

Good morning supervisors,

My name is Warren Wells and I'm the Policy and Planning Director for the Marin County Bicycle Coalition.

As you may have heard, another person was killed while riding their bike in Marin this past Saturday. His name was Greg Chisholm, a pastor in San Francisco. He was hit and killed by a driver while riding on Sir Francis Drake east of Woodacre. He leaves behind a wife, a daughter, and a grieving community.

While we don't yet know all the circumstances behind the crash, we do know that Pastor Chisholm's death is part of a growing crisis of roadway violence. Traffic fatalities are at their highest in 25 years, and the past decade has seen a 50% increase in bike and pedestrian deaths, growing faster than traffic deaths overall.

Marin County is no exception to this. In 2010, 48 people were killed or seriously injured on roads in unincorporated County. In 2019, that number was 87, nearly double.

The US DOT has just this past week given special attention to this crisis by issuing a National Roadways Safety Strategy. It outlines detailed actions to address this ongoing tragedy. I want to read a brief passage from the document. I quote:

Improved safety on our roadways is needed to support one critical component of strategies to achieve transportation greenhouse gas reductions goals: increased use of transit, walking, rolling, and riding. People who select climate-friendly transportation options decrease transportation-related emissions that contribute to climate change. Such reductions also can improve air quality and provide health benefits to those using and living near highways, roads, and streets with heavy motor vehicle traffic. Yet people walking and biking suffer disproportionately from serious injuries and fatalities when a crash occurs compared to people in vehicles. This has a chilling effect on climate-friendly transportation options such as walking, biking, or taking public transportation. To unlock the climate benefits of those modes, we need road and street systems that feel safe and are safe for all road users.

I urge you, in your capacity as the Board of Supervisors, to take steps to address this crisis before people have to lose their lives on our increasingly dangerous roads.