

# Alexandria's Families for Safe Streets ("AFSS") Advisory Committee

20 Apr 2021: 6:30 pm to 8 pm

*Location: Zoom*

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Introductions** – 14 people in attendance.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Current balance is \$9,551.49.
- Recent expenses of \$88 were for Facebook advertising.

### **Guest Speakers**

- Lt. Jason North, Alexandria Police Department
  - Latest 30-day pedestrian crash report
    - Monday, March 1 – 3pm at S Walter Reed Dr and King St. Vehicle was turning right on red from S Walter Reed onto westbound N Beauregard. Pedestrian was on a crosswalk. No injuries. Driver was cited for failure to yield to a pedestrian.
    - Wednesday, March 3 – 8:30pm at 700 block of Gibbon Street. Pedestrian was unlawfully crossing a three-lane, one-way road in the middle of the block. Pedestrian was cited for a violation.
    - Tuesday, March 23 – 8:30pm at Church St and S Washington St. Driver was turning left onto S Washington and struck a pedestrian who was lawfully in a crosswalk. Driver was cited for failure to yield to a pedestrian. Pedestrian was taken to a hospital.
  - Automatic Speed Enforcement (ASE) implementation update
    - Research supports ASE will reduce driver speed, number of crashes, and severity.
    - Next step will be to engage the community for input, but this will require some political involvement from city council. Waiting for the green light to proceed and welcome AFSS to be part of the community input.
  - Other Items
    - Update on fatal crash at Washington and Wilkes. The driver was charged with Careless Driving Resulting in Great Bodily Injury (aka Vulnerable Road User law, a class 1 misdemeanor).
      - Background: AFSS advocated for the change in VA law that increased the penalty from failure to yield (\$50 to \$250 fine) to a class 1 misdemeanor that has a maximum penalty of 12 months in jail, 4 points on a license and \$2500 fine. **In addition**, thanks to our colleague, Oscar Gonzales, AFSS initiated questions about why the initial citation issued to the driver was minimal and, after an official review, the charge was upgraded to the Vulnerable Road User violation, a Class 1 category.

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### T&ES – Katy North – Mobility Services

- Katy North is the Division Chief of Mobility Services which is a division of the Transportation & Environmental Department of Alexandria. Katy walked through different programs that fall under Mobility Services.
- Capital Bikeshare
  - 7 station expansion currently underway in the West End
  - 17 new stations planned end of the year using VDOT funding.
  - <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Bikesharing>
- Curbside Management and Parking
  - Covers meters, residential parking, parking garages, parklets, bike parking, and other curb uses (ADA parking requests, loading zones, food trucks, etc.)
  - Works closely with Complete Streets and Vision Zero teams to improve visibility.
    - AFSS is a strong advocate for daylighting parking, i.e. no parking on street corners where crosswalks are located
  - <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Parking>
- GO Alex
  - Includes resident & employer outreach, mobile store, events like Bike to Work Day, and transportation options.
  - <https://www.alexandriava.gov/GOAlex>
- DOT Paratransit Program
  - Transportation Service for Persons with Disabilities throughout Alexandria and neighboring jurisdictions
  - The program is used actively by about 800 persons. About 1600 are registered in the Alexandria DOT program.
  - <https://www.alexandriava.gov/tes/info/default.aspx?id=6538>
- Scooters
  - Phase II Pilot is continuing through the end of 2021 with four companies participating.
  - The Ad Hoc Scooter Task Force will be meeting on Thursday, April 22 @ 7 PM. Register here: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAqc-GvqjoqGN23XmkUKUyu8eqE2na8rzA>
  - Top complaints regarding scooters include parking issues and unsafe riding.
  - One rule that came out of Phase I is that scooters cannot be used on sidewalks, but this has been challenging to enforce.
  - <https://www.alexandriava.gov/scooters>
- COVID & Business Recovery Programs
  - King Street Place (100 block of King Street)
  - Parklets/On-Street Dining
  - Curbside Pick-up & Drop-off Zones

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- Reception has generally been positive to these changes and there have been very few complaints about loss of parking.
- Alexandria Mobility Plan (AMP)
  - This is not part of the mobility services division. But worth mentioning anyway.
  - The draft Alexandria Mobility Plan has been released. Please provide feedback through April 30.
  - <https://www.alexandriava.gov/MobilityPlan>

### Old Business

- Alexandria Moves – “Get Active Challenge”
  - The Get Active Challenge is an 8-week campaign by Alexandria Moves. AFSS was the lead partner for week 2 (April 5-11) with the “Crosswalk Cruise” challenge. Participants were encouraged to go for a walk and identify and photograph pedestrian infrastructure. AFSS members provided 6-8 photos of participation in the “Crosswalk Cruise.”
- Virtual Summit “Accelerating Active Transportation Change in Northern Virginia”
  - The Accelerating Active Transportation change summit was held virtually on March 25. All sessions were recorded and are available to view online: <https://transportation.gmu.edu/activetranspchange/>
  - Mike Doyle highly recommends watching the presentation by Keynote Speaker, Charles T. Brown, on equality and justice in transportation systems.
  - In addition, there were breakout sessions addressing K-8 street safety programs, Near Miss real time, crowd sourcing survey data and other road safety topics.

### New Business

- Spring2ACTion event on April 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Spring2ACTion is AFSS's primary fundraising campaign. Donations are accepted now through the end of April 28. The goal for 2021 is \$4000. To get us started, we have a \$2000 match – every gift that we receive up to \$2000 will be doubled.
  - Please donate at <https://www.spring2action.org/organizations/alexandria-families-for-safe-streets>.
  - We will begin sharing the campaign on social media. **This is AFSS's major funding source of the year.** Our overhead expenses are small because we have no paid staff, just an all-volunteer organization. However, we still need funds to pay for outreach programs like 3-way blinkers, Near Miss data analytics, etc. No donation is too small, high participation is a key for success.
- Audit of Ped Yield Signs to Stop Signs – volunteers needed
  - Volunteers are needed to conduct an audit for the City of all pedestrian yield signs that need to be changed to stop signs. Please reach out if you are interested in helping with the audit. Volunteers from BPAC and the Commission on Aging will also assist.
    - So far we have Brain, Melissa, Jeff Poole, Patrick Wise, and Mike

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- Preview of VT upgraded Near Miss survey app
  - Graduate students have been working on an improved Near Miss survey that will be launched in the next 2-4 weeks.
  - Mike Doyle shared a presentation prepared by the VT team that highlights the new survey's features.
  - The platform uses Esri's data analytics platform, and the survey has been upgraded to include more incidents, such as what a cyclist may observe.
  - Survey data points will automatically pin the incident on a map. The survey also includes data from VDOT's crash history and can run a variety of reports based on type of incident, weather condition, etc. Users can also filter by election districts, city and county boundaries, etc.
  - AFSS and the VT team are in the final phases of completing the upgrade. The rollout will be accompanied by a press release and social media announcement.
  - The VT team has also identified about 180 PTAs from surrounding schools to promote the new survey plus they are recommending various social media ideas.
- Fairfax Innovation Challenge w/ Street Simplified
  - Fairfax County launched a grant opportunity called the Fairfax County Innovation Challenge for ideas that improve safety on the streets. Although AFSS submitted an application we were not selected. Street Simplified, was selected as one of six finalists.
  - Street Simplified collects near miss data from cameras placed at intersections and implements AI data analytics using the video feed. As part of their proposal submission, Street Simplified formally partnered with NoVA FSS / Fairfax FSS.
  - The winner will be announced on Wednesday, April 21 at 1-3pm.
    - **Postscript: Street Simplified won the competition so NoVA FSS's crowd sourcing "Near Miss" data will be part of their solution for Fairfax County**
- Stories Initiative shared by Melissa McMahan
  - The DC Families for Safe Streets website includes an invitation for people to share their story about a loved one who was killed from traffic violence or seriously injured crash survivor. These stories are important for support and advocacy. How do we take the heart wrenching stories of people impacted by traffic violence and turn it into a tool for progress?
  - We can direct people in our network to the DC FSS site to share their stories. Contact Melissa McMahan for more details.

### Upcoming Events

- Spring2Action – AFSS's primary annual fundraiser, April 28, 2021
- Arl FSS Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> Wed of the Month, Apr 28, 2021
- Fairfax FSS Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> Mon of the Month, May 3, 2021
- **Next AFSS Meeting – the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month, May 18, 2021**