

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

18 May 2021: 6:30 pm to 8 pm

Location: Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Introductions – 12 participants

Treasurer's Report

- Current balance is \$13,888.04. This is a considerable boost from our normal run rate of around \$9,000 due to the generosity of donors who contributed during the Spring2Action campaign.

Guest Speakers

- Lt. Jason North, Alexandria Police Department
 - Latest 30-day pedestrian crash report
 - Monday, April 10 – 9pm on S Columbus St. Driver was traveling south on S Columbus, disregarded a stop sign and collided with a cyclist who was crossing the street. The driver fled the scene. Police are conducting a hit and run investigation. Cyclist had minor injuries. Cyclist was not wearing reflective gear (Alexandria requires bicyclists to have a bike light at dark)
 - In general, more hit and runs go unsolved than solved. Home security cameras are often helpful to police in investigations.
 - Sunday, April 18 - 2pm on Vermont Ave. Driver was moving a parked car to merge with traffic and struck a bicyclist. There were no adverse weather conditions, and the road is very curvy. Everyone remained on the scene and the driver was cited with failure to pay fulltime attention.
 - Monday, April 26 – 4pm at Cameron and N St Asaph. Driver turned left and hit a pedestrian who was lawfully within the crosswalk. Driver was cited with failure to yield. There were no injuries.
 - International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) featuring APD.
 - The IACP reached out to the Alexandria Police Department to be featured in a video story about traffic safety efforts. IACP will produce a video that will be viewed nationwide, primarily by the law enforcement community. APD was selected because of their accessibility and responsiveness to the public. AFSS has been asked to be part the video.

Old Business

- Spring2Action Results -- Spring2ACTION is AFSS's primary fundraising campaign.
 - Originally, AFSS set the fundraising goal at \$4,000 and then later increased the goal to \$5,500. In the end, \$6,630 was raised from 36 individual donations.
 - Thanks to all of our generous donors. The money will be used to fund education and outreach efforts such as blinking light giveaways.
 - Melissa suggested we consider distributing pet visibility lights/vests.

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- Update on audit of Ped Yield Signs to Stop Signs
 - Melissa McMahon kicked off training on Friday, May 14 to guide volunteers who will be looking for all Yield to Pedestrian signs and all Stop for Pedestrian signs at all signalized intersections.
 - The fieldwork is nearly 75% complete already and will be complete by May 28th in order to provide the report by June 1. There are about 250 intersections that will be reviewed by 6 volunteers. This is another opportunity to work with T&ES.
- Preview of VT upgraded Near Miss (NM) survey app
 - The new Near Miss survey allows people to input information about near miss incidents so that these data points can be plotted in a GIS map. Users may also choose to provide contact information & sign up for updates from NoVA FSS.
 - The NM survey asks for information such as the reason for the incident (multiple reasons can be selected) and the types of individuals involved (driver, pedestrian, cyclist) as well as other pertinent information about the incident.
 - The map displays the NM entries points that overlays VDOT's TREDIS (Traffic Records Electronic Data System) crash data. The contrast NM compared to crash history will provide information about emerging NM hot spots that could into crash sites. We can also use this data for AFSS's street safety advocacy efforts.
 - We need volunteers to input 200 data NM entries points that are not currently captured in the Esri map. Please reach out to Mike Doyle if you are interested in volunteering. (Casey and Gina are interested.)
 - Outreach will be key to getting more data.
 - The VT team has provided recommendations on how to spread the word about the survey. AFSS also has an intern from the VT team who will help.
 - Making sure the survey is accessible and usable in Spanish will help.
 - If you have any additional ideas for outreach, please contact Mike Doyle.
 - Link to new NM survey: [NM survey](#) Link to the new Esri map: [NM map](#)
- Fairfax Innovation Challenge award w/ Street Simplified
 - The winner of Fairfax County's recent Innovation Challenge is Street Simplified.
 - Street Simplified collects near miss data from cameras placed at intersections using data analytics on the video data. As part of their proposal submission, they partnered with NoVA FSS / Fairfax FSS and the Near Miss Survey. NoVA FSS's crowd sourcing "Near Miss" data will be part of their solution for Fairfax County.

New Business

- AFSS presentation to Maret High School
 - Roger Schlegel of the Maret School in D.C. teaches Upper School. His class of 11th and 12th graders ... "is taking a close look at transportation, safety, and equity issues and has decided to focus on Arlandria."
 - Roger was researching in preparation for his class and found AFSS.
 - Brian Shankman attended Roger's class via Zoom.
 - Focus is on Arlandria/Chirilagua because it has some identified safety/transport needs but also because it is a community that the Council of Governments (COG) has identified for an equity focus.

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- Brian provided background on AFSS and expansion to NoVA FSS. T
 - Explained some of our advocacy work and work for other causes like LPIs
 - Roger Schlegel said: *"Your examples and description of how advocacy works on the ground were very engaging. You gave us a great perspective on the multi-faceted and down-to-the-details nature of working toward total pedestrian safety. On a very immediate level, I could see students during class really thinking afresh about their own safety and behavior as pedestrians -- so thank you very much for raising their awareness."*
- Letters to Policymakers
 - US DOT regarding MUTDC regulations
 - The national organization of Families for Safe Streets drafted a template letter to advocate for a focus on safety in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). MUTCD standards are used by VDOT.
 - NoVA FSS customized and submitted the letter on behalf of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Arlington Families for Safe Streets.
 - VDOT regarding new NOVA District Manager
 - VDOT is about to appoint a new northern Virginia District Manager.
 - NoVA FSS sent a letter to VDOT’s senior executives to advocate for a district manager that is responsive to Northern Virginia road issues.
- Seminary Road as a VZ litmus test: City Council candidates’ public statement
 - Here is summary of publicly stated positions from candidates (updated May 19th)

	Back to 4 lanes - costs of \$750K	No Change, Keep the Bike Lanes	Need More Data Before Deciding
Incumbents and Former	Chapman Jackson Silverberg	Aguirre Wilson	None
New Candidates	Rossello Shiffer Lewis Moran	Campbell Gaskins Harris McPike Teklu	Bagley – Has hinted she would be likely to keep it as is.

- AFSS does not endorse a candidate since we are a 501c3. However, street safety for all is a key issue in the upcoming election that is of interest for many people.
- BPAC sent 6 questions to each candidate about walking and biking in Alexandria. Their responses can be viewed at this link: [BPAC questions to candidates](#)

Upcoming Events

- Arl FSS Meeting – 4th Wed of the Month, May 26, 2021
- Fairfax FSS Meeting – 1st Mon of the Month, June 7, 2021
- NVRC’s Safe Walking Summit III – June 10, 2021. Register: [Here for Safe Walking Summit](#)
- **Next AFSS Meeting – the 3rd Tuesday of the Month, June 15, 2021**