

Season's Greetings, Alexandria!

Autumn 2021

Let's get started

Winter is headed our way, along with holidays and inclement weather. It's time to double down on our efforts and ensure that our streets are safe for us all, regardless of how we get to where we're going.



What We Have Accomplished

A Leading Transportation Data Analytics Company Will Utilize AFSS's Near Miss Data

- Fairfax Innovation Challenge award with Street Simplified
 - The winner of Fairfax County's 2021 Transportation Innovation Challenge is Street Simplified, a transportation data analytics company out of Berkeley, CA.
 - Street Simplified collects near miss data from cameras placed at intersections using data analytics on the video data. As part of their proposal submission, Street Simplified partnered with NoVA FSS / Fairfax FSS / AFSS and the Near Miss Survey. NoVA FSS's crowd sourcing "Near Miss" data will be part of their solution for Fairfax County.

AFSS Traffic Regulation Advocacy at the Local, State, and National Levels

- Letters to Policymakers
 - U.S. DOT regarding MUTDC regulations
 - Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards are used by VDOT to designing road safety
 - NoVA FSS submitted the letter on behalf of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Arlington Families for Safe Streets advocating that MUTDC incorporate more pedestrian/vulnerable road user friendlier standards.
 - VDOT regarding new NOVA District Manager
 - VDOT was 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.
 - Letters regarding VDOT to Terry McAuliffe and Glenn Youngkin
 - Challenges with VDOT tend to be a bigger issue in Fairfax and 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.
- Letters to Alexandria City Council and Commissions
 - 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 letter to Traffic & Parking Board regarding support for reducing the speed limit on Seminary Road west of 395 from 35 mph to 25 mph.
 - U.S. Congressional Zero Traffic Fatalities 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.**

Public Outreach at ACPS

- Safe Routes to School Program
- Walk to School Day was October 6. AFSS volunteers Lisa Sweeney, Maureen, and Mike Doyle participated in Walk to School Day at Polk. Currently, ACPS is still limiting the number of volunteers that can interface with students due to COVID-19.

Traffic Regulation Advocacy for the upcoming Virginia State General Assembly

- Update on General Assembly 2022 Traffic Reg Advocacy - priorities for advocacy:
 - Contributory negligence
 - Automatic speed enforcement in residential neighborhoods and business districts
 - Advocate for a statewide Vision Zero Plan.

Grant Application

Thanks to Alexandria's Police Department 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 County (Lee District Supervisor and the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors). Arlington did not sponsor the NM grant application. AFSS thanks volunteer Patrick Wise for drafting and formatting the TPB grant application. Thanks Patrick!

Fall Public Outreach Campaign Regarding Street Safety

Thanks to the following AFSS volunteers to help staff AFSS's table at:

- West End Farmers Market: Aaron Zajdel and Joe Witkowski
- Old Town Farmers Market: Dane Laitzen (2x), Rebecca Young-Marquardt (2x), Joe Witkowski, Emily Mitzner
- Del Ray Farmers Market: Brian Shankman, Kathy Cantwell & Aaron Zajdel

- Daylight Savings Time Change – 3-way blinker promotion
 - Distributed ~ 1,000 blinkers at ACPS plus public outreach at Farmers Markets, etc.
 - Plans to distribute another 500 blinkers to ALIVE, Carpenter Shelter, Casa Chirilagua and additional public outreach channels

Additional thanks to AFSS volunteer Abigail Casas for editing and formatting this Autumn Newsletter for AFSS. Thank you Abigail!

Looking Ahead

World Day of Remembrance event – November 21; Zoom virtual session

- Join local victims and survivors of traffic crashes via zoom, to mark World Day of Remembrance, hosted by AFSS and three other local Virginia chapters of Families for Safe Streets. Remember those lives lost in senseless traffic crashes and help turn these tragic losses into productive conversations with local and state politicians to help build the solution to save lives. Together we can make walking and biking safer, improving safety outcomes for all road users in our community. **Register here [Eventbrite WDoR](#) and you will receive a zoom invite.**
- AFSS invited President Joe Biden through Rep. Don Beyer's office to participate in a World Day of Remembrance event on November 21, but this is a long shot.

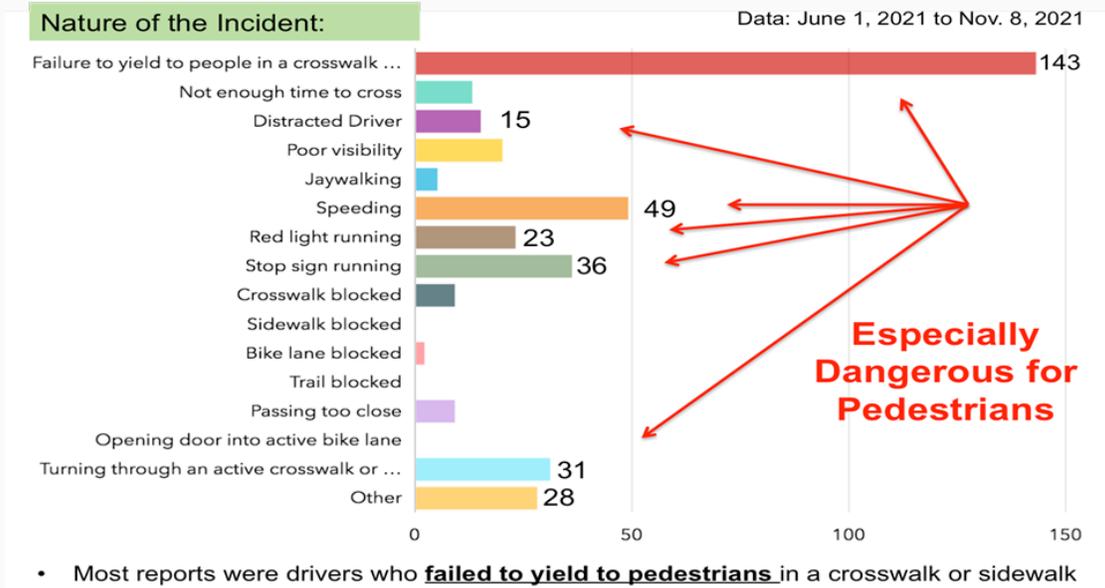
Featured Story

Near Miss Survey Reports Increase 4-fold in 5 Months

Roll out of the upgraded Near Miss Survey app that provides real time crowd sourced data about dangers on our streets

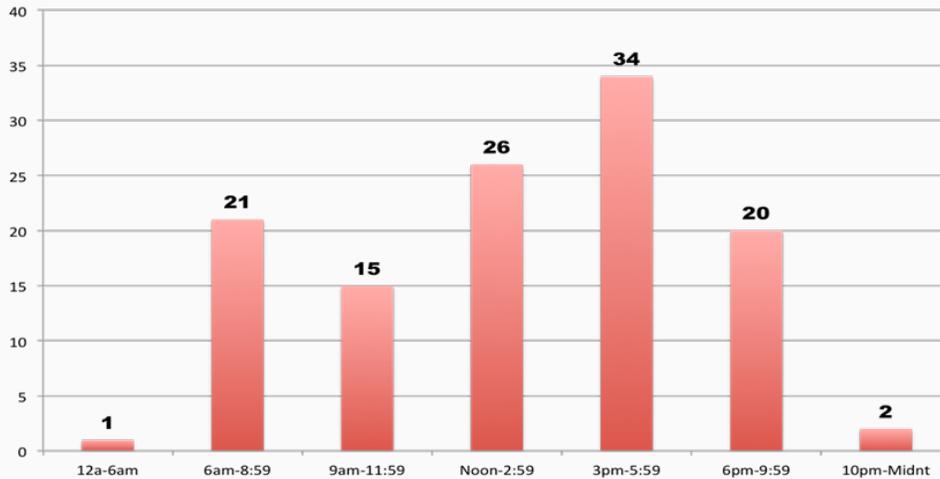
- Thanks to the work of Virginia Tech Graduate School of Urban Planning Capstone Studio class of 10 graduate students, AFSS (and its affiliated NoVA FSS chapters of Arlington and Fairfax) introduced the Esri Near Miss platform.
- The new Near Miss survey allows people to input information about near 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.
- Link to new NM survey: [NM survey](#)
- Link to the new Esri map: [NM map](#)

Since June 2021 when the Near Miss Esri platform app was launched, NoVA FSS has increased by 4-fold the number of reported Near Miss incidents.



Time of Day of Incident (Alexandria)

Data: June 1, 2021 to Nov. 8, 2021



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

How YOU Can Help Make Our Streets Safer

Giving Tuesday is right around the corner! Giving Tuesday is the United States' largest day of giving annually.

Launched in 2012 as “a day that encourages people to do good,” Giving Tuesday has grown into a global movement that raises millions of dollars for charitable causes every year. With 75 countries, over 240 community campaigns in the United States, and millions of people participating, it is a day of generosity following major shopping holidays that centers our focus on our communities. The important details to remember for Giving Tuesday:

- No amount is too small. Every penny you contribute to local organizations helps them further their mission.
- You can help us by sharing the information with your friends and family.
- Giving Tuesday takes place the **Tuesday after Thanksgiving, November 30.**

This Giving Tuesday, please consider supporting Alexandria Families for Safe Streets programs and services, trying to make our streets safer for all.



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