**Funding Criteria**

**A. General Rules**

1. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to submit requests for funding. Student-led projects require a faculty or staff sponsor in order to have funds awarded.
2. Funding can only go to university-affiliated projects from students, faculty, staff, and departments.
3. All SSC projects must make a substantial impact on students. This may be a direct impact or an impact through education and engagement. All SSC funding is 100% from student green fees, so the projects funded by the students must benefit them.
4. SSC encourages innovation and new technologies – creative projects are encouraged to apply.
5. Unless a type of expense is specifically listed below as having restrictions, SSC can generally fund it. The items referenced below should not be taken as comprehensive list.

**B. Things SSC Can Fund, On A Case-By-Case Basis**

1. SSC can fund feasibility studies and design work; however, it must work toward ultimately addressing a sustainability need on campus.
2. SSC can fund staff positions that are related to improving campus sustainability. Strong preference will be given to proposals receiving matching funding from departments and/or plans for maintaining continuity of the position after the end of the initial grant.
3. SSC can fund outreach events with a central theme of sustainability, provided their primary audience is the general campus community.
4. SSC discourages funding requests for food and prizes but will consider proposals on a case by case basis that prove significant reasoning.
5. SSC can fund repairs and improvements to existing building systems as long as it works toward the goal of improving campus sustainability; however, a preference is shown to projects utilizing new or innovative ideas.
6. SSC can provide departments with loans for projects with a distinct payback on a case by case base. Loans will require a separate memorandum of understanding between SSC and departmental leadership pledging to repay the award in full and detailing the payback plan.

**C. Things SSC Will Not Fund:**

1. SSC will not fund projects with a primary end goal of generating revenue for non-University entities.
2. SSC will not fund personal lodging, food, beverage, and other travel expenses.
3. SSC will not fund any travel expenses.
4. SSC will not fund tuition or other forms of personal financial assistance for students beyond standard student employee wages.

**Your Step 2 funding application should include this application, the supplemental budget form, and any letters of support.**

*Please submit this completed application and any relevant supporting documentation to* [*Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu*](mailto:Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu)*. The Working Group Chairs will be in contact with you regarding any questions about the application. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee at* [*sustainability-committee@illinois.edu.*](mailto:sustainability-committee@illinois.edu.)

**General & Contact Information**

**Project Name:** Vision Zero for UI

**Total Amount Requested from SSC:** 28,800

**Project Topic Areas:**  Land & Water  Education  Energy

Transportation  Food & Waste

**Applicant Name:** Rahim F. Benekohal

**Campus Affiliation (Unit/Department or RSO/Organization):** Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

**Email Address:** rbenekoh@illinois.edu

**Check one:**

This project is solely my own ***OR***

This project is proposed on behalf of (name of student org., campus dept., etc.):

**Project Team Members**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Department** | **Email** |
| Rahim Benekohal, Professor | Civil and Environmental Engineering | rbenekoh@illinois.edu |
| Graduate Research Assistant | Civil and Environmental Engineering | Email Address |
| Name | Department/Organization | Email Address |
| Name | Department/Organization | Email Address |

**Student-Led Projects (Mandatory):**

Name of Faculty or Staff Project Advisor:        
Advisor’s Email Address:

**Financial Contact *(Must be a full-time University of Illinois staff member)***

Contact Name: Laura N. Cookey

Unit/Department: Civil and Environmental Engineering

Email Address: cooky@uillinois.edu

**Project Information**

*Please review the proposal materials and online content carefully. It is highly recommended you visit a working group meeting sometime during the proposal submission process.*

**Please provide a brief background of the project, its goals, and the desired outcomes:**

*You may copy and paste your Step 1 application answer if nothing has changed.*

Our project is called Vision Zero for UI. Vision Zero is an international organization whose primary goal is to promote having zero fatal and severe injury crashes in specific cities or communities. This is done by implementing practices which go beyond the traditional approaches to safety by combining data-driven decision making with the incorporation of human error, community input, and implementing a “Safe Systems” approach. The Safe Systems approach has the following principles:

• People make mistakes which can lead to crashes; however, no one should die or be seriously injured on the road as a result of these mistakes.

• The human body has a limited physical ability to tolerate crash forces – any impact greater than 20 mph increases the risk of dying significantly.

• Road safety is a shared responsibility amongst everyone, including those that design, build, operate and use the road system.

• All parts of the road system must be strengthened in combination to multiply the protective effects and if one part fails, the others will still protect people.

Vision Zero differs from traditional traffic safety approaches. It holds that traffic injuries and deaths are preventable and focuses attention on the limitations of the transportation system itself, including the built environment, policies and technologies that influence behavior. Additionally, because Vision Zero recognizes that people will make mistakes, it focuses not on avoiding all crashes, but rather on lowering the likelihood of crashes resulting in severe injuries. Therefore, Vision Zero approaches safety as a systemic issue by placing the greatest responsibility on system designers and policy makers.

Our project's goal is to have zero traffic crashes at University of Illinois making it a safer envionment for students and staff. Between 2011 and 2014, there were 3 fatal crashes at UI campus. In 2016 alone, there were 488 traffic crashes on campus area, and about one-quarters of them were injury crashes. There were also 32 pedestrians and bike related crashes on campus area. The situation may get worse with an increase in the bike use on campus, and contrustion workzones. This project will focus on investigating where these Vision Zero principles could be implemented in the UI campus. This will be done by identifying the most traffic safety critical points on campus and proposing reasonable and effective solutions for them. A data-driven study will be conducted on the campus transportation network to identify these critical points. This study will include reaching out to the students and staff to know their safety concerns and identify the locations in which they have had problems in the past. Safety is a shared responsibility amongst everyone and it is crucial that the users input is highly valued.

The expected outcome of the project will be a report that identifies the safety critical point in the transportation network that can be improved according to the Vision Zero principles. This report will also include the possible solutions the project team proposes that can be implemented in the short and long-term. The study will serve a base for future project proposals to make these safety improvements a reality in the UI campus.

With the goal of making the campus a more environmentally sustainable place, efforts have been made to increase the bike and pedestrian mobility on campus. We believe that Vision Zero is a necessary goal accompanying these efforts because a big part of encouraging people to use alternate modes of transportation is making sure that they have a system which supports them and keeps them safe. Vision Zero starts with the ethical belief that everyone has the right to move safely in their communities, and that system designers and policy makers share the responsibility to ensure safe systems for travel. With Vision Zero on campus, we could potentially decrease the risk of experiencing crash injuries and fatalities to achieve a healthier and more sustainable campus environment.

This study does not increase vechile miles traveled and does not encourage bringing more passenger cars into the campus network. Its goal is improving traffic safety on campus. Traffic on UI campus is not just passenger cars, but it includes trucks, buses, motorcycles, moped, scooters, bikes, roller blades, and pedestrians. Our goal is improving campus safety by any mode of transportation that enables people and goods to move on campus. This encourages people to take alternate modes of transportation potentially reducing emissions and car usage.

**Where will the project be located? Are special permissions required for this project site?**

*If special permission is required for this location, please explain and submit any relevant letters of support with the application.*

**All project research and activities will be performed in the University of Illinois Campus. No special permissions are required.**

**Other than the project team, who will have a stake in the project? Please list other individuals, groups, or departments affiliated directly or indirectly by the project. This includes any entity providing funding (immediate, future, ongoing, matching, in-kind, etc.) and any entities that benefit from this project.**

*Please attach letters of commitment or support at the end of the application.*

No other individuals, group, or departments will be directly responsible for this project; however we will ask police departments for UI campus, Urbana, and Champaign, as well as IDOT, Champaign County, MTD, and Chamapaign Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study, UI Adminstration, and UI student group representative to be involved in advising capacity for this study. Representatives of other groups may be invited as needed.

**How will this project involve and/or benefit students?**

*This includes both direct and indirect impact.*

**Students will be involved thru focus group meetings and interest survey participation. They would provide their experience and safety concerns as well as their solutions. Vision Zero holds that safety is a shared responsibility amongst everyone including the road operators. Student input is a crucial part of trying to make the campus a safer place for them and the future students.**

**How will you bring awareness and publicize the project on campus? In addition to SSC, where will information about this project be reported?**

The main goal of Vision Zero is to use data-driven methods and approach the community to understand and address the users' safety concerns. This is done with the intention of achieving the elimination of all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. This means that the research team will be approaching students through surveys and focus groups and will be made aware of how and why this study is being performed. Direct interactions with the target community (i.e. student, staff, and faculty) will be an effective way to bring awareness to the UI campus. Regarding external publicizing, If the project is approved, the national Vision Zero network will be notified of these efforts, and they will be able to provide support on spreading the project information through their website, social media, and newsletters.

# Financial Information

*In addition to the below questions, please submit the supplemental budget spreadsheet available on the Student Sustainability Committee* [*website*](http://ssc.sustainability.illinois.edu/?page_id=2087)*. Submission of both documents by the submission deadline is required for consideration of your project.*

**Have you applied for funding from SSC before? If so, for what project?**

Yes, we applied for funding in Fall of 2018 proposing the same project idea, but was not funded at that time.

**If this project is implemented, will you require any ongoing funding required? What is the strategy for supporting the project in order to cover replacement, operation, or renewal costs?***Please note that SSC provides funding on a case by case basis annually and should not be considered as an ongoing source of funding.*

The project will not require ongoing funding from SSC, but funding from internal or external sources will be sought to implement the findings of the study.

**Please include any other obtained sources of funding. Have you applied for funding elsewhere?**

*Please attach any relevant letters of support as needed in a separate document.*

No external sources of funding were obtained, and the project team has not applied for funding elsewhere.

# Environmental, Economic, and Awareness Impacts

**How will the project improve environmental sustainability at the Urbana-Champaign campus? If applicable, how does this project fit within any of the** [**Illinois Climate Action Plan**](https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/) **(iCAP) goals?**

Vision Zero for UI supports two major objectives in the iCAP goals: Chapter 4 objectives 4 and 5.

- Objective 4: Reduce the percentage of staff trips made using single-occupancy vehicles from 65% to 55% by FY20, 50% by FY25, and 45% by FY30

- Objective 5: Implement the Campus Bike Plan on the schedule noted in that plan. Notable deadlines include full implementation of new bikeway facilities by FY25, bike parking within 150 feet of every building in the core of campus by FY20, and bike rentals by FY20.

Objective 4 relates more to reducing the vehicles miles traveled, and objective 5 is about the increasing bicycle use thorugh the implementation of bikeway facilities. Both of these objectives aim to increase the bike usage and decrese the vehicle miles traveled. Safety directly relates to both of these by providing a transportation network in which users feel more encouraged to switch to non-motorized transportation modes. We believe that Vision Zero is a necessary goal accompanying the increase in non-motorized mobility on campus. Increasing non-motorized mobility translates to more vulnerable road users in the transportation network (i.e pedestrians and bicyclists) which require safer infrastructure. An important part of encouraging people to use alternate modes of transportation is making sure that they have a system which supports them and keeps them safe.

**How will you monitor and evaluate the project’s progress and environmental outcomes? What short-term and long-term environmental impacts do you expect?**

*Some examples include carbon emissions, water conservation, green behavior, and reduced landfill waste.*

**Since increasing safety supports both Chapter 4 Objective 4 and 5 of the iCAP, safety metrics will be used to assess the success of the project in the long term. Safety is not a short-term matter because it requires the colaboration and responsibility of all road users navigate through the campus network. It requires awareness and a change towards a more proactive and safer culture which thinks that transportation safety is a shared responsibility for everyone. The long-term metrics are in the form of reduction in pedestrian and bicycle crashes, and the complete elimination of severe injury crashes.**

**What are your specific outreach goals? How will this project inspire change at UIUC?**

**This project can inspire campus users, planners and policy makers to take a new approach to traffic safety. It can inspire future projects to make the transportation safety one of the primary goals of the projects. Vision Zero for UI is about everyone's commitment to the same goal, and by increasing awareness of the safety issues on campus. It will inspire people to take safe actions when they are navigating through campus regardless of the mode of transportation they are using. Moreover, beyond the Illinois campus, this project can be used as a proof of concept to show the cities of Urbana and Champaign that applying Vision Zero principles can achieve traffic safety goals. This project could also inspire change in other campuses in United States. Vision Zero is usually adopted by larger urban areas like Chicago, and the success of this initiative will show smaller communities that safety can always be prioritized despite its size and budget.**

**If applicable, how does this project impact environmental injustice or social injustice?**

**One of the core values of Vision Zero is equity. Data-driven analysis and future proposals made from this project will prioritize safety and mobility for all users and areas in the campus network. This is the reason we emphazise the involvement of student, staff and faculty. It is of primary importance that this project takes into account all the safety concern regardless of people's socioeconomic status, living area, or disabilities. Vision Zero for UI is commited to providing a comprehensive safety analysis and plan which will cover all facets of transportation within the campus transportation network. Beyond the UI campus, Vision Zero encourages city offices and state departments of transportation to always put safety as their priority and to develop plans which target safety in an equitable and sustaible way.**