

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

21 September 2021: 6:30 pm to 8 pm

Location: Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Introductions – 25 people in attendance.

Treasurer's Report

- At the end of August, the balance was approximately \$16,000.
- The expenses this month were about \$1000 for liability insurance, advertising through Facebook, and printed education materials.
- Donations include generous contributions by a private citizen (\$500) and the Kiwanis Club (\$1,000)

Guest Speakers

- Safe Routes to School – Jane Davis and Kristin Donley
 - National Walk to School Day is on Oct 6th. Jane and Kristin are working with each school in Alexandria to promote the event. Includes handouts with Stop Look and Wave for students.
 - Due to COVID, no visitors can participate in promotion in the schools.
 - Pedestrian Education (Ped Ed) units will be created and presented to Alexandria schools.
 - Most schools are focused on biking in the Ped Ed curriculum right now.
 - Kristin will share the Ped Ed curriculum with AFSS.
 - AFSS has fliers that are appropriate for K-5 students and could donate 3-way blinkers to give to a selective group of students, but we don't have the resources to fund all the students. AFSS hopes to engage with the various PTA groups by communicating about the Near Miss survey app with PTA points of contact.
- APD – Lt. Jason North
 - There were two pedestrian fatalities this month.
 - Wednesday, September 1 in the early morning. Pedestrian was crossing the street at the crosswalk at Seminary and Fairbanks. Motorist crashed into the pedestrian as the pedestrian was in the fourth lane in the crosswalk. The victim was declared deceased on scene. The driver remained on scene. This is an open investigation with the crash reconstruction team.
 - A few days after the crash, APD went to the scene with representatives from T&ES to observe the location and discuss improvements to this stretch of dangerous roadway. Improvements may include signage, a fully controlled intersection, trimming foliage, installing lights and a beg button for pedestrians to cross, etc.
 - In response to this crash, Jason also deployed Ped education activities on Seminary Road with officers in plain clothes in crosswalk scenarios. The education team issued many, many violations to motorists within a few hours.
 - AFSS would like to write a letter advocating that the speed limit in this area be reduced to 25 mph. Please contact us (contact@novafss.org) if you are interested in collaborating on the letter.

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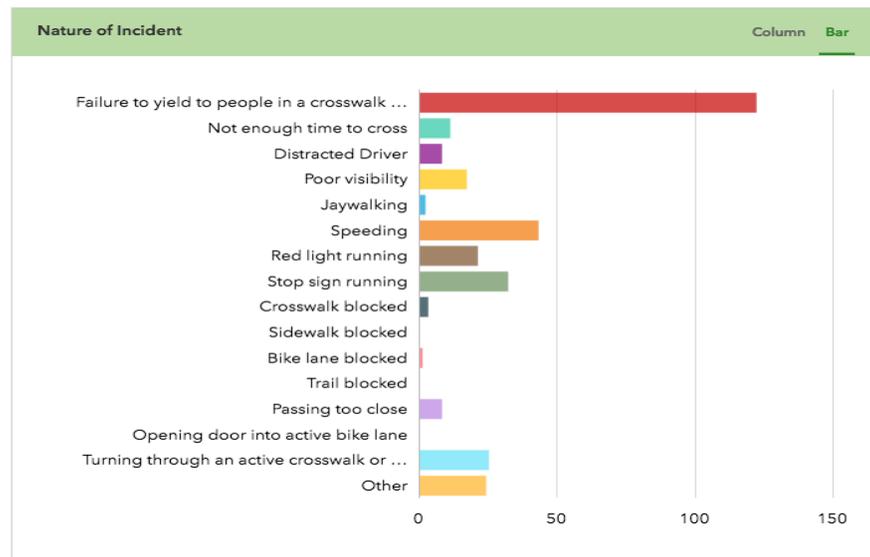
- Tuesday, September 7 in the evening around sunset. Pedestrian was crossing Cameron Street in the 1700 block where the road curves. There is no crosswalk in this section of road. The victim was seriously injured and died a few days later. The driver remained on the scene. This is an open investigation with the crash reconstruction team.
- Emerging auto safety technology that will reduce pedestrian fatalities – Les Jackson
 - Les has driven every car that is on the roads in the US and is involved in testing the new technology that auto manufacturers are building to improve road safety.
 - It is unlikely that we will have self-driving cars until around 2030.
 - By the end of next year, every car on the market will have automatic emergency braking with pedestrian detection. In Les' experience, this technology works well except in bad weather. It can react faster than a human which makes a significant impact in stopping a moving vehicle. This technology will also work with backup cameras. Backup cameras and automatic emergency braking are now mandated.
 - Blind spot detection has been available for 10+ years. It was formerly an accessory but now it is standard.
 - Lane keeping/lane keeping assist/automatic steering is not standard yet but likely will become standard in the future. It is very effective. However, it tends to wander in the lane because it uses GPS. GPS is currently only accurate to +/- 18 inches which is why cars cannot be autonomous yet.
 - Heads up display (virtual image right in front of your eyes so you don't need to look at the dashboard) is an available option on vehicles. Many dealers may not even be aware of this option.
 - Any questions? Reach out to Les at ljcarguy@gmail.com
- Duke Street in Motion – Mark Schnauer, Bus rapid transit coordinator for Alexandria
 - Mark was hired to implement the second and third bus rapid transit corridors in Alexandria. The second is the metro way transit corridor along Route 1 and through National Landing.
 - The third corridor is along Duke Street. The project is called Duke Street in Motion.
 - Alexandriava.gov/dukeinmotion
 - The project was kicked off in late June with an online feedback form that was open for 5 weeks. The team wanted at least 500 responses but received 1800. The report will be presented to the public in the next month.
 - Key takeaways from the survey:
 - Most responses were about traffic rather than transit.
 - Many responses were about how to get to transit stops – feeling unsafe getting to stops and waiting at stops.
 - Transit amenities and how to encourage people to get out of personally owned vehicles.
 - The next step will be an 18-month planning project. There is a plan from 2012 that is outdated and too focused on vehicle operations so the team will be going back to the drawing board.
 - The team will use the report to develop the vision, values, and goals for the project implementation including safe and comfortable stations, safe access to stations, and more frequent service.

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

- The team will be hiring a planning and design consultant to help design solutions that can support traffic flow while providing enhanced bus service.
- Questions? Contact: mark.schnauffer@alexandriava.gov

Old Business:

- Latest NM survey results - Brian Shankman
 - The Near Miss survey collects crowd-sourced data focused on vulnerable road users.
 - Easy-to-use survey adds local jurisdiction data with VDOT crash data underneath NM survey responses on a map.
 - Latest version created by 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 June 14, 2021
 - Links:
 - The survey is available on the Fairfax FSS website: <https://www.alxffss.org/near-miss-and-dangerous-intersection-survey/>
 - The full view of the Near Miss dashboard is here: [Near Miss Dashboard](#)
 - A direct link to the survey is here: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/a6dfdc029269422fa0dcb37e61cdd76f>
 - Summary of data from the survey:
 - There are 426 reports as of Sept 21st from the survey including NM data entries from before the survey was re-launched. Pre-launch the NM entries was ~130 data points. Since mid-June the volume of reports more than doubled from the original survey which existed for a couple of years.
 - Most reports are from Alexandria, but Fairfax is getting good traction as well.
 - 71% of all reports in Alexandria reported by people who was walking or biking.
 - In Alexandria, most reports indicated that there was a failure to yield to people in a crosswalk, speeding, stop sign/red light running, and turning through an active crosswalk.



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

- Most incidents occurred on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.
 - Most incidents occurred during rush hours and around lunchtime. We are interested in seeing how the time change and shorter days will impact the data in the next few months.
 - Most people reported that they found out about the survey through social media, AFSS outreach, friends, and Next Door. There were many, varied responses to this question including hearing from their building manager, the Mayor's newsletter, FFXNow, ALXNow, WDR and Farmers Market plus Civic Associations.
- Update on VDOT issues with Governor nominees
 - Representatives from AFSS briefly met with McAuliffe and discussed the challenges that VDOT represents in Fairfax and Arlington since VDOT controls most of the roads in those jurisdictions. VDOT tends to be more focused on rural areas than urban.
 - AFSS also sent letter to Glenn Youngkin's staff and have not heard back from him.

New Business:

- AFSS's uncontrolled crosswalk audit / VZ top 20 – Melissa McMahon
 - AFSS has partnered with the City to gather information about the needs for safe streets. This is usually done with volunteers who conduct fieldwork with the guidance of the City's complete streets staff.
 - In 2020, a team of volunteers documented all uncontrolled crosswalks in Alexandria. Uncontrolled crosswalks are when there is a crosswalk but no light or stop sign for vehicles. 14 volunteers identified over 400 uncontrolled crosswalks
 - The City used this data to select the top 20 crosswalks that need action to improve safety. The number rated dangerous intersection was Seminary Road and Fairbanks (the scene of the Sept 1st pedestrian fatality)
- US Congressional Zero Traffic Deaths resolution
 - AFSS is supporting the National Families for Safe Streets effort to advocate for a national Vision Zero program.
 - Representatives from AFSS will be meeting with Sen Warner's legislative aide and we are attempting to engage with Beyer and Kaine.
- AFSS street safety fall outreach campaign
 - Representatives will have outreach events at farmers markets this fall. This is an important time for outreach because crashes increase in the fall around the daylight savings time change.
 - We will be at Old Town FM: Oct 9th & Nov 6th. Del Ray: Oct 30th
 - If you can help staff our table for 2 hours, please email: contact@novafss.org
 - The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is on Sunday, November 21. AFSS is considering to host another event. Please contact us if you would like to help with planning.

Upcoming Events

- Backyard Meetup w/City Council Candidates for Safe Streets – Friday, Sept 24th 7-9PM
 - Sponsored by Jim Durham
 - Link to invitation: <https://pp.events/av7wm4Om>
- Arl FSS Meeting – Next meeting on Tuesday, Sept 28th
- Fairfax FSS Meeting – Next meeting on Monday, Oct 4th
- **AFSS Meeting – Next meeting on Tuesday, Oct 19th**