Alexandria’s Families for Safe Streets (“AFSS”) Advisory Committee

19 Jan 2021: 6:30 pm to 8 pm

Location: Zoom

Meeting Minutes

- Attendees – 21 attendees

- Treasurers report (Norm Lisy):
  - Current balance $10,3974.03.
  - Some expenses for Revenue for about $300 (donations), from Fairfax and Arlington donations, noted in separate accounts from Alexandria. Expenses included postage, FedEx (printing of postcards), advertising in newspaper and Facebook.

- Guest Speakers: APD – Chief Mike Brown and Lt. Jason North.
  - Update on the Nov 2020 Pedestrian fatality at S. Washington & Wilkes:
    - Nov. 20th, 4:30pm, clear weather. Vehicle turning left to go southbound on Washington. Pedestrian (Justin Benedict) was on a high-visibility crosswalk when he was struck at a low speed but died.
    - APD crash reconstruction team is working the case due to the vehicular homicide. There is high-quality video from a nearby gas station.
    - A citation was issued to the driver - court date on the 27th. This will be requested to be null processed, in order to allow the case to be handled by the Commonwealth Attorney, Bryan Porter.
    - Bodily injury to a vulnerable road user results in a Class 1 misdemeanor charge. If it is determined to be Vehicular Homicide this can be raised to a manslaughter charge, depending on the facts. If there is road rage involved, this can become a homicide case.
    - Street engineering improvements at the Wilkes / S. Washington intersection are being evaluated. Pedestrians only have 3 seconds to get into the walkway. The 3-seconds is a policy issue, not an engineering restriction. This is also a problem for a blind pedestrian who crosses that street. Lt. North as well as AFSS can bring this up with Vision Zero team.
    - **ACTION:** The City has promoted the Wilkes Street “bikeway” as an alternative to King Street so the City should make this a safer route by extending the crossing time.
      - Such decisions are made by T&ES with input from Transportation Commission. Also, Slater’s Lane needs review for pedestrian safety. A delay was put in place for pedestrians at Slater’s Lane and Route 1 which has helped on the left turn lane, but not on the right turns. Also, it has not solved the problem when the light is already green or turning yellow.
      - AFSS will make a list to bring to Christine Mayeur, Complete Streets Program Manager, T&ES.
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- Call, click, connect (3-1-1) goes straight to T&ES, which logs the intersections. The log is useful for reference in follow ups. And you get a personalized response from APD.
- AFSS Near Miss (NM) data should also be completed as this data is provided to Jason North, APD and we keep such records as an independent advocacy group.
- Virginia Tech is assisting mapping crash data with near miss data on GIS to look for correlations, and along with the creation of a mobile app. Longer term we hope to connect the NM data automatically to 3-1-1 in Alexandria.

- December Pedestrian/ Vulnerable Road User crash report – 3 crashes (versus 5 in November):
  - December 11, 7:15pm, no adverse weather. Prince and N. Patrick. Pedestrian crossing Patrick, driver ran red light and struck pedestrian in crosswalk. Pedestrian’s leg was broken, went to hospital. Driver of white SUV fled scene, few leads. Still at large.
  - Dec. 20, 6:15pm, no adverse weather. S. Whiting and Stevenson Ave. Pedestrian in crosswalk crossing Stevenson. Driver making left turn crashed into the pedestrian. Driver remained on scene, assisted pedestrian, and gave him a ride home. Police were contacted after the fact. Pedestrian not interested in pursuing the case, so no charges filed.
  - Dec. 20, 11:00pm, no adverse weather, cyclist in right lane, traveling westbound around 4600 Seminary Rd. Struck in the rear by vehicle, cyclist landed on car hood. Driver fled scene, limited information, still at large. Bicyclist went to hospital with minor injuries.

- New state law prohibiting handhelds while driving - APD trained the officers and did some PR. APD will be using undercover officers to identify these violations, although the e-Citation site doesn’t yet have a place to put this in the system.

Old Business (Mike Doyle, Brian Shankman, Bob Trencheny):

- Update on Public Outreach Campaigns:
  - Blinker-give-away program along with Pedestrian Safety Flyer:
    - Gave away 1,060+ three-way blinkers to people who walk or run:
      - 500 to Alive! Family Assistance Program.
      - 100 to Senior Services of Alexandria.
      - 200 to Casa Chirilagua Non-Profit.
      - 100 to West End Food Pantry.
      - 100 to the West End Food Shelter.
      - 25 to St. Joseph’s Church (Alexandria).
      - 35 to miscellaneous citizens. Note: if you want a blinker, contact Doyle
  - ACPS Wear White (or a reflector) at Night flyer program:
    - For all Alexandria City Public Schools, distribution on Jan. 13th.
    - As of 1/19, only 9 views, via the flyerboard.
    - “Kids” version of flyer will be distributed later beginning Feb. 11th available through March 12, 2021.
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- Other Social Media Campaigns (Facebook and Twitter):
  - Public education regarding the Hands-Free Law which took effect 1 Jan ’21.
  - Wear White / Reflector at Night also pushed out on Social Media.
  - Look Left for Drivers Turning Left also pushed on Social Media.
- HB 1903 - Authorizing Local Reductions in Speed Limits to 15mph - post cards campaign to Policymakers:
  - 500 postcards showing NOVA FSS logo with Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax branches on the front, were printed, stamped and sent out by several volunteers to the House Delegates and Senators on the Transportation Committees along with some Northern Virginia area legislators not on the committee. (250 postcards each from Alexandria and Arlington).
  - The postcard campaign also gets the Nova FSS name in front of our legislators in a tangible way:

    ![Postcard Image]

    - HB 1903 is already past the House Transportation committee and next goes to the House floor, then to the Senate Transportation committee, then to the Senate floor for a vote.
    - Need to encourage Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) data collection around schools.
      - There is one ASE collecting data around FT Day and John Adams schools after which they will turn on the cameras to determine if there is a positive driver reaction regarding speeding as well as a reduction in crashes.
      - Passing a state ASE bill is an issue for 2022 General Assembly session but won’t be addressed this year due to effort to collect before & after speed data results in 2021.
- 2021 Events Calendar & Volunteer Coordination:
  - Transportation Research Board Committee meetings are going on and are free. Website Link:  [http://www.trb.org/AnnualMeeting/AnnualMeeting.aspx](http://www.trb.org/AnnualMeeting/AnnualMeeting.aspx)
  - February & March is when the City Budget is open to public discussion. AFSS was joined by BPAC in sending a letter to the City Council and Mark Jinks, City Manager, for more improvement to the crosswalks in the City as part of Vision Zero. We are concerned that the City will cut spending for VZ.
    - Bob published letter we sent to City Council onto Facebook for AFSS and BPAC
  - April is National Walking Day – considering a street safety walking tour for AFSS members and friends.
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• New Business:
  o Discussed doing walk audits to improve understanding of Ped / Bike infrastructure and identify dangerous sections.
    ▪ Ped/Bike counts for ped/bike infrastructure.
    ▪ West End needs dangerous areas identified and fixed.
  o Alexandria City’s Budget discussion: February 16th – VZ / Complete Streets

• Upcoming Events:
  o Sister Fairfax FSS Meeting – changed to Tue, Jan 26, 2021.
  o Next AFSS Meeting – the 3rd Tuesday of the Month, Feb 16, 2021.
  o Sister Arl FSS Meeting – the 4th Wed of the Month, Feb 24, 2021.