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## **Data Visualization Captures Reality of Traffic Violence in the District**

WASHINGTON, DC — On September 19 at 4:30PM, the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) will stage a large-scale data visualization around traffic violence at the intersection of 14th and U Streets NW. Balloon towers tied to PVC-pipe will stretch to the sky, each balloon representing a fatality or serious injury in the District.

Since 2018, 1,250 people have suffered serious injuries as a result of traffic crashes in D.C. This does not include the 52 people killed in traffic crashes within the same time period. People who are seriously injured face long physical and emotional recoveries, and will never be the same again.

“Traffic violence isn’t a bike problem, it’s an everyone problem,” says Greg Billing, Executive Director at the Washington Area Bicyclist Association. “The data is clear: even being inside an automobile with the most advanced safety features in the world isn’t enough to protect you from another driver going too fast, acting reckless or driving distracted. We need to change behavior, and we need to change our streets. We keep everyone—drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists—safe by making it harder to drive too fast, and easier to choose alternatives to driving.”

And that’s why WABA chose to stage the visualization at one of the city’s busiest intersections. Road users of every kind navigate 14th St and U St NW daily.

WABA’s hope is that everyone who sees the large-scale data visualization will take pause and understand how much their choices matter on the road. As a city committed to Vision Zero, the data visualization is a stark reminder of how much work we have to do.

The mission of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association is to create a healthy, more livable region by promoting bicycling for fun, fitness, and affordable transportation; advocating for better bicycling conditions and transportation choices for a healthier environment; and educating children, adults, and motorists about safe bicycling.

WABA seeks to achieve this mission through advocacy, outreach, and education initiatives.

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