

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

16 November 2021: 6:30 pm to 8 pm

*Location: Zoom*

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Introductions** –18 people in attendance.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Current balance in the bank is \$12,037. Recent expenses include a recurring payment to Facebook for advertising and signage for the World Day of Remembrance event. Signs will be placed at intersections where pedestrians and cyclists have been killed.
- Some donors have asked how to designate which Families for Safe Streets chapter they would like to support. For now, all PayPal donations are routed to NoVA FSS, and donors should indicate the specific chapter in the "Add a note" section.

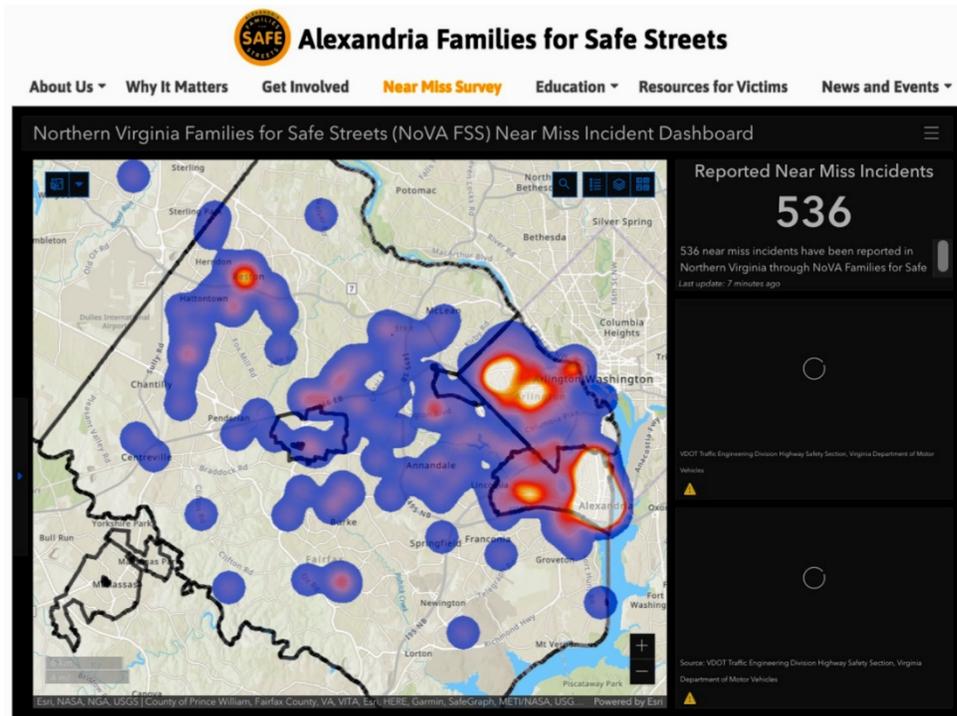
### **Guest Speakers**

- APD – Sgt. Tommy Ground
  - Recent crashes
    - Friday, October 1 at 12:15pm. Driver traveling South on S Walker, turned left onto Stevenson, and crashed into a pedestrian crossing the street in the crosswalk. Driver was distracted by child in the backseat. Pedestrian was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Driver was charged with failure to yield to pedestrian within a crosswalk.
      - AFSS members asked why the driver wasn't charged with "Vulnerable Road Uses" law. Ans: the citation is up to the responding officer
    - Friday, October 22. Driver traveling northbound in the 100 block of N Jordan Street. Intoxicated pedestrian walked between 2 parked vehicles in the middle of the block and was struck by the vehicle. Pedestrian was transported to the hospital. No citation given to the driver
      - Note: It is legal to cross mid-block although it is not recommended. Pedestrians must not interfere with the flow of traffic and must walk straight across the street.
    - Saturday, October 23. Pedestrian was at Normandy Hill and Duke. Pedestrian and driver made eye contact with the driver. Driver "bumped" the pedestrian. Pedestrian was uninjured but a heated argument ensued. Officer mediated the situation, and no citation was issued.
    - Thursday, October 28 at 12:20pm. Driver was traveling northbound approaching Old Dominion and Glebe. Driver stopped at a red light, then began to turn right on red and struck a scooterist. Scooterist went to the hospital with minor injuries. Driver was not charged.
    - Saturday, November 13 at 8:10pm. At Mount Vernon and Glebe. Driver traveling north on Mount Vernon then turned left, went over the curb, and struck a pedestrian. The pedestrian was pronounced dead at the scene. The investigation is ongoing.

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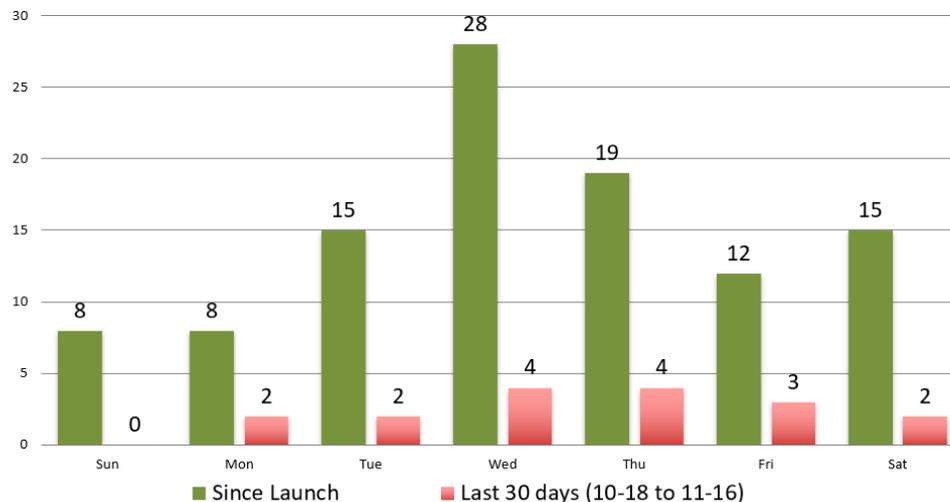
## Old Business

- Latest Near Miss Survey Results



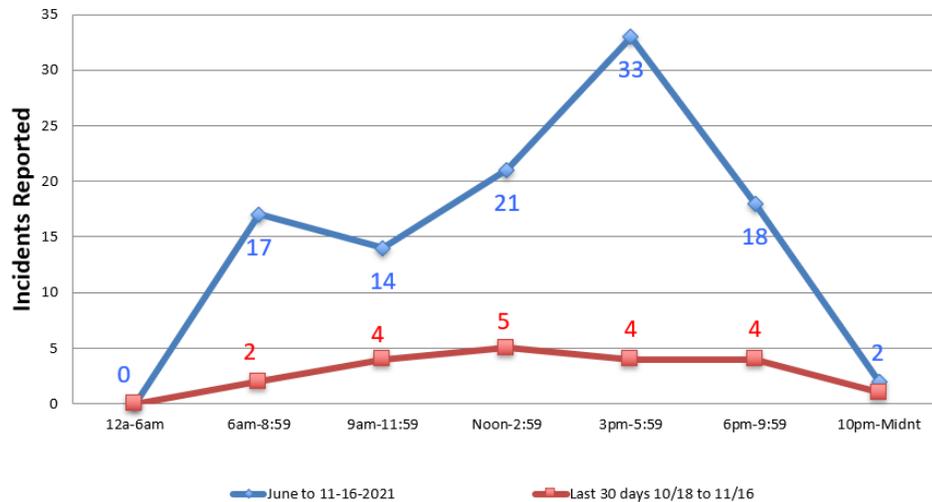
- Crowd-sourced data, survey launched in June 2021.
- Since AFSS' last meeting on 10/18, Alexandria has had 18 new entries.
- Most people who report incidents were walking reporting the behavior of a driver.
- The three most significant ways respondents have heard of the near-miss survey are: Local media (35%), Outreach from AFSS (33%), and the Nextdoor app (31%).
- For Alexandria respondents, NM incidents occur mostly during afternoon rush hour. By day of the week, Wednesday is by far the worst day.

**Near Miss by Day of Week**  
From June 2021 Launch v. Past 30 Days

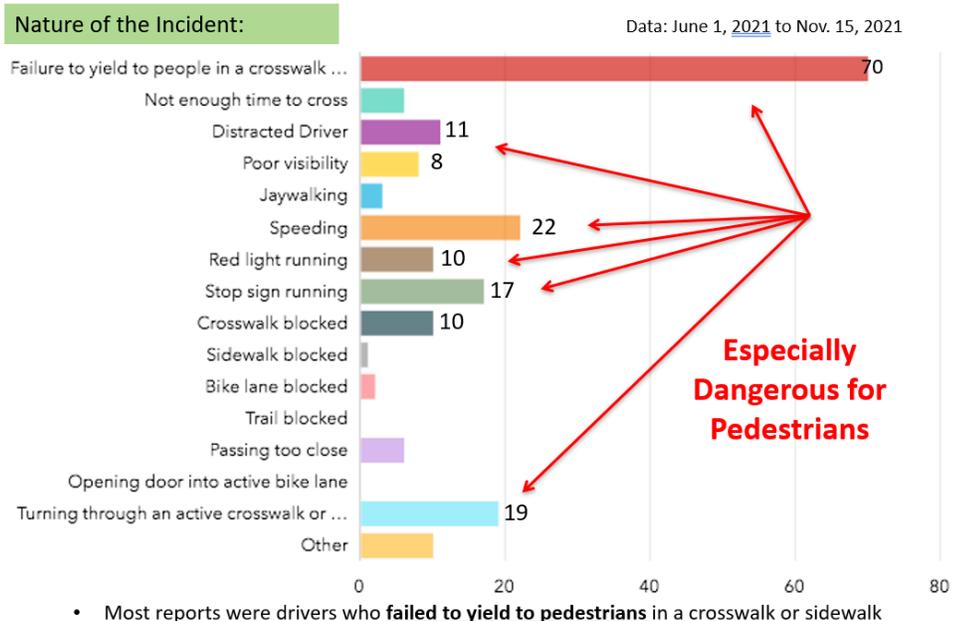


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**Near Miss by Time of Day  
From June 2021 v. Past 30 Days**



- Circumstances of the NM incidents in Alexandria, crosswalks (73%), traffic lights (47%), right turns (30%), and stop signs (27%) were the top locations.
  - Right turn (30%) reported more than Left turn (21%) were cited in Near Miss reports.
- Two-thirds of NM reports indicated a failure to yield to pedestrians (70 of 105).
  - The next highest was speeding (21%) followed by running a stop sign (16%).



- Safe Routes to School – Jane Davis
  - Since last month's meeting, Jane has been working to support and promote the Near Miss app to families.

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

- Circulated the Near Miss app with all PTAs in conjunction with communications about Halloween and Daylight Savings. The high school principal sent an email to all parents with the Near Miss survey.
- Jane has received lots of emails about concerns about problem intersections near schools.
  - George Washington Middle School was reported as a concern by many people.
  - Alexandria does not have enough crossing guards. This is a problem state-wide as well.
  - Middle and high schools were not included in the walk audits from a couple of years ago and no improvements have been made to pedestrian infrastructure at these schools.
  - Middle and high school students are unlikely to report incidents. Elementary school students' parents are more likely to report incidents. Additional outreach is needed for middle and high school students.
  - If you would like to be a crossing guard, contact Lt. Mike May at APD
- November 17 is Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day. In the future SRTS can partner with AFSS for this event and similar events with giveaways (i.e. blinkers).
- In the Spring, schools will observe Barbara Rose Johns day and likely tie it to a walk to school day event.
- Kristin Donley has been working on the curriculum and schedule for pedestrian education at ACPS. Would be good for AFSS to review the pedestrian education curriculum. Potential opportunities for guest speakers (i.e. crash survivors) to visit schools.
- World Day of Remembrance has been circulated with students' families.
- Update on GA 2022 Traffic Reg Advocacy.
  - Priorities for advocacy:
    - Contributory negligence
    - Expansion of automated speed enforcement (ASE)
    - Statewide vision zero plan
  - There may be support for the statewide vision zero plan but changes to contributory negligence and ASE will be more difficult with new political mix in legislature.

### **New Business:**

- AFSS street safety fall outreach campaign
  - 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 Luitzen (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.

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- Letters to Traffic & Parking Board
  - Recently, AFSS sent a letter to Traffic & Parking Board regarding support for reducing the speed limit on Seminary Road west of 395 from 35mph to 25mph.
  - AFSS also sent a letter to Alexandria City Council and Commissions endorsing the Alexandria Mobility Plan that helps shift focus away from a car-oriented mentality. The letter can be read [here](#).
- Complete Streets
  - ALXnow published an article on a recent proposal to modify the way Alexandria does Complete Streets projects. Read the article [here](#).
  - The proposed change would allow Complete Streets initiatives to be planned out 5 years in advanced rather than the current year-by-year process that must align with repaving efforts.

### Upcoming Events

- **World Day of Remembrance – Sunday, November 21 via Zoom**
  - 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.
  - [RSVP to the Eventbrite here](#) to receive the Zoom credentials via email.
  - The event will include 3 crash families' testimonies and state/local policymakers. Justin Wilson will be in attendance.
- **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 US, and millions of people participating, it is a day of generosity following major shopping holidays that centers our focus on our communities. The important keys to remember for Giving Tuesday are:
  - 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 30th**. So this Giving Tuesday, consider supporting Alexandria Families for Safe Streets programs and services, trying to make our streets safer for all. [Donate \(paypal.com\)](#)
- Fairfax FSS Meeting – Next meeting on Monday, December 6
- Arlington FSS Meeting – Next meeting on Tuesday, December 7
- Alexandria FSS Meeting – Next meeting on Tuesday, December 21
  - Potentially an informal holiday get-together in lieu of a meeting but maybe virtual