

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

17 November 2021: 6:30 pm to 8 pm

Location: Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Introductions – 13 people in attendance.

Treasurer's Report

- Current balance in the bank is \$14,399.97 which is an increase of \$3,000 from last meeting. Recent expenses include a recurring payment to Facebook for advertising and setting up the regional NoVA FSS organization. Within the next month, we will likely incur additional expenses for setting up the regional organization, specifically for filing for the IRS 501(c)3 non-profit filing and the Virginia State Corporation Commission.

Guest Speakers

- APD – Sgt. Tommy Ground

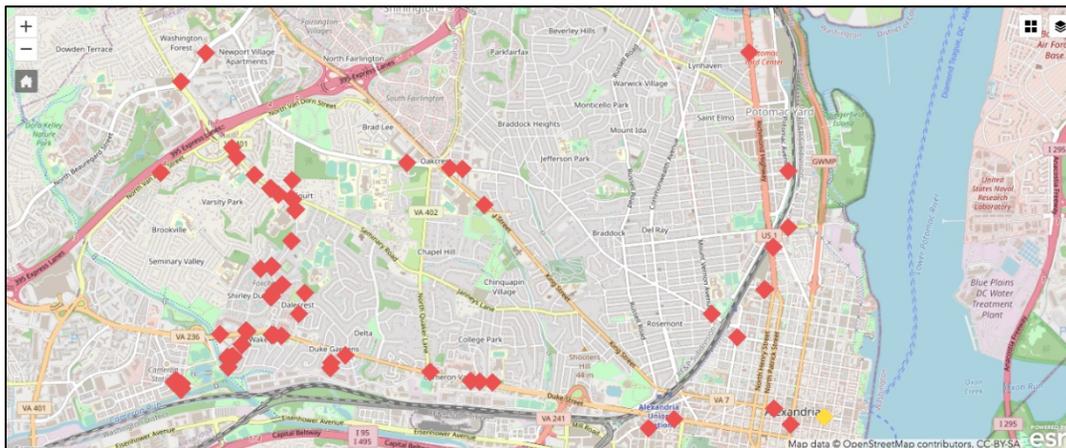
<u>Offense</u>	<u>Date of Incident</u>	<u>Incident Location</u>
Accident Fatality	11/13/21	206 W. Glebe Road
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pedestrian struck by a vehicle that left the roadway while walking on the sidewalk• Driver charged with Involuntary Manslaughter• AFSS has already been briefed on this case		
Accident Personal Injury	12/11/21	525 Four Mile Road
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pedestrian stuck by driver as she was unloading groceries from her parked vehicle• Pedestrian transported to hospital and sustained non-life-threatening injuries• Driver charged with DUI Maiming & DUI (second offense)• AFSS has already been briefed on this case		
Accident Hit & Run Personal Injury	12/24/21	375 S. Reynolds Street
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two firefighters were struck by a vehicle that crossed over the double yellow lines while they were moving equipment from one engine to another• Both firefighters transported to hospital and sustained non-life-threatening injuries• Driver was identified through investigation• Driver was charged with Felony Hit & Run (two counts)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safe Routes to School (SRTS) - Jane Davis<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Recently, SRTS has moved from teaching biking in 2 schools to teaching it in all 14 schools. This is another avenue to share pedestrian safety messaging.○ Pedestrian education (Ped Ed) will be implemented in all elementary and middle schools. The curriculum has been reviewed by AFSS and our feedback will be incorporated into the new programs<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ped Ed is a four-week program and would ideally include a partnership with AFSS to bring in guest speakers to present to children. Would like to pilot this plan in the middle schools. Presenters may need to present up to 4 presentations per day or 10 per week. The first step in this process is to create the presentation and then determine the best way to present it to students.		

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- Working on the curriculum now with the intent to start presenting in January.
- Jane is trying to advocate for continued SRTS program. SRTS is currently funded through VDOT, but funding is running out. Would like to make the case to fund the program locally to keep it implemented in Alexandria schools.
- Each school has its pedestrian street safety challenges. Not every school has adequate crosswalks near schools. It is also difficult communicating with some parents about pickup and drop-off procedures but that needs to be addressed.
- **AFSS welcomes volunteers to help bring the message of pedestrian safety best practices to the students at ACPS middle and high schools.** If you can help with even just a few classes, please contact Mike or Brian.

Old Business

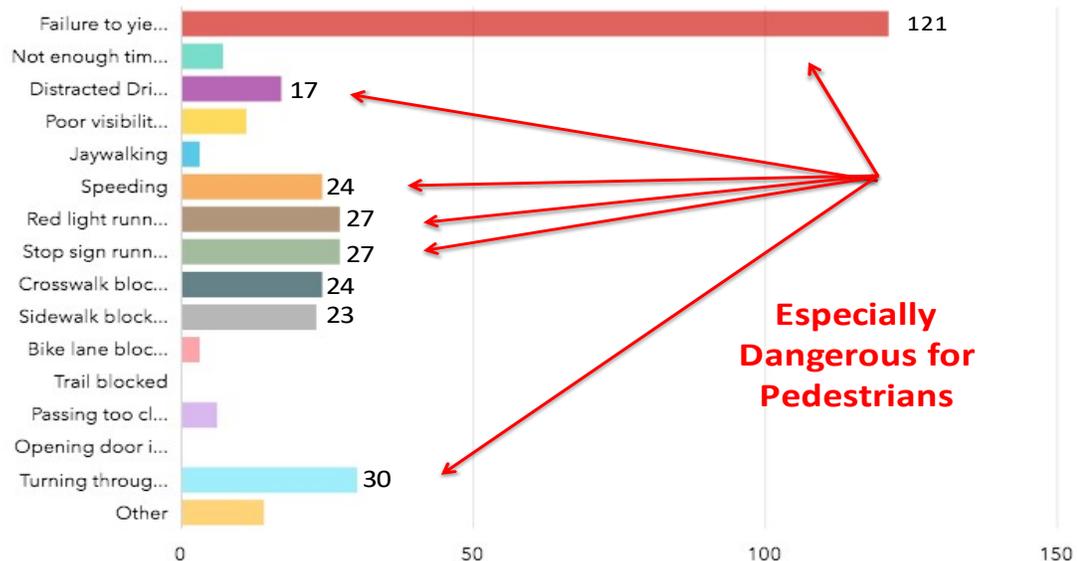
- Latest Near Miss Survey Results – Brian Shankman



Alexandria – Near Miss Incidents

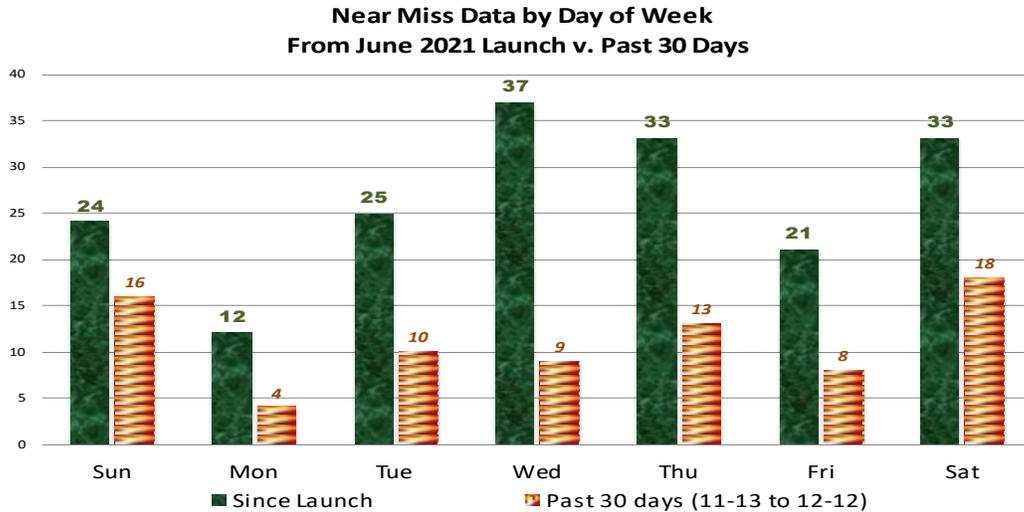
Nature of the Incident:

Data: June 12, 2021 to Dec. 12, 2021

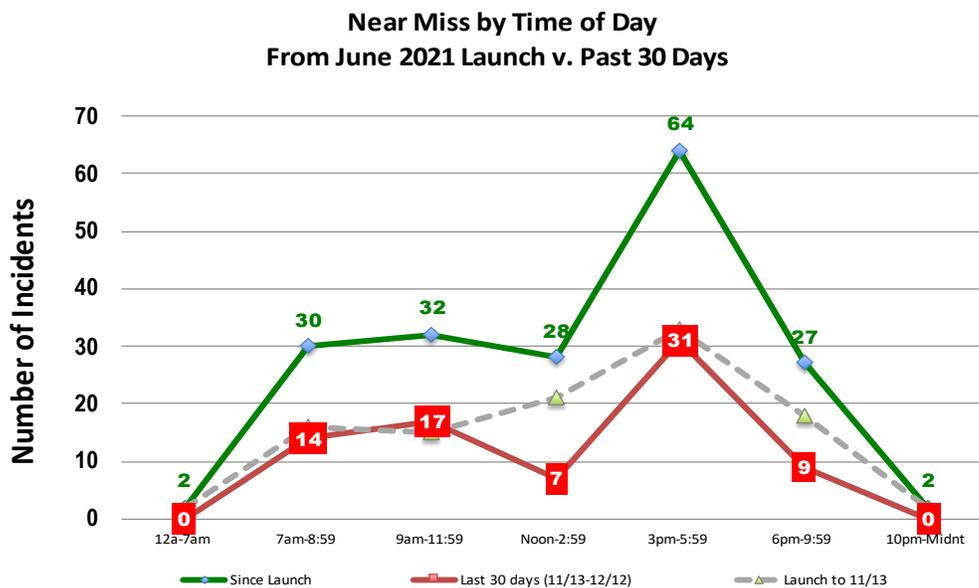


- Most Issues = Failure to yield to pedestrians and Turning through a crosswalk or bike lane

Alexandria – Day of Week



Time of Day of Incident (Alexandria)



- In the last 30 days, Alexandria has had several reports along the Duke Street corridor near Cameron Station, Ben Brenman Park, and Holmes Run. We also see data points clustered around Seminary Road and in Old Town.

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- Reports in Alexandria are primarily made by pedestrians (86%) followed by cyclists (7%). Most reports are reporting the behavior of a driver (92%).
- Based on 185 reports in Alexandria, about two-thirds of the Alexandria near misses were failure to yield (65%). There can be multiple "nature of the incident" reasons.
- 72% of incidents were at a crosswalk and 69% included either a traffic light or stop sign. Left Turn was 15% (28) whereas Right Turn Near Misses were flagged 30% (56), which is surprising.
- **Survey is working, but we could still use data from more people**
 - NoVA average is 63/mo. from 9/mo. before new survey launch
 - Alexandria had 185 new incidents since June launch and 78 in past 30 days
 - Outreach from AFSS (41%), Local & social media (23%), and the Nextdoor app (14%) were the most prevalent discovery methods of connecting to people
- ALX and FFX Near Miss reports are primarily pedestrians v. ARL primarily cyclists (43%)
- Most entries provide additional detailed descriptions (88% ALX)
- For Alexandria, Wednesday has been by far the day with most incidents reported, but has significantly declined over the past 30 days
 - Monday and Friday are consistently the days with fewest incident reports
- In Alexandria, crosswalks (72%), traffic lights (45%), right turns (30%), and stop signs (24%) were the top problem locations
- Update on GA 2022 Traffic Reg Advocacy
 - Priorities have changed as a result of the recent election. We do not think that ASE and contributory negligence changes will have a chance in the legislature.
 - NoVA FSS will be focused on advocating for a statewide Vision Zero plan.
 - There is a federal resolution for Zero Traffic Fatalities by 2050 which we were instrumental in gaining the co-sponsorship of Senators Warner & Kaine plus Representative Don Beyer
- World Day of Remembrance
 - NoVA and Richmond Families for Safe Streets chapters hosted a virtual event to observe World Day of Remembrance on November 21.
 - There were approximately 60 participants including several policymakers.
 - Two speakers shared stories of how their lives have been impacted by traffic violence.
 - Mike Doyle asked policy-specific questions to the policymakers in attendance and gave them time to share their thoughts.
 - Comment from Mayor Justin Wilson: We've seen far too much carnage on our streets. Last week we saw the tragic death of Roy Saravia who was run over by a vehicle on a sidewalk. We know what works; i.e. slowing traffic, separating mobility users on road space, etc. It's a function of budget, not just transportation, it's a variety of agencies. We also have to show the successes and win hearts and minds of the public. Have to figure out how to communicate that this isn't an attack on commuters. Last week we had a proposal to reduce speed limit on a major corridor and had nearly unanimous opposition from civic associations in that area. The Traffic & Parking Board did the right thing by passing it. Will require additional work from all of us that it's not such an uphill climb. (regarding community support and communications)

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- NoVA FSS purchased lawn signs with image and wording about a pedestrian fatality and placed these signs at crash sites in Northern Virginia (including three in Alexandria) to draw attention to dangerous locations and to the WDoR event.
- TPB grant application
 - NoVA FSS applied for the MWCOC Transportation Planning Board (TPB) grant earlier this year but did not win. In August NoVA FSS reapplied with Alexandria City's sponsorship and letters of support from Fairfax County.
 - Another round of grant funding was opened in early fall and this time the TPB recommended AFSS's Near Miss Survey App for \$45,000 of funding by the Regional Roadway Safety Program (RRSP) Selection Panel. The TPB officially approved the grant award at its December 15, 2021, meeting.
 - This grant will fund the development of correlation analysis between our NM data compared to VDOT's crash data regarding pedestrian who were killed or seriously injured. the goal is to understand the common characteristics between the NM data and the characteristics of the crashes that cost people their lives or inflicted serious injuries and explore the feasibility of predictive analytics when using both data sets. In addition, we hope to expand the NM app's usability through language translation (e.g. Spanish) and the creation of a mobile app.
 - The grant money will go directly to the consultants who will help us with the improvements to the survey so AFSS nor Alexandria City will ever touch the money.
 - **Big thanks to Pat Wise for writing the grant application!**
- Giving Tuesday Results
 - We estimate that Alexandria FSS raised \$3,100.40, Arlington FSS raised \$425, and Fairfax FSS raised \$475 for a total of about \$4,040 on Giving Tuesday. We are still waiting on additional funds to transfer to our bank account. The money will help support buying more blinkers as well as educational and marketing material.

New Business:

- How to improve AFSS's outreach to the entire City?
 - Advertise through flyers at bus stops and coffee shops.
 - Reach out to communities via WhatsApp. Casa Chirilagua may be able to assist with this.
 - In Alexandria, we have given 100 blinkers to Casa Chirilagua along with the Stop Look Wave flyers in both English and Spanish. We have two versions – one with safe routes to school branding and a kid-friendly version.
 - Connect with Alexandria Dept. of Health to message safe streets as a public health issue.
 - Translate the Near Miss promo card into Spanish and connect it with the Safe Routes to School branding.
 - If you have any other ideas, please reach out.
- Accomplishments in 2021 & dreams for 2022
 - A virtual toast among all and with the hope that we can: (a) meet in person again sometime in the New Year and (b) reduce pedestrian fatalities to zero in 2022.

Upcoming Events

- Old Cameron Run Trail Update. [updated plans](#) available on the [project website](#). Email comments to [Alexandria Carroll](#) at T&ES.
- AFSS Meeting – Next meeting on **the 3rd Tuesday of the month - Tuesday, January 18, 2022**