We’re celebrating three years of pedestrian safety advocacy!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of AFSS, I wanted to take this moment to thank you, the community of Alexandria, for your support. We couldn’t have accomplished half of the projects that we’ve undertaken to make our streets safer without so many terrific volunteers helping us. In this special anniversary edition of our AFSS newsletter, we'll share our accomplishments so far for 2020, what we're working toward in expanding the Families for Safe Streets regional network, our "Near Miss" survey extension, and more.

If you’d like to learn more about what we do, join us for our monthly meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. (EDT) and Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 6:30 (EDT).

Here's to bright future ahead for AFSS!

Sincerely,
Mike Doyle
AFSS Founding Member
"WALKABILITY AUDITS OF UNCONTROLLED CROSSTRAKS" SURVEY

AFSS is looking for volunteers!

This important survey, being undertaken from July through August, will document the uncontrolled crosswalks around the city. Once completed, we will have provided valuable information to Alexandria city's T&ES Department so that street safety improvements can be made throughout Alexandria.

For more information, next steps, and to get involved, email AFSS: contact@novafss.org

"NEAR MISS" SURVEY EXTENSION

Our “Near Miss” survey is being extended to Arlington! (And, eventually, Fairfax!)

Families for Safe Streets is collecting data to identify areas where pedestrians and cyclists have experienced near misses and/or identify dangerous intersections. Data is reported anonymously to the city to help identify, in a real time setting, locations with potential safety issues that do not show up in traditional crash data sources. Our goal is to improve the safety of all people.

Take the survey today! https://www.alxffss.org/near-miss-and-dangerous-intersection-survey/
NEW TRAFFIC LEGISLATION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- **Vulnerable Road User.** Provides that person who drives in a careless or distracted manner that results in a KSI to a Vulnerable Road User equals a Class 1 misdemeanor.
  
  *Effective date 7/1/2020*

- **Stopping for pedestrian.** Illegal for drivers to pass a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk.
  
  *Effective date 7/1/2020*

- **Automated (Photo) Speed Monitoring Enforcement** in school and work zones.
  
  *Effective date 7/1/2020*

- **Distracted Driving (“Hands Free”).** This bill would prohibit holding a hand-held device & more enforceable than the current “no texting” ban in VA.
  
  *Effective date 1/1/2021*

ISSUES FOR NEXT LEGISLATIVE SESSION
- **Contributory Negligence.** A narrow bill to eliminate Contributory Negligence for crashes involving vulnerable road users.

- **Subrogation.** Current VA law allows insurance companies to take a crash survivor’s trial award to settle its claims associated with the crash but can leave the crash survivor with little or no compensation for their injury.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: RACIAL JUSTICE AND TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

In an open letter to Alexandria’s City Council Members, the City’s Manager, and Alexandria’s Chief of Police, AFSS addressed concerns about safety on our streets. In advocating for change on our Virginia roadways, we must also recognize and speak out against racial injustice and advocate for action.

Read the entire letter in the Alexandria Gazette:
http://www.alexandriagazette.com/news/2020/jul/11/opinion-letter-editor-racial-justice-applied-traff/?fbclid=IwAR0bsz0EplJdegEhwAgbiNoCLinlbEwxjcg0HzdhLeQRZ6axUN0_x6HV1Hg
FAMILIES FOR SAFE STREETS IS BRANCHING OUT

AFSS is expanding its safe streets advocacy by establishing an FSS chapter in Arlington (Arl FSS) and planning a Fairfax chapter (Ffx FSS) later in 2020.

We are creating an umbrella organization called NOVA FSS to help coordinate a regional safe streets advocacy effort.

AFSS IN 2020: LOOKING AHEAD

- Working with Alexandria City’s T&ES to conduct a workability audit on "Uncontrolled Crosswalks" to help improve safety on Alexandria’s streets
- AFSS/Arl FSS elevating the "Near Miss" survey with the help of graduate students from Virginia Tech's school of Urban Affairs & Planning
- Commemorating International World Day of Remembrance on Sunday, November 15, 2020, an annual event to remember the millions of people killed and injured in traffic crashes around the world
- Continue working with Alexandria County Public Schools (subject to class schedules/reopenings) in teching street safety best practices

Alexandria Families For Safe Streets brings the community together to create safe streets for all people to walk and bike, by telling the impact stories, educating the general public, and educating policymakers about policies and investments that eliminate traffic-related fatalities and injuries in our city.