

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

19 October 2021: 6:30 pm to 8 pm

Location: Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Introductions –14 people in attendance. Mike Doyle, Gina Hoffman, Norm Lisy, Bob Trencheny, Brian Shankman, Melissa McMahan, Dane Lauritzen, Anna Puodziunas, Cedar Dvorin, Christian Paletta, Jane Davis (SRTS coordinator), Michael Budinski, Patrick Wise, Lisa Sweeney

Treasurer's Report

- Current balance in the bank is \$12,579.40 which includes all total assets. Recent expenses include a recurring payment to Facebook for advertising, a fee to the Virginia State Corporation Commission for our articles of incorporation, and \$2400 for blinkers that will be distributed at upcoming events.
- We might participate in Giving Tuesday fund raising program at the end of Nov to help fund more blinkers and printing costs for the Near Miss 3x5 cards.

Guest Speakers

- APD – Lt. Jason North
 - Jason was unable to attend and provide a briefing on recent incidents in Alexandria.
- Safe Routes to School – Jane Davis
 - Walk to School Day was October 6th. The SRTS team put in a lot of effort engaging with PTA across 13 schools, distributing communications to families in each individual school. AFSS volunteers Lisa Sweeney, Maureen and Mike Doyle participated in Walk to School Day. Volunteers were stationed at Hammond and re-routed 5 buses so that students could walk from Hammond to Polk. Currently, ACPS is still limiting the number of volunteers that can interface with students due to COVID. Volunteers distributed the Stop Look and Wave flyers.
 - The bike education program teaches biking to students across seven schools, primarily in third grade. BPAC is supporting this effort.
 - Volunteers are needed during the day. Please reach out if you are interested
 - As the days get shorter, we are entering a high crash period. SRTS team is working through PTAs to educate communities. They would like to promote the Near Miss Survey and work with Alex Carroll (T&ES) to help families understand how to report a near miss in addition to the AFSS survey. However, communication through ACPS must be done equitably so it is important to get the NM survey translated as soon as possible.
 - SRTS is also partnering more with TES to ensure that routes to schools are safe. The crosswalk audits don't include middle schools and the newest school in Alexandria right now but eventually they should.

Old Business:

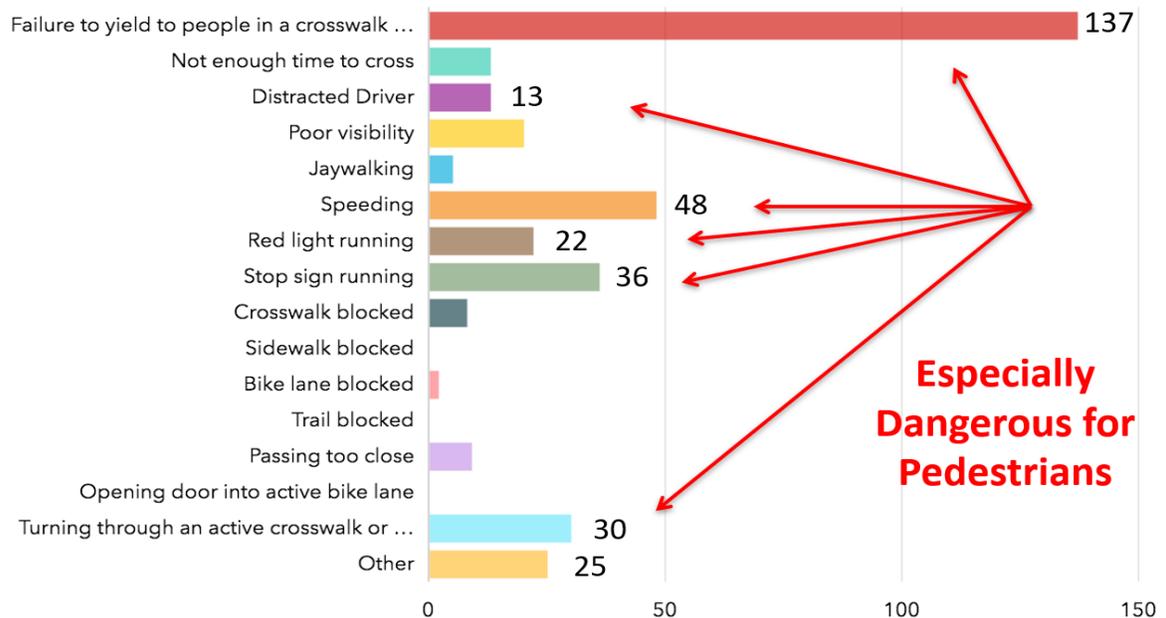
- Latest NM survey results – Brian Shankman
 - Crowd-sourced data, survey launched in June 2021.
 - Alexandria has had 200 NM survey entries from June to 19 Oct 2021.
 - Most respondents identified as pedestrians, while 2nd most common were cyclists.
 - 86% of entries provide detailed descriptions of their incidents.

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

- The three most significant ways respondents have heard of the NM survey are: outreach from AFSS members, Nextdoor, and local news and media.
- Regarding circumstances of the NM incidents in Alexandria, crosswalks, traffic lights, and stop signs were the top three locations.
- An overwhelming majority of near miss reports indicated a failure to yield to peds.
- Excellent questions and discussions with Anna, Christian, Patrick & Michael Budinski

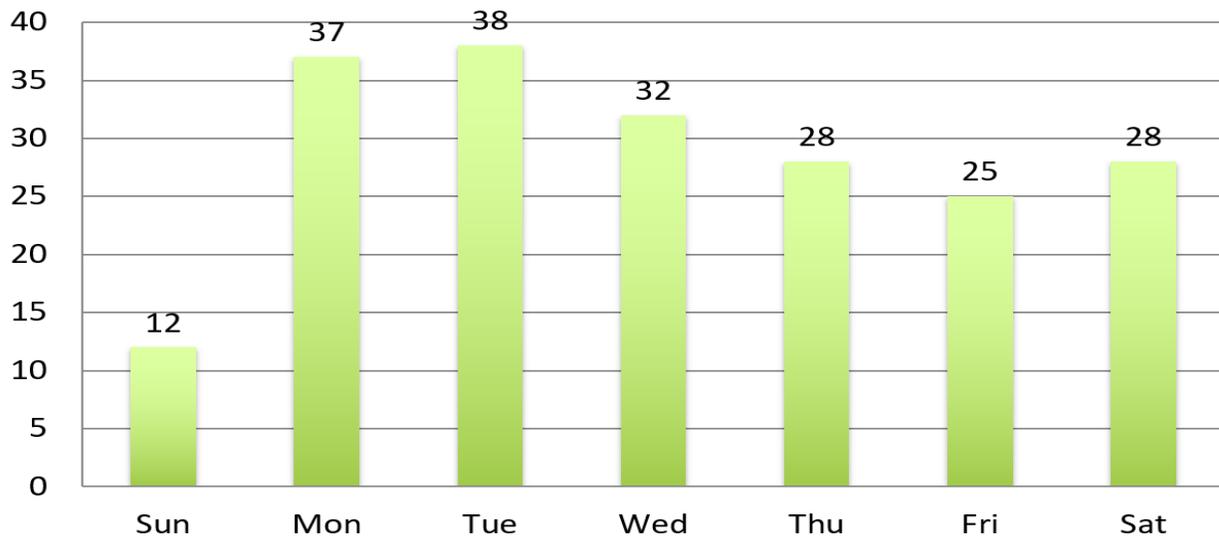
Nature of the Incident:

Column Bar



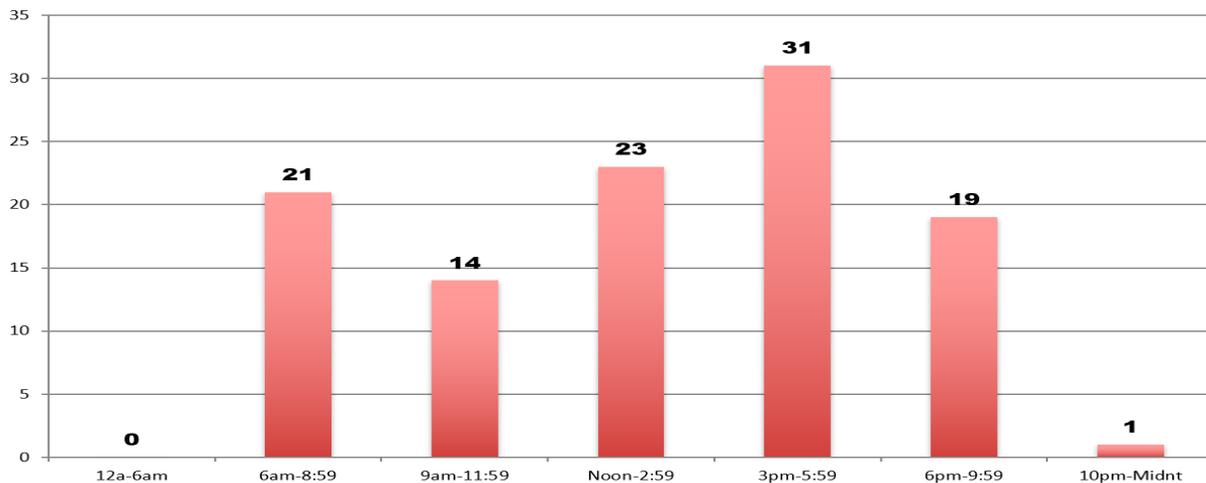
- 69% of drivers reported **failed to yield to pedestrians** in a crosswalk or sidewalk⁸

Near Miss Data by Day of Week



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

Time of Day of Incident (Alexandria)



Overall, majority of incidents occur during rush hour periods in all jurisdictions. Potential increases in the Fall/Winter plus Standard Time (Nov. 7, 2021).

- U.S. Congressional Zero Traffic Deaths resolution
 - There is a movement to implement a national **zero traffic fatalities** resolution in Congress. This was started by the National Families for Safe Streets organization and other interested organizations. The appeal is to try to get your local congressional representatives to support it. **AFSS has approached Senator Warner, Senator Kaine, and Representative Beyer. All three have co-sponsored the resolution.**
- Update on General Assembly 2022 Traffic Reg Advocacy - priorities for advocacy:
 - Contributory negligence
 - Automatic speed enforcement
 - Encourage a statewide vision zero plan.
- TPB Grant Application update
 - **Thanks to APD for being the lead sponsor** on a \$60k grant application through MWCOG. If AFSS wins the grant the funds would go directly to MWCOG hired consultants, we never actually touch the funds. The grant would be used to develop correlations analytics on the near miss survey compared to TREDs plus improve accessibility of the survey through translation. Alexandria City's T&ES also wrote a letter of support for the grant application and then City Council approved the grant application. AFSS received letters of support from Fairfax (Lee District Supervisor and the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors). Arlington did not sponsor the NM grant application.

New Business:

- AFSS street safety fall outreach campaign
 - **AFSS needs volunteers** to promote AFSS at upcoming Farmers' Markets:
 - Del Ray Farmers Market – Oct 30th – **need 2 volunteers to help staff table**
 - Old Town Farmers Market – Nov 6th – **need 1 volunteer to help staff table**
 - West End Farmers Market – Nov 14th - **need 2 volunteers to help staff table**
 - Arlandria Farmers Market – TBD **need 2 volunteers to help staff table**

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

- Daylight Savings Time Change – 3-way blinker promotion
 - Please share your thoughts on how we can promote safety around the time change. We have lots of blinkers to distribute.
- **World Day of Remembrance event – Nov 21st**; location TBD
 - Typically, the WDR event is held on a Sunday afternoon. Usually, a brief march in the location of a crash. However, we want to make sure the event is safe for participants. We can also hang white shoes as a memorial.
 - Sunday afternoon, usually around 1pm. Usually invite the police and we have a small march. Often have it at a spot where there was a crash. But we want to make sure it is safe for participants. We can also hang white shoes as a memorial.
 - Another idea is to have an art/memorial installation. Perhaps we can get permission to do it on Old Town Market Square. It is important to show how many people who have been killed by traffic violence and how their families are impacted.
 - **Please let us know if you are interested in planning or if you know an artist who can help make this happen.**
 - AFSS invited President Joe Biden through Rep. Don Beyer to participate in a World Day of Remembrance event on Nov 21st, but this is a long shot.
- Letters to City Council – Melissa McMahan
 - AFSS two letters to City Council recently.
 - The first is an endorsement of the Alexandria Mobility Plan that helps shift focus away from a car-oriented mentality. Click [City Council support letter for AMP](#)
 - The second letter draws attention to the recent deaths in September and to remind the council of their commitment to Vision Zero. The letter includes a request to prioritize increasing the complete streets staff that is necessary to reach Vision Zero. Click [Letter-to-Council-re-Sept-Pedestrian-Deaths](#)
 - AFSS supporting a letter from BPAC to City Council that supports Vision Zero funding.

Upcoming Events

- Arl FSS Meeting – Next meeting on Tuesday, Oct 26th
- Fairfax FSS Meeting – Next meeting on Monday, Nov 1st
- **AFSS Meeting – Next meeting on Tuesday, Nov 16th**
- **World Day of Remembrance Memorial – Sunday, Nov 21st, location TBD**