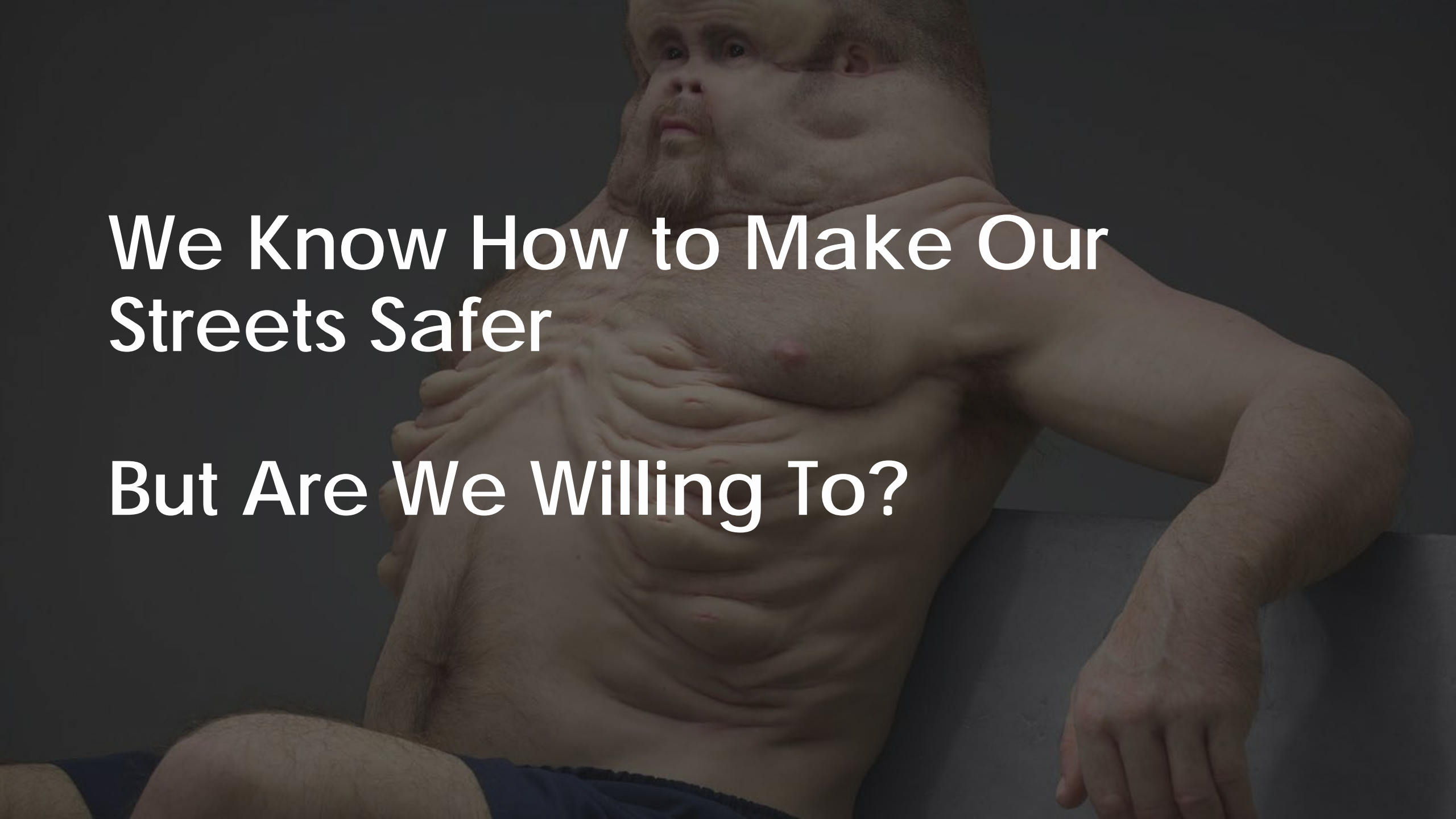
40,000 vehicles per day

- 5-lane
- 40 mph posted speed
- ½ mile between signalized crossings
- Transit route

Senior Center & Park

Vulnerable and disadvantaged road users

We Know How to Make Our Streets Safer

But Are We Willing To?

Number of deaths
Traffic volume

1.Life and health can never be exchanged for other benefits within the society such as mobility

2.Whenever someone is killed or seriously injured, necessary steps must be taken to avoid a similar event.

1950   1960   1970   1980   1990   2000   2008

Swedish Road Administration

Safe Systems: A More Ethical Approach

	TRADITIONAL	SAFE SYSTEM
What is the problem?	Accidents	Fatalities and serious Injuries
What causes the problem?	Human factors	People makes mistakes, people are fragile
Who is ultimately responsible?	Individual road users	System designers
What is the major planning approach?	Incremental approach to reduce the problem	Systematic approach to build a safe road system
What is the appropriate goal?	Optimum number of fatalities and serious injuries	Zero fatalities and serious injuries

AICP Code of Ethics

○ Codes, rulings and procedures to help certified planners **negotiate ethical and moral dilemmas** they sometimes face

○ A code embodies **values**, and those values define both a profession and the **behavior** of those who embrace it.

AICP Code of Ethics

- Section A – aspirational values
- Section B – rules of conduct
- Section C – procedures for obtaining a ruling
- Section D – procedures for filing and adjudicating complaints
- Section E – forms of disciplinary action

Principles to Which We Aspire

- Our Overall Responsibility to the Public
- Our Responsibility to Our Clients and Employers
- Our Responsibility to Our Profession and Colleagues

Principles to Which We Aspire. We Shall:

- seek social justice by working to **expand choice and opportunity** for all persons
- give people the **opportunity to have a meaningful impact** on the development of plans and programs that may affect them
- have special concern for the **long-range consequences** of present actions
- pay special attention to the **interrelatedness of decisions**
- promote **excellence of design**
- contribute to the development of, and respect for, our profession by **improving knowledge and techniques**….and **increasing public understanding** of planning activities.

Seek Social Justice, Expand Choice and Opportunity
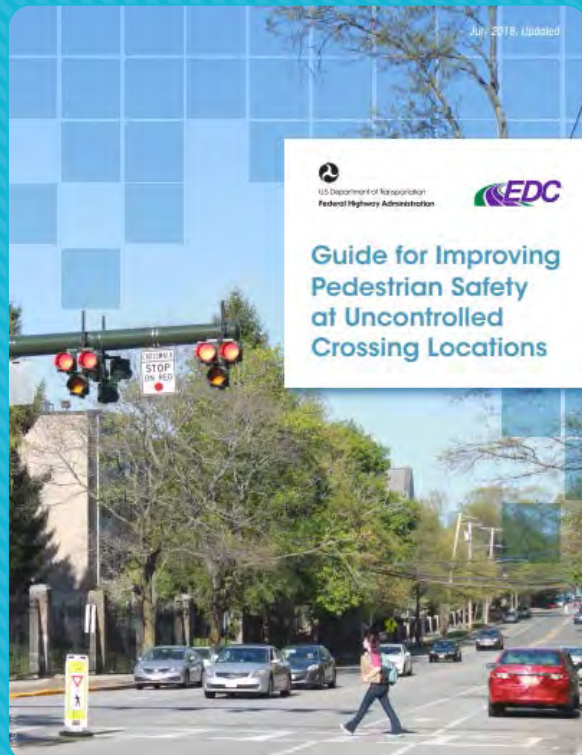
Broad participation

Interrelatedness of Decisions

Interrelatedness of Decisions

Long-Range Consequences
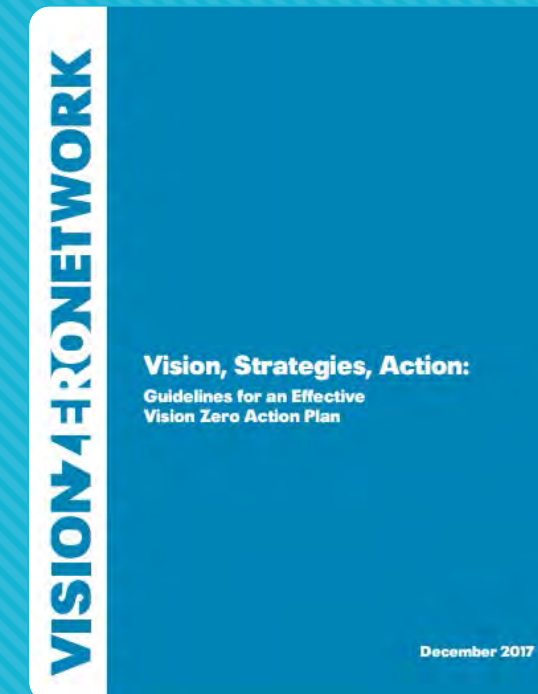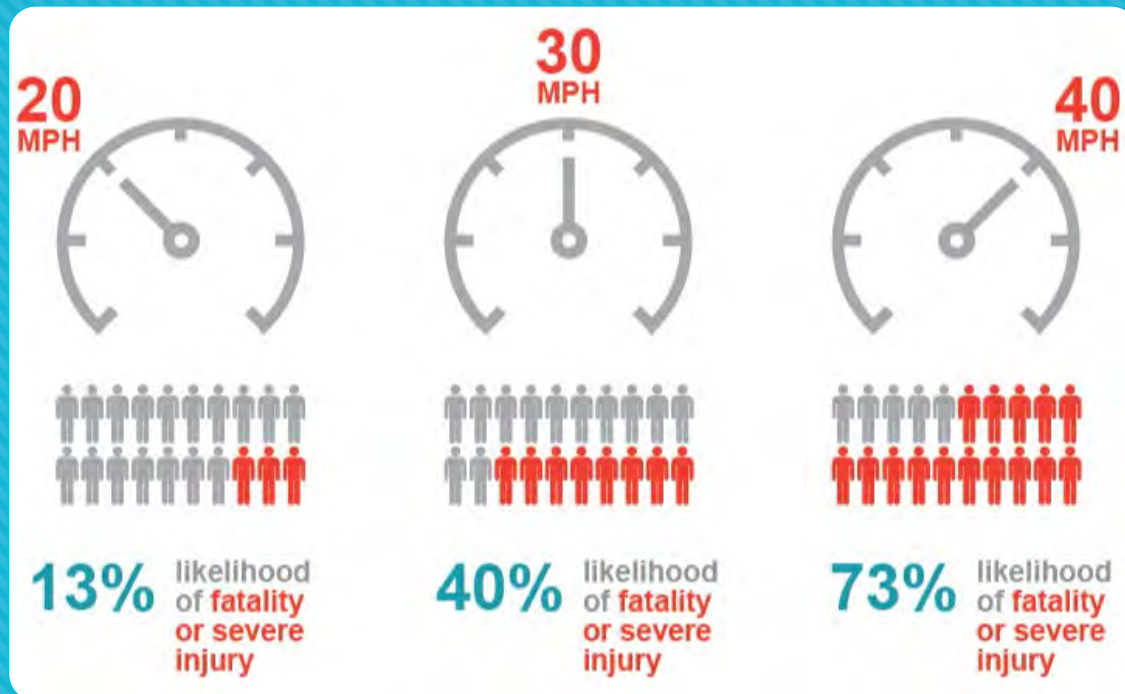
Long-Range Consequences

Excellence in Design

Excellence in Design

Photo: Pottstown, PA. Credit: Tom Hylton, Pottstown Planning Commission

Improving Knowledge and Techniques

We shall not accept the applicability of a customary solution without first establishing its appropriateness to the situation

4% of calls related to fires

80% of calls are for medical emergencies

Improving Knowledge and Techniques

What Barriers Do (or Would) You Encounter When Pushing for Safer and More Equitable Transportation Systems?

What are some strategies for achieving more Equitable Transportation Systems?

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Questions/Discussion

Transportation Planning & Design Resources

Equity

- Evaluating Transportation Equity (Victoria Transport Policy Institute: http://www.vtpi.org/equity.pdf

- Seattle Race and Social Justice Initiative

  https://www.seattle.gov/rsji

Design

- Achieving Multimodal Networks, Applying Design Flexibility and Reducing Conflicts

  https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/multimodal networks/

- NACTO Urban Street Design Guide

  https://nacto.org/publication/urban-street-design-_guide/

- FHWA Pedestrian and Bicycle Program Publications

  https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/

- FHWA Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian

  https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/everydaycounts/edc_4/step.cfm

- WSDOT Design Manual

  https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Publications/Manuals/M22-01.htm

Transportation Planning & Design Resources

Vision Zero

○ Vision Zero Network Resource Library

https://visionzeronetwork.org/resources/

○ Washington State Strategic Highway Safety Plan (Target Zero)

http://targetzero.com/