

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

15 June 2021: 6:30 pm to 8 pm

Location: Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Introductions – 16 people in attendance.

Treasurer's Report

- Current balance is \$14,157.15. We are still expecting some additional funds from the Spring2Action fundraising campaign in April.
- Recently received a letter from the IRS. The IRS miscategorized AFSS as a private foundation rather than a public charity in 2017 and it has been challenging and slow to correct. The IRS letter is in response to a letter from AFSS that was sent in Sept 2020 and states that AFSS needs to complete a form and pay a fee. We will fill out the form plus Mike plans to reach out to Don Beyer to help with the bureaucracy.

Guest Speakers

- Lt. Jason North, Alexandria Police Department (Lt. North was unable to attend so Mike Doyle presented a summary of his report from this month's BPAC meeting.)
 - Latest 30-day pedestrian crash report
 - Recently there was a hit and run crash in the west end. The pedestrian was not seriously injured.
 - Update on the crash that occurred on January 1, 2021, at Duke and S. Pickett. The pedestrian who was struck had broken a hip but later returned to the hospital. He recently passed away. The charge was elevated to vulnerable road user. What can be done at Duke and Pickett? Alexandria's Duke Street In Motion survey is an opportunity to share feedback. Discussed further in New Business.

Old Business

- Audit results of Ped Yield Signs to Stop Signs
 - Alexandria requested that AFSS look at about 250 signalized intersections to see if they had "Yield to Pedestrian" signs and "Stop for Pedestrian" signs. New legislation requires the signs to read "Stop for Pedestrian." The purpose of the audit was to assist the city in mobilizing cherry pickers to change outdated signs.
 - Seven different fieldwork volunteers completed the audit and found that only a couple dozen intersections had either type of signage. Of those, there were plenty of yield signs. The data from the fieldwork was sent to the City on June 1.
- Demo of VT upgraded Near Miss / Dangerous Location survey app
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 - NoVA Families for Safe Streets was selected to be part of Virginia Tech Masters of Urban Planning practicum. We worked with the students during the fall and spring terms, just ended in May. The VT Grad Students

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were instrumental in the development near miss / dangerous intersections survey, and researched outreach strategies best practices at similar organizations in the region.

- Link to new NM survey: [NM survey](#) Link to the new Esri map: [NM map](#)
- The new Near Miss survey allows people to input information about near miss incidents so that these data points can be plotted on 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 TREDs (Traffic Records Electronic Data System) crash data. The contrast NM compared to crash history will provide information about emerging NM hot spots that could turn into crash sites. We can also use this data for AFSS's street safety advocacy efforts.
- AFSS partnered with Street Simplified for the Fairfax Innovation Challenge. Street Simplified (who won the challenge) uses cameras to conduct analytics on crashes and near misses. The Street Simplified team will run analytics on the data that NoVA FSS's Near Miss app collects.
- How best to disseminate news of the NM app?
 - The VT developed an outreach strategy that is divided into two main categories:
 - 1) Targeted outreach - building a network of local business and associations (public and government), to increase awareness of the organization.
 - This includes contacts and having a strong liaison network for coordinated future events and advocacy.
 - Also, could result in potential sponsorships.
 - Alexandria has good liaison with the City (T&ES, police, mayor), Alexandria City Public Schools, Safe Routes to School.
 - Suggestions: Wheel Nuts Bike Shop, Pedego Electric Bikes, Conte's Bike Shop, Handy Bikes, Velocity Bike Cooperative, Pacers Running.
 - We need help reaching network partners above, and channels like "Next Door".

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- 2) Traditional and Social Media (press releases, media contacts, mailing lists and newsletters, social media campaigns, easy website navigation).
 - Some of this has moved forward, in particular, the mailing list (MailChimp), Near Miss survey press release, the TV story from Jess Arnold CBS, and social media content that Bob manages.
- Discussion
 - Please share the survey with homeowners' associations.
 - We are also interested in having the announcement and survey translated. Barbara Morrow volunteered to assist with Spanish translation.
 - We are looking for volunteers to staff an AFSS table and spread the word at farmers markets across Alexandria.
 - Print out the flyer with the QR code and put them in bus shelters.
 - Although the survey is not a smartphone app, there is an easy way to save a website to a mobile device home screen similar to an app. Instructions on how to set it up are available here: [LINK](#)

New Business

- Ramification for Vision Zero as a result of City Council elections and the Police Chief resignation.
 - Most of the winners of the election were generally supportive of multi-modal transportation, including Wilson and Aguirre,. There is still an election in November that they will have to win. Several of the newly nominated City Council candidates appear to understand the importance of a VZ plan.
 - Police Chief Mike Brown resigned. His last day will be end of June. Mike Brown has been very supportive of Families for Safe Streets so we will miss him but look forward to working with the new Chief
- Letters regarding VDOT to Terry McAuliffe and Glenn Youngkin
 - Challenges with VDOT tend to be a bigger issue in Fairfax & Arlington than in Alexandria. VDOT controls most roads in Fairfax and several key roads in Arlington. In Alexandria, the only parts of the roads that VDOT controls are exit and onramps on highways.
 - NoVA FSS sent a letter to McAuliffe and will send a letter to Youngkin to request a meeting to discuss challenges with VDOT and discuss policies. Additional letters will be sent to state senators and delegates.
- Comments on the City's Vision Zero updated plan [VZ AnnualProgressReport](#)
 - Alexandria recently published the annual progress report for year three of Vision Zero. A lot of the report is about COVID and its impact on how people travel and on staffing issues.

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- Crashes of all types reduced in 2020. However, the number of deaths did not reduce. There has been more speeding which makes crashes more deadly.
- Some important action items are not very far along in completion such as implementing neighborhood slow zones, safe routes to school walk audits for middle and high schools, and audits at 5 crash intersections.
- Year 4 (CY2021) Priority Items:
 - Install streetlighting improvements (LED retrofits) at 10 locations
 - Install 20 intersections with Lead Pedestrian Intervals (LPIs) and coordinated No Turn on Red (NTORs) to prevent right turn and angle crashes at key locations
 - Install left-turn crash mitigation measures on at least two high crash corridors
 - Install one key sidewalk project near a school, recreation center, senior center, or transit station to improve safety and walkability
 - Prioritize and improve 10 uncontrolled crossing locations with safety countermeasures appropriate to the location (e.g. markings, signage, parking removal, curb extensions, flashing beacons, HAWK signals, etc.)
 - Prioritize and install safety improvements at 20 controlled locations to include: curb extensions, stop sign enhancements, and markings
 - Conduct intersection audits at the top 5 KSI intersections in the City and install low-cost, quick installation improvements at each.
- Duke Street In Motion, a project to ensure transit improvements on the Duke Street corridor.
 - The City's [DukeInMotion](#) Feedback form is open until July 31.
 - Alexandria is doing a strategic visioning process to get feedback on transportation options on Duke street. This is an initial planning stage.
 - Please provide feedback in the survey.
 - AFSS plans to host the lead planner for this initiative at our September meeting.

Upcoming Events

- Arl FSS Meeting – 4th Wed of the Month, June 23, 2021
- Fairfax FSS Meeting – 2nd Mon of the Month, July 12, 2021
- **Next AFSS Meeting – the 3rd Tuesday of the Month, July 20, 2021**