



# How to achieve safe streets and roads in Vermont

Testimony for Senate Transportation Committee

March 9, 2022

# Who we are

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Local Motion's mission is to make it safe, accessible, and fun for everyone to bike, walk, and roll in Vermont.

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# Streets and roads are for all Vermonters

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- People walking
- People using wheelchairs and assistive devices
- People driving
- People using transit
- People biking

# Inherent human characteristics

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- We are vulnerable
- We make mistakes

# What makes roads dangerous?

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Force = Mass \* Acceleration



The car

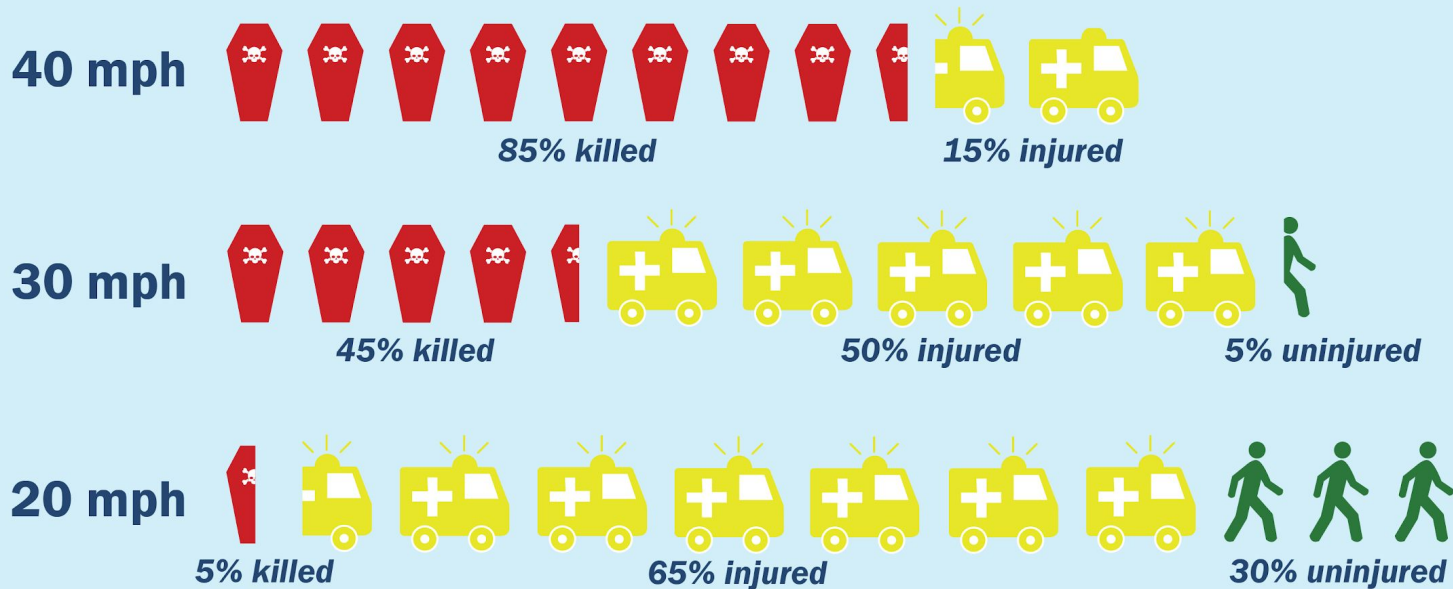


Car speed



# Speed is deadly

## Pedestrian Injuries at Impact Speeds



**LOCAL  
MOTION**

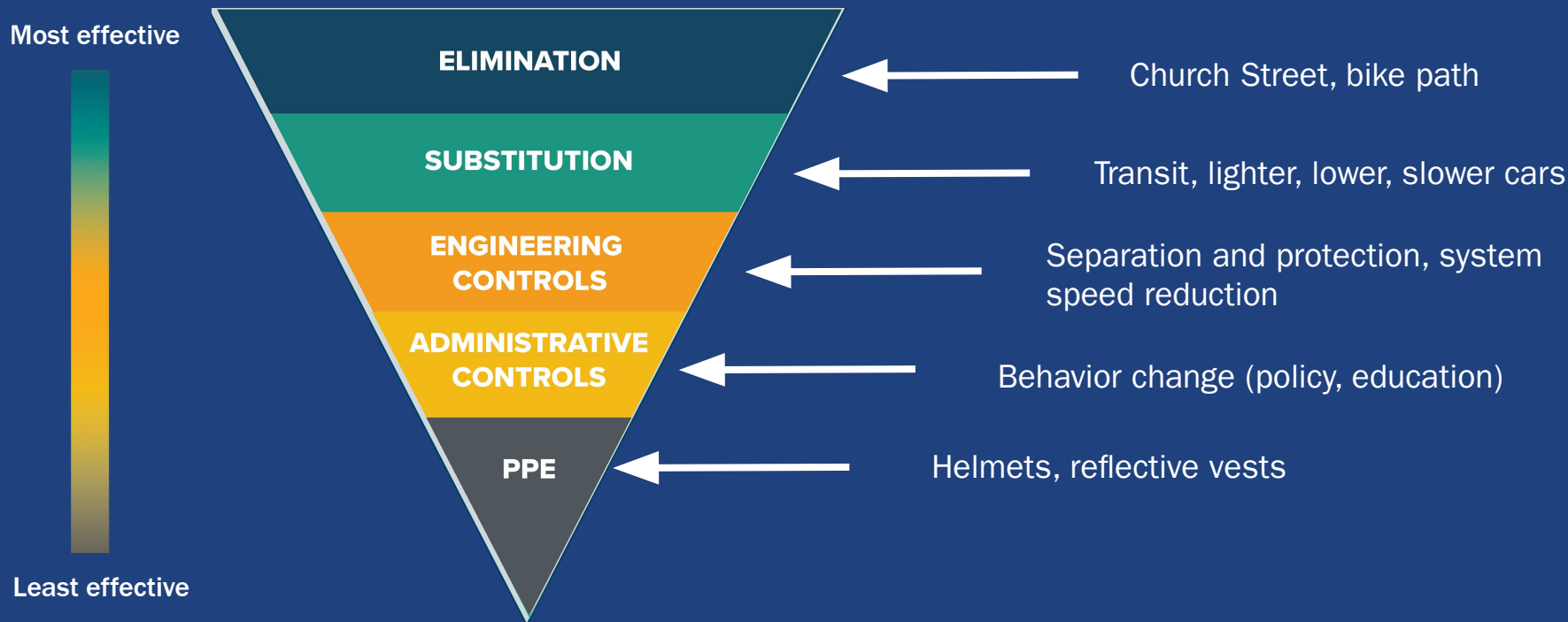


# How do we build a safe system?

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# Hierarchy of Controls







# FHWA's Safe Systems Approach

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“The key focus of the Safe System approach is to reduce death and serious injuries through ***design*** that accommodates human mistakes and injury tolerances.” - [Federal Highway Administration](#)

## Former approach

Prevent crashes



Improve human behavior



Control speeding



Individuals are responsible



React based on crash history



## Safe Systems approach

Prevent death and serious injuries

Design for human mistakes

Prevent speeding by design

Collective responsibility

Proactively identify and address risks

Source: FHWA

# Shared space environment

- 0 - 15 MPH car speeds
- People biking and walking can safely share the road with people driving



Provincetown, MA

# Low-speed street

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- Cars go no faster than 25 MPH
- Painted bike infrastructure is sometimes sufficient, but protection is desirable
- Sidewalks and short crossings for people walking



N. Union Street, Burlington



# Moderate-speed street

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- Cars go no faster than 35 MPH
- Protected biking infrastructure, ideally grade-separated
- People walking need sidewalks & enhanced crossings



North Avenue, Burlington

# Roads and Highways

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- 35+ MPH
- Fully grade separated, with degree of protection/separation increasing with speeds of roadway
- Enhanced intersections, potentially roundabouts



Shared use path being built along Route 15 in Colchester



**What can be done to make people  
biking and walking safer?**

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# Low-hanging fruit

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- Increase funding for VTrans' Bike and Pedestrian grant program
- Update Vermont State Standards
- Allocate more funding for transit