

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

20 July 2021: 6:30 pm to 8 pm

Location: Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Introductions – 16 people in attendance

Treasurer's Report

- As of July 1, the balance is \$15,657.15. Recent regular expenses included Facebook and Zoom for communication.
- AFSS finally received the last \$1,500 from the Spring2Action fundraising campaign.

Guest Speakers

- SRTS Program – Kristin Donley of ACPS
 - The Pedestrian Education (Ped Ed) program was piloted in the 2017-2018 school year. It was created as a unit for second grade students and has been rolled out to all schools this year.
 - Curriculum piloted by two elementary schools (2017-2018)
 - 4th graders did a Civic Trek Community Service project at MVCS where they had focus groups, completed walk audits, voted on a town name, and created:
 - A Pedestrian Safety book for the “library”
 - A Pedestrian Safety video for the “movie theatre”
 - Informative Posters to be hung in the hallways of the school during the unit
 - Professional Development session to share curriculum with all elementary school PE teachers (2019)
 - SRTS funding bought Ped Packs
 - Schools started teaching in-person Ped Ed
 - Virtual Ped Ed in all elementary (2020)
 - Middle School Ped Ed In-Person (2021)
 - Implementation through 6th grade HPE classes
 - Elementary Ped Ed Stats
 - Typically, students in 2nd grade participate in the Ped Ed unit.
 - Yet, 2020-2021 all K-5 students participated virtually
 - Roughly 15% of ACPS students had not been exposed to pedestrian education prior to the 2020-2021 school year.
 - 1,256 students were post-assessed and 78% passed all 7 questions after our virtual PedEd unit this 2020-2021 school year.
 - Elementary PedEd Unit Outline
 - The following pedestrian safety skills are taught:
 - Define a pedestrian
 - Teaching/reminding students their left and right

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- Explain and demonstrate how to safely cross the street
 - Using AFSS's "Stop, Look, Wave" flyer image
 - Identify traffic signs and signals
 - List ways to safely play outside
 - Kristin said that VDOT has cut back on funding the Safe Routes to Schools Program (SRTS), but she is appealing to the ACPS School Board for financial assistance
 - If necessary, AFSS may be able to help advocate for SRTS funding by contacting City Council Members, ACPS Board Members, PTA, and the community at large
 - Kristin also mentioned that AFSS will be asked to help with the "Walk to School Day" event this coming fall
- APD – Lt. Jason North
 - Latest 30-Day Pedestrian crash report
 - Saturday, June 12 at 10pm at Duke and S Gordon. Scooterist was travelling the wrong way on Duke and collided head on with vehicle. No serious injuries. Scooterist was charged.
 - Friday, June 11 at 11am at Cameron and Henry. Vehicle turning left onto Henry struck two pedestrians that were lawfully in the crosswalk. Both pedestrians transported to the hospital with minor injuries. Driver cited with failure to yield to pedestrians x2.
 - Saturday, June 19 at 3pm at E Glebe and Route 1. Vehicle turning right onto Route 1 struck a pedestrian who was lawfully in the crosswalk. No injuries. Driver cited with failure to yield to pedestrian.
 - Tuesday, June 22 at 12pm at Beauregard and Roanoke. Driver leaving parking lot and made eye contact with pedestrian but continued on and crashed into the pedestrian. Driver fled the scene. Currently an active hit and run investigation. No injuries.

Old Business:

- Results of NM survey data – Brian Shankman presented
 - Near Miss Survey Background
 - Crowd-sourced data focused on vulnerable road users
 - Easy-to-use survey adds local jurisdiction data with VDOT crash data underneath NM on a map
 - New version created in conjunction with Virginia Tech's Master of Urban Planning in 2021
 - Development of Near Miss Survey using ArcGIS Survey123 Tool from ESRI
 - ESRI = Environmental Systems Research Institute
 - GIS = Geographic Information System
 - Officially launched on June 14, 2021
 - Initial results from the survey

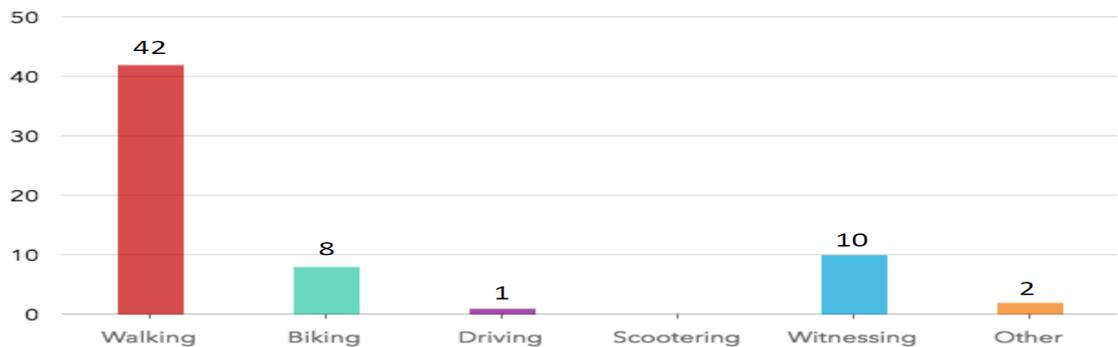
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- For jurisdictions of Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax, almost 100 new near miss incidents have been reported since the new survey launched.
 - The majority of incidents are reported by pedestrians.
 - In 95% of the incidents, drivers are at fault with the primary cause being failure to yield, speeding, running red lights, and running stop signs.
- The majority of incidents occur during rush hour periods. Some graphs to show NM statistics for June 2021

City of Alexandria Entries (63)

Person Reporting Was:

Column Bar Pie Map

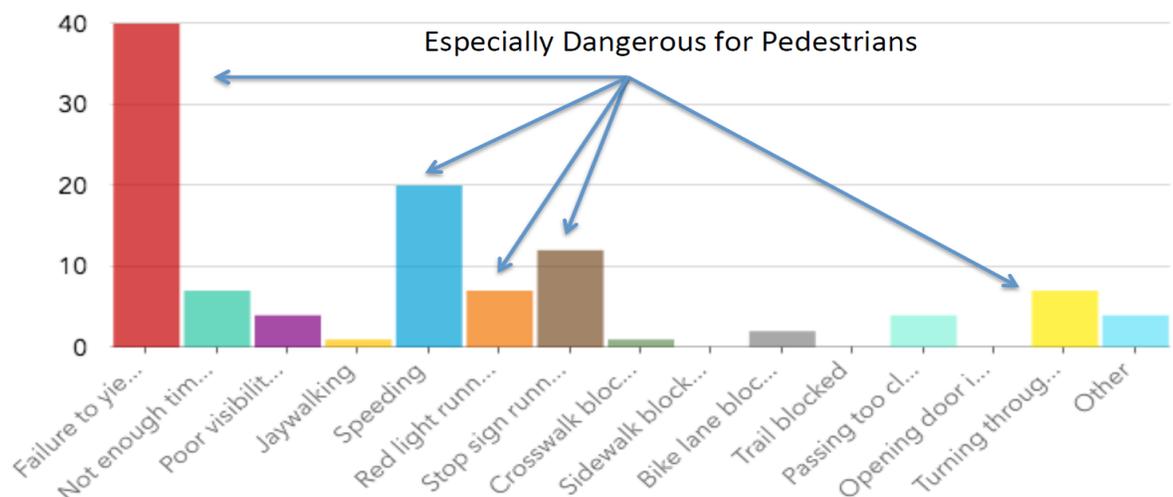


Of the 63 entries, 40 are since May 1, and 32 since June press release

Alexandria -- 95% Are Driver Issues

Nature of the Incident:

Column Bar

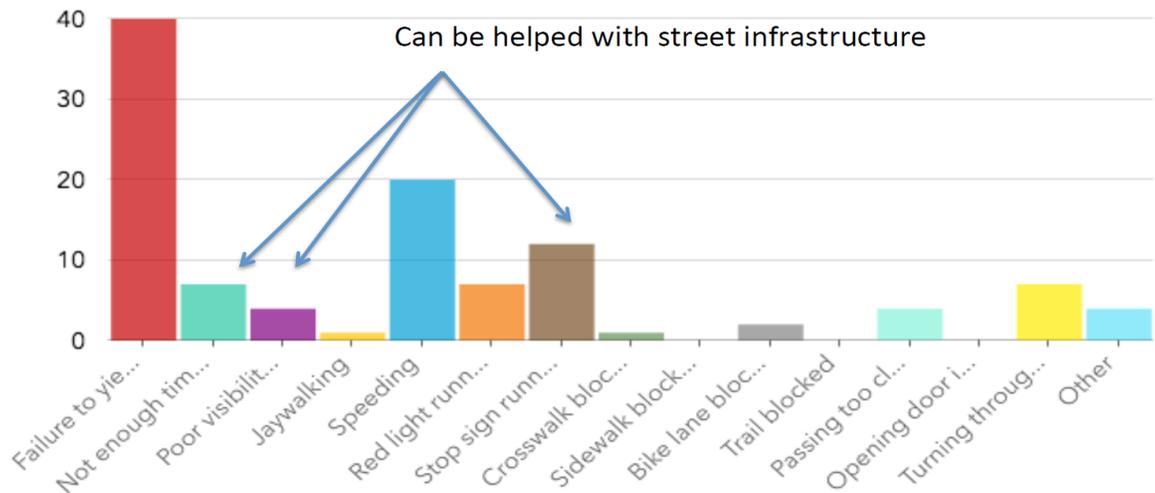


- 65% of drivers reported **failed to yield to pedestrians** in a crosswalk or sidewalk

Alexandria -- 95% Are Driver Issues

Nature of the Incident:

Column Bar



- About 20% of concerns appear to be street infrastructure related.

- Update on NoVA FSS' effort to discuss VDOT issues with nominees for Governor
 - We've made contact with Terry McAuliffe on behalf of the NoVA FSS Chapters. Advocacy is focused on the relationship between VDOT and primarily Fairfax and Arlington. Alexandria does not have many roads controlled by VDOT except for exit and on-ramps. We are advocating for VDOT to be more flexible in urban settings, more understanding of multi-modal transportation, and less focused on vehicle traffic flow as the only priority. Other issues for the Governor nominees include adding automated speed enforcement (ASE) at the jurisdiction level. We hope to reach out to Glenn Youngkin as well.
- Comments on the City's VZ updated plan: [VZ Annual Progress Report](#)
 - This report is published annually to provide updates to the city's Vision Zero policy. Most of the report's attention is on infrastructure. If you have comments let us know or talk directly to T&ES.
- Duke Street plan survey - our chance to provide input.
 - Alexandria is beginning a visioning process for Duke Street corridor transportation. This is similar to the process for transit ways along Beauregard and through Braddock station. The City wants feedback on what the corridor needs to be to serve the community.
 - The City's [DukeInMotion](#) feedback form is open until July 31.

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New Business:

- How can AFSS help the City with its Vision Zero (VZ) plan? Ans: high crash intersection street audits as one example.
- Is the City contemplating reducing speed limits on selected streets to 15 mph now that jurisdictions can legally take such measures?
 - If so, where? We welcome your thoughts on locations that might benefit from a lower speed limit. Please share your thoughts with AFSS.
- AFSS street safety fall outreach campaign
 - Please share thoughts on events at which AFSS can participate and other opportunities to raise awareness.
 - Farmers' Markets, daylight savings time switch, World Day of Remembrance event in November
 - Brian Shankman – Most of the people who are finding the near miss survey found it through Nextdoor. Volunteers can respond to complaints that are posted in Nextdoor to direct people to AFSS and the Near Miss survey.
 - Melissa McMahan – Eventually resume in person gatherings as it is a good opportunity for people to meet each other, could be a good opportunity to bring in keynote speakers and City Council members. Host a street closure event and partner with an organization or group such as the Safe Routes to School team to create a temporary traffic garden installation with information booths that feature the Near Miss survey.
 - Joseph Witkowski – Farmers markets, festivals, public outreach at events like the Parkway Classic, parades, etc.

Upcoming Events

Please help spread the pedestrian street safety message by volunteering to staff a AFSS table

1. Police Night Out – Aug 3rd (5-8 pm) at venues around the City (contact us for locations)
2. "Walk the Block", ACPS's school opening – August 24th (need social media volunteers)
3. **Farmers' Market table staffing for 2 hour shifts** apiece at:
 - a. West End FM – Sundays: Aug 22nd & Nov TBD
 - b. Old Town FM – Saturdays: Oct 9th & Nov 6th
 - c. Del Ray FM – Saturdays: Sept 18th & Oct 30th
4. Senior Services Alexandria's Walkathon at Ben Brenman Park: 10 – 11 am on Sept 25th

FSS Meetings

- Arl FSS – No July meeting, next meeting Aug 25th
- Fairfax FSS Meeting – No August meeting, next meeting Sept 12th
- **Next AFSS Meeting – No August meeting, next meeting Sept 21st**