

2026 Thornton Vision Zero Action Plan

Working toward safer streets for everyone



Action Plan

Everyone should be able to travel around Thornton without the tragedy of a fatal or serious injury crash. That's why Thornton adopted a [Vision Zero Action Plan](#) in December 2024 to guide the City toward eliminating fatal and serious injury, referred to as KSI traffic crashes; killed or seriously injured. The plan sets a goal of zero traffic deaths and serious injury crashes on all City streets by 2040.

Crash data shows that 70% of KSI crashes involve one of four crash types:

- pedestrian or bicyclist-involved,
- left-turn,
- broadside (right-angle or T-bone),
- or fixed-object (run-off-the-road) crashes.

While these four types account for just 37% of all crashes in Thornton, they have a disproportionate impact on serious and fatal crashes. As a result, Thornton has prioritized mitigation efforts focused on these four crash types.

Mitigation Efforts

Thornton began implementing safety projects immediately after adopting the Action Plan to reduce KSI crashes associated with the four priority crash types. Rather than focusing on individual locations, the City implemented projects more systemically to cover more of Thornton in a shorter timeframe and have a wider impact.

Building on recommendations in the Action Plan Prioritization Guide, systemic and other safety projects implemented in 2025 and 2026 included:

Systemic Safety Projects	2025	2026*
Increasing clearance intervals (yellow and red timing) at traffic signals to reduce red light running and left turn conflicts	59 traffic signals	38 traffic signals
Implementing leading pedestrian intervals at traffic signals to reduce vehicle vs. pedestrian conflicts by giving pedestrians a head start when crossing the street	9 traffic signals	5 traffic signals
Eliminating traffic signal night flash programs to reduce broadside conflicts	4 traffic signals	All removed in 2025
Implementing flashing yellow arrows at traffic signals to reduce left turn conflicts	1 traffic signal	3 traffic signals (9 more by end of 2026)
Other Safety Projects	2025	2026*
New traffic signals to address broadside crashes		1 traffic signal (design complete for 2 more)
Lighting to address nighttime visibility		84th Avenue – Huron Street to Interstate 25 (by end of 2026)
Photo Speed Enforcement	Active late 2025	Ongoing
Photo Red Light Enforcement		88th Ave & Washington St 120th Ave & Colorado Blvd

*As of 8/31/2026

Locations of completed safety projects can be viewed on the map of [Action Plan Projects](#).

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Tracking Progress Toward Safer Streets

To track progress toward the 2040 goal, the Action Plan identified four outcome metrics:

- Annual fatal and severe injury crashes on Thornton streets
- Annual pedestrian- and bicycle-involved crashes on Thornton streets, regardless of whether an injury occurred
- Annual fatal and severe injury crashes in areas with high equity need
- Annual pedestrian- and bicycle-involved crashes in areas with high equity need, regardless of whether an injury occurred

For reference, areas of high equity need are highlighted on the map of the [High Injury + High Risk Network](#). With the Action Plan being adopted on December 17, 2024, crash data for the 2024 calendar year serves as the baseline for monitoring progress.

Thornton is already seeing progress toward its goal of eliminating fatal and serious injury (KSI) crashes by 2040. Comparing 2025 to 2024, KSI crashes were down 13.1% and pedestrian-involved and bicycle involved crashes were down 8.2%. In high equity areas, KSI crashes were down 30.4% and pedestrian-involved and bicycle-involved crashes were down 23.4%.

