

ALEXANDRIA FAMILIES FOR SAFE STREETS



WINTER 2021



LET'S IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN 2021

On behalf of the Board of Directors of AFSS, 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 edition of our AFSS newsletter, we'll share our accomplishments in 2020, what we're working toward in 2021 regarding 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 one of our meetings, scheduled for the third Tuesday of every month.

Our next meetings are on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. (EST) and Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. (EST).

Stay safe and warm out there.

Sincerely,
Mike Doyle
AFSS Founding Member

ALEXANDRIA NEWS

Northern Virginia
Families for Safe Streets
(NoVA FSS)
EST. 2020

Alexandria FSS
(AFSS)
EST. 2017

Arlington FSS
(ARL FSS)
EST. 2019

Fairfax FSS
(FFX FSS)
EST. 2020

Pedestrian Safety Awareness: Since students were at home for school this fall and many of them did not get to do the Pedestrian Education (usually done in person at the schools), AFSS distributed our Stop, Look, Wave flyers to the parents of students in the school district, in multiple languages.

Infrastructure news:

- King-Callahan-Russell intersection improvements are getting close;
- Old Cameron Run Trail is progressing; and
- No sidewalk yet at Seminary and Quaker.

NEW TRAFFIC LEGISLATION

- Distracted Driving ("Hands Free"). This bill prohibits holding a hand-held device while driving. This significantly strengthens the ability to enforce distracted driving from the prior "no texting" ban in Virginia.
Effective date 1/1/2021
- 15 MPH Speed Limit. This bill allows jurisdiction to impose 15 miles-per-hour (mph) or 20 mph speed limits in residential and/or business districts, if the jurisdiction elects to do so. AFSS volunteers sent out about 200 postcards to the House of Delegates and Senate policymakers during this General Assembly 2021 season, asking them to vote "yes" on the 15 mph bill.

ISSUES FOR NEXT LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- Contributory Negligence. A narrow bill to eliminate Contributory Negligence for crashes involving vulnerable road users.
- Automatic Speed Enforcement (ASE). Current Virginia law allows for ASE installations at road construction sites and in school zones. AFSS is advocating for ASE (i.e., speed cameras) installation in residential neighborhoods and business districts, at the jurisdiction's discretion.

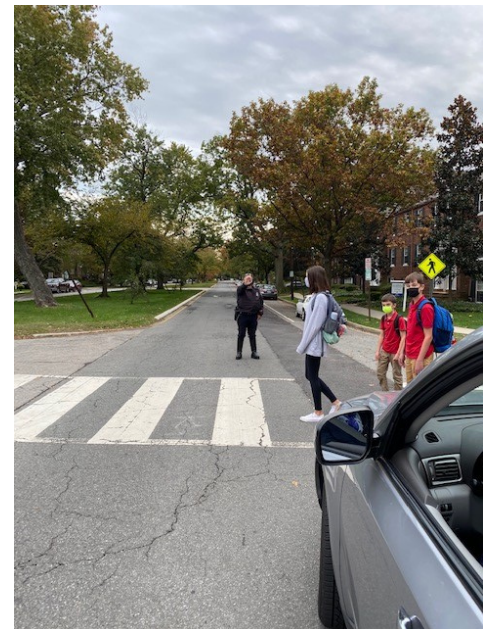


Photo: Alexandria Police assisting in pedestrian safety efforts.

VIRGINIA TECH GRAD SCHOOL OF URBAN PLANNING

AFSS and its affiliated NoVA FSS chapters are partnering with Virginia Tech this year to provide assistance in the NoVA FSS region to improve safety on the roads for pedestrians and all vulnerable road users by creating teams of VT graduate student groups to help with the following projects.

1. Education and outreach group: Recommendation for NoVA FSS will include:
 - Targeted outreach for businesses, associations, and public and governmental agencies and departments
 - Press releases and media contacts
 - Opportunities for mailing lists and newsletters
 - Social media campaigns
 - Website ideas
 - Additional ideas identified through research and feedback
2. Data group: Intends to fully redesign the AFSS Near-Miss survey to improve user engagement and collect an increased level of data. This data will be incorporated into an interactive, ArcGIS-driven map that will also utilize TREDs and other regional near-miss data to visually represent dangerous roadway environments in the Northern Virginia region. This data will be summarized and analyzed in a downloadable format to be published on AFSS' website for advocacy, educational, and marketing purposes.
3. Data advocacy group: Will work closely with the data group to communicate the data collected and analyzed as well as to inform the public on how to interact with the data. This process will involve the creation of literature and media presentations to demonstrate how to submit Near-Miss data and navigate the AFSS website.

We look forward to reaching our mutual goals with VT graduate students. Thanks VT!

VISIT AFSS ONLINE AT
WWW.ALXFFSS.ORG

EMAIL INQUIRIES TO
MIKE DOYLE
CONTACT@NOVAFSS.ORG



Photo: Mike Doyle, AFSS, donating blinkers devices for pedestrian safety .

Wear White (or reflector) at Night

Vístete con ropa blanca (o con un color reflector) por la noche



Mantente protegido, visible



Sé atrevido y brillante, por la mañana y por la noche

AFSS

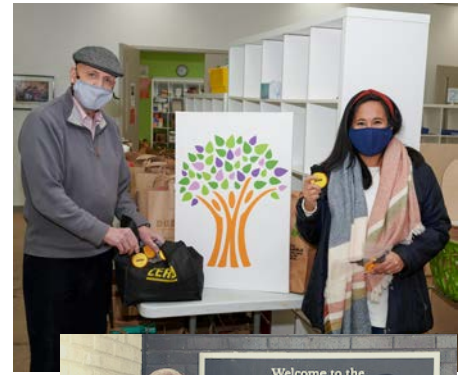


ARL FSS



SAFE STREETS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Giving Tuesday: After setting a goal of \$1,000 on the Giving Tuesday fundraising event, our generous donors busted that goal at \$2,751! A very sincere thank you for all those who were able to give.
- World Day of Remembrance: The Virginia Families for Safe Streets chapters (Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax and Richmond) joined for the 2020 World Day of Remembrance to remember those who have died or were seriously injured from traffic violence. Our collective WDoR "virtual" event invited people who seriously injured by, or lost someone to, traffic violence, as well as other concerned citizens. Speakers included state legislators and local elected officials who heard stories from those impacted by these tragedies and participated in somber discussions with an emphasis on policy opportunities at the General Assembly. A sincere thank you to all who participated.
- Welcomed Bob Trencheny as our latest AFSS board member!
- Blinker Giveaway: AFSS donated almost 1,060+ blinkers for pedestrian safety to various organizations, including:
 - ALIVE - 500
 - Casa Chirilagua - 200
 - Carpenter Shelter - 100
 - Senior Services of Alexandria - 100
 - West End Food Pantry - 100
 - Saint Joseph's Church - 25



AFSS IN 2021: LOOKING AHEAD

- Working with Alexandria City's T&ES to conduct a series of formal sidewalk audits 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
- Continue working with Alexandria County Public Schools (subject to class schedules/reopenings) in teaching 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.

501(c)(3) Private Foundation
 c/o Mike Doyle, Founding Member
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 Alexandria, VA 22314

