

# VISION ZERO BOSTON: USING CROWD SOURCED SAFETY CONCERNS TO IDENTIFY LOCAL STREET PROJECTS

Melissa Balding  
Harvard College | April 2017

Vision Zero is Boston's commitment to reduce traffic-related deaths to zero, a goal requiring streets are built safer, with reduced speed limits and space for multiple user types. In February 2016, the City of Boston released the Vision Zero Action Plan and launched an interactive, online mapping tool for the Boston public to submit site-specific safety concerns. As of April 2017, the site had recorded 12,571 concerns spatially referenced to 8,534 distinct locations. This data complements crash data, giving a more complete portrayal of real and perceived street safety. Geospatial analysis of the reported concerns both confirms the legitimate importance of ongoing and proposed street safety projects, and assists in identifying new potential project sites.



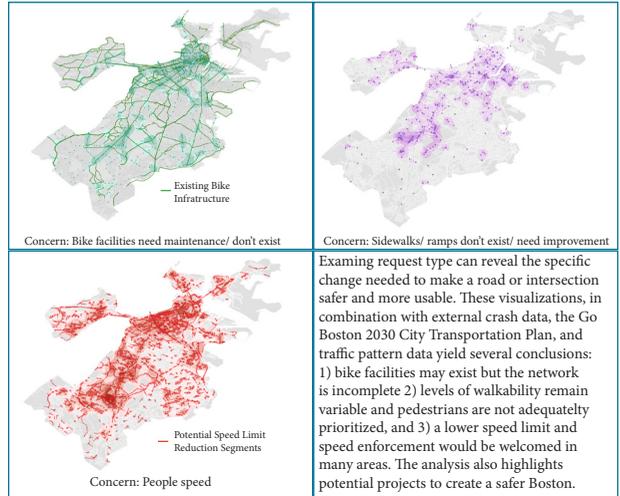
"PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND WORK IN BOSTON KNOW BEST ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THEIR STREETS." - MAYOR MARTY WALSH



To create a new record, the online tool asks people to identify their user type and to select from a list of possible concerns or issues. If a record exists already, users can add additional comments on the site. The map below is weighted using both the original entries and supporting comments.

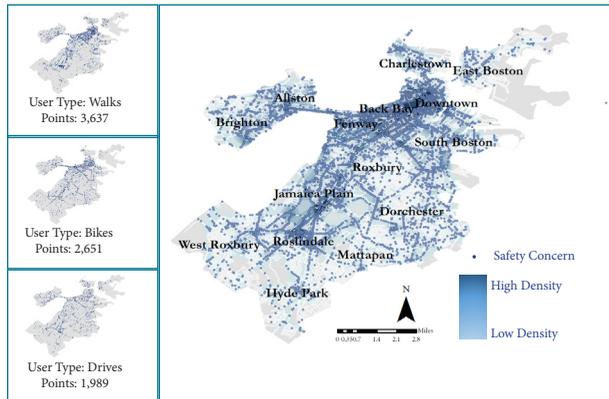


## VISUALIZING REQUEST TYPE DENSITY: SIDEWALKS INFRASTRUCTURE, BICYCLE FACILITIES, AND DRIVERS WITH A NEED FOR SPEED



### BY USER TYPE

### RASTERIZED DENSITY OF CONCERN AND COMMENT ENTRY



## BUILDING SAFER STREETS: RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

