

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

15 February 2022: 6:30 pm to 8 pm

Location: Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Introductions – 17 people in attendance including Charles Bailey, Dane Luitzen, Kristen Donley, Brian Shankman, Norm Lisy, Melissa McMahon, Pat Wise, Chris Paletta, Gina Hoffman, Bob Trencheny, Mike Doyle, Jason North, Satasha Torres, Casey Kane, Oscar Gonzales, Lisa Sweeney, and others

Treasurer's Report

- Current balance is \$12,563.68. Recent expenses include over \$1000 in filing fees with the VA State Corporation Commission, ESRI subscription, blinkers for giveaways, and advertising on Facebook. We are also in the process of disputing an unknown charge with Facebook.
- Four years ago, we were miscategorized with the IRS and are now incurring some penalties. We will likely get the penalties abated and returned to us. We're in the process of filing for a new 501c3 category to straighten out the issues with the IRS. When this is complete, we will be apportioning the overhead expenses to the other chapters. Currently, Alexandria FSS carries the costs for the three NoVA chapters (Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax).

Guest Speakers

- APD – Lt. Jason North
 - APD is experiencing severe staffing issues.
 - The traffic safety section has at one point consisted of 2 supervisors, 18 officers, and a commander. Currently it is staffed with 1 supervisor, 5 officers, and a commander.
 - APD is having trouble recruiting and retaining. Alexandria has the 24th lowest paid police department compared to 25 comparable police departments in the area.
 - Despite having a smaller team than ideal, they are still committed to supporting traffic safety.
 - Automatic Speed Enforcement (ASE)
 - ASE laws have changed and now allow localities to permit ASE in school and work zones. APD has advocated for research and studies to make sure it is effectively implemented in Alexandria. However, those research efforts have been suspended. There will be a meeting next week to determine the path forward. The research would also include red light cameras.
 - Casey suggested that APD publish red light camera data to the public.
 - As of today, Seminary Road West (west of I-395) is a 25mph zone (AFSS advocated for the lower speed limit).
- Safe Routes to School - Kristin Donley
 - The SRTS team has created a 1-pager for students to take home. It is translated into Spanish, Amharic, and Arabic. It includes a QR code to the NM survey. The survey link still presents the survey in English.
 - **SRTS will host a couple of AFSS guest speaker to talk to 6th grade students as part of the pedestrian education refresher.**

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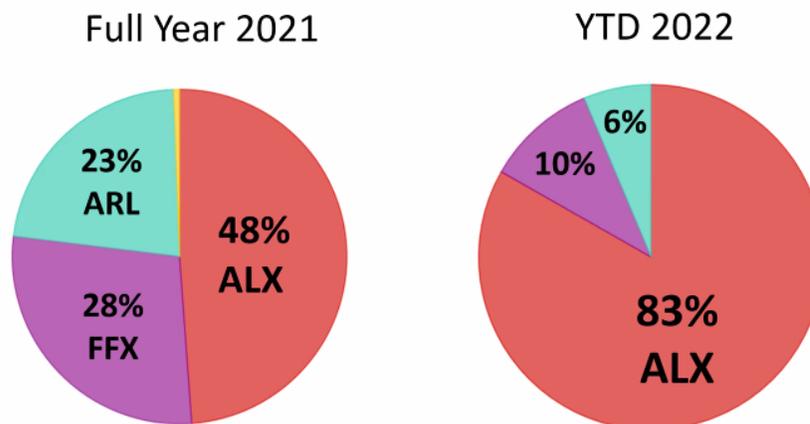
- SRTS will be observing the dismissal of students at Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School to understand the street safety current issues and work together with T&ES to try to improve the process and traffic flow. Satasha is very involved in FTD's PTA
- ACPS recently obtained another office space to use as swing space. SRTS is working with private properties to make sure integration with the community is smooth.
- On Crossing Guard Appreciation Day at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy (LCTA) , SRTS recognized all crossing guards that do so much to help support pedestrian education and the community.
 - Alexandria crossing guard, Cora Reed, was recognized as one of Virginia's Most Outstanding Crossing Guards in honor of her nearly 50 years of service.
 - Brian, Kathleen, Lisa, Mike & Maureen from AFSS participated in the celebration of Ms. Reed's service at LCTA.

Old Business

- Latest NM survey results
 - As of yesterday, 873 incidents have been reported in the Near Miss survey since the beginning. 63% of all reports are in Alexandria.
 - YTD there have been 168 reports with 143 coming from Alexandria.

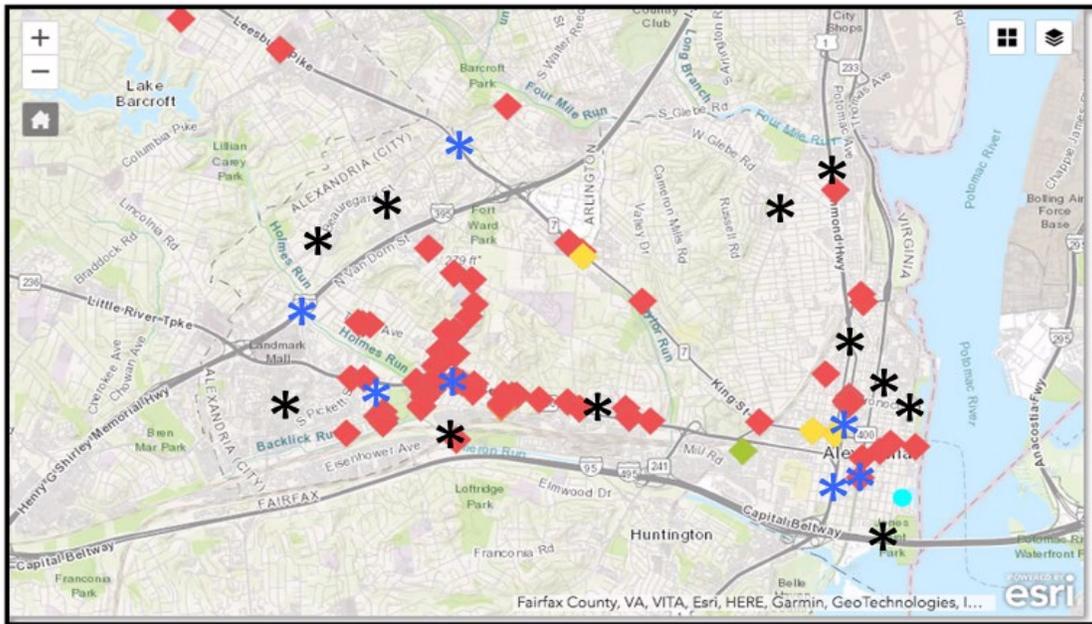
Incidents by Jurisdiction

2021 v. YTD as of 2/13/2022



- The reports from 1 Jan 2022 through 13 Feb 2022 are plotted below against a map of KSIs from 2019 and 2020. We can see observe a large cluster of reported incidents in the West End.

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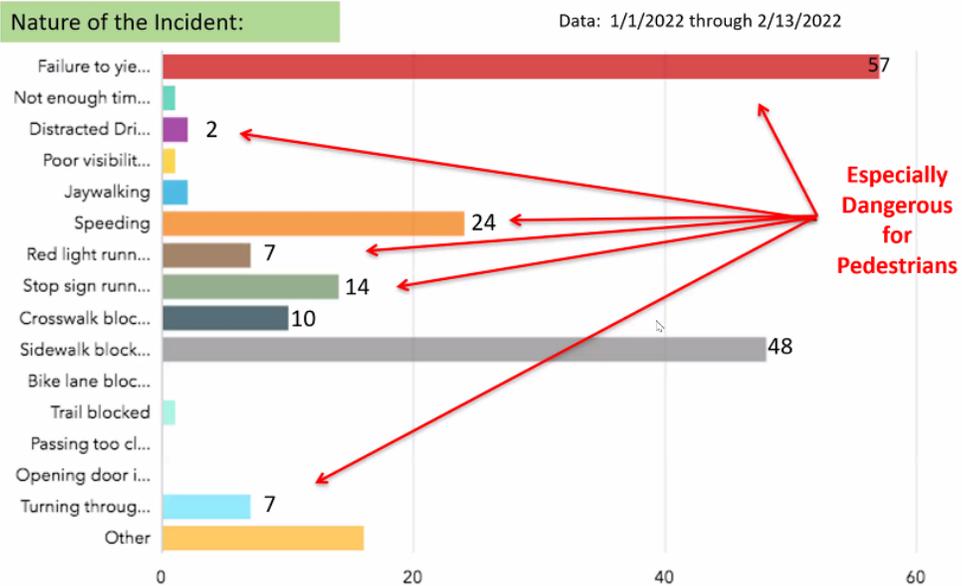


* KSI 2019

* KSI 2020

- Most reports are attributed to a failure to yield, blocked sidewalk, or speeding.

Alexandria – 2022 YTD Incidents

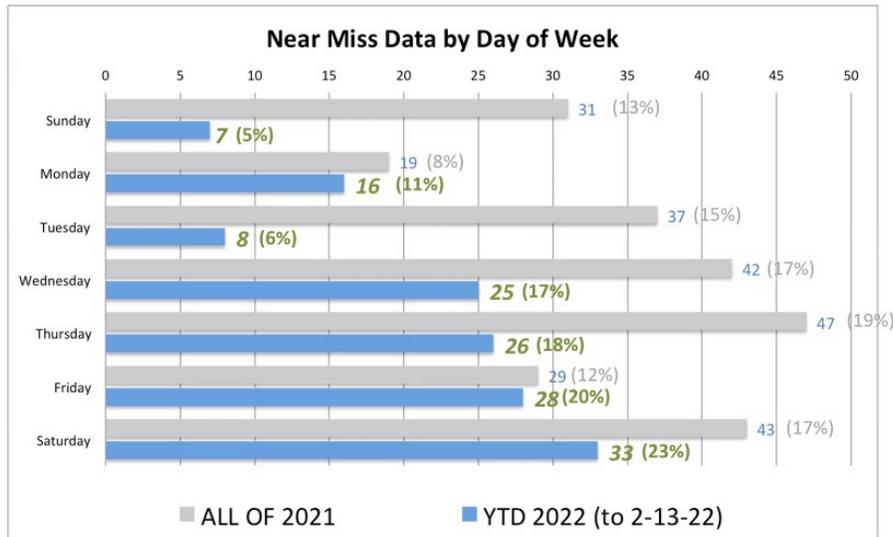


- Most Issues = Failure to yield to pedestrians and Sidewalk Blocked

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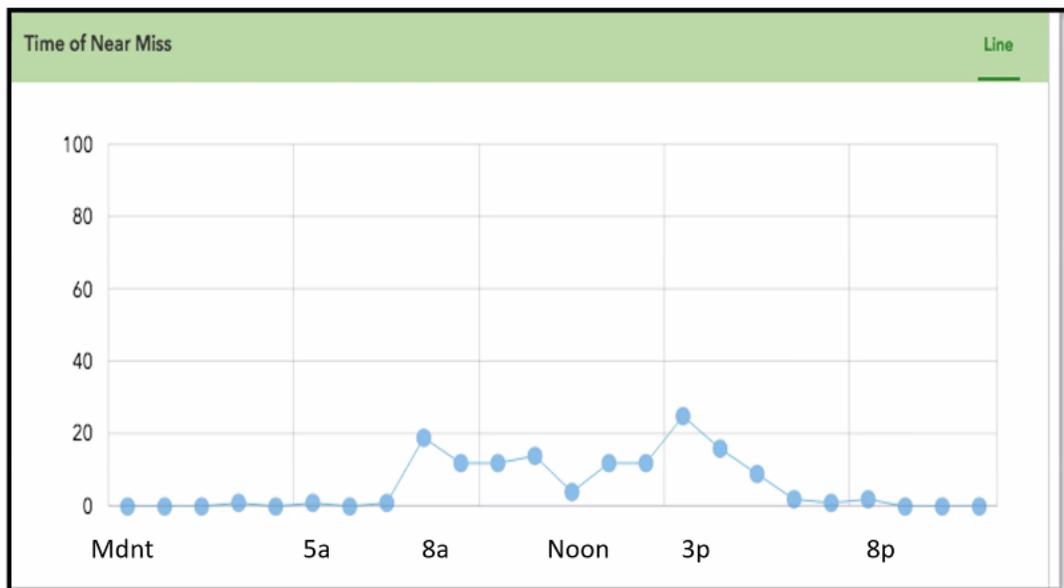
- Reports vary throughout the week. The chart below compares the reports by day of the week in 2021 and YTD 2022.

Alexandria – Day of Week



- Reports vary by time of day but peak around 3-4pm.

Time of Day of Incident (Alexandria) YTD to Feb. 13, 2022



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

- General Assembly (GA) update on ASE, VRU, Trans. Safety Fund, VZ Bill
 - Bill from Del. Kaye Kory – State Vision Zero & Bike Box bills
 - Del. Kaye Kory proposed a Statewide Vision Zero resolution with a goal of eliminating traffic fatalities by 2050.
 - Del. Kory also proposed a bike box bill that will support cyclists with structural changes that will allow cyclists to move to the front of a queue at a light to help with visibility and left turns.
 - Both bills were “laid on the table.” The chairman of the committee will write a letter to VDOT to consider these topics but essentially the bills were killed.
 - Del. Danica Roem (13th Dist.) – Transportation Safety Fund
 - Del. Roem contacted NoVA FSS to help support a bill called the Transportation Safety Fund. This would take 10% of excess funds from the budget and put it toward structural changes to improve transportation safety. The funds would be managed by local jurisdictions.
 - This bill was also “laid on the table.”
 - There was a bill from Del. Bell (R) that broadens the application of Automatic Speed Enforcement (ASE).
 - This was not received well by the majority of the committee and “laid on the table.”
 - Two years ago, the vulnerable road user law was passed.
 - This law added a step between charging drivers with Failure to Yield with a penalty of \$250 fine and charging drivers with Reckless Driving which is very hard to prove.
 - However, there is a significant error in the law as it currently exists. The law only includes serious injuries and does not include fatalities.
 - Sen. Surovell intends to fix this law. Mike Doyle helped provide testimony to the subcommittee. The correction was approved unanimously among the subcommittee.
- Connecting with underserved community members
 - Trying to connect through PTA, translation, grassroots farmers markets, and outreach in Arlandria, West End, etc.

New Business

- Mike announced that AFSS is very pleased to welcome our new AFSS Board Member, Pat Wise.
 - Welcome Pat! Thanks for all the help you have provided us regarding grant applications, NM data analytics, upgrade on the AFSS / NoVA FSS web site, etc.
- Mount Vernon Avenue North Complete Streets Project
 - Project website: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/tes/info/default.aspx?id=116920>

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- AFSS has been contacted by T&ES to provide feedback on the Mount Vernon Avenue North Complete Streets Project. There will be a survey to provide input.
- The purpose of this project is to provide roadway safety improvements on Mount Vernon Avenue between West Glebe Road and Four Mile Run. This will make it easier and safer for people to get to home, work, school, bus stops, parks, shops, and other places in and around Arlandria.
- Here's how you can contribute to this project?
 - Share this update with people you know who may be interested.
 - Look for more updates around springtime when draft design options are expected to be available.
 - During the public comment period, provide your feedback on the draft design options and encourage others to do so also.
- Information on upcoming input opportunities will be shared within the next few months. In the meantime, please visit the project website for more information.
- High Risk Crash Locations
 - **Mount Vernon and Glebe** - Dane
 - **A modern roundabout could help reduce issues and hopefully eliminate KSIs from left turns at this intersection.**
 - This article from the American Society of Civil Engineers has more information about modern roundabouts: <https://www.asce.org/publications-and-news/civil-engineering-source/civil-engineering-magazine/issues/magazine-issue/article/2021/03/modern-roundabouts-boost-traffic-safety-and-efficiency>
 - A modern roundabout is a redesign of a traffic circle. Traffic is slowed down a bit but overall, it reduces trip time. Since it is a loop, no one is making left turns.
 - They reduce all crashes by 1/3 to 1/2. Note that traffic circles are not the same as a roundabout.
 - The survey from T&ES is a great opportunity for us to suggest a modern roundabout.
 - **Braddock Metro Station Area** – Patrick & Melissa
 - Another problem area is the intersection near Braddock Metro Station.
 - There used to be helpful striping here to make it easier and safer to navigate but it has been removed. There are multiple discontinuous crosswalks and a dangerous slip lane that doesn't slow down the cars turning right.
 - The geometry of the intersection makes it very challenging, but it would be helpful to reduce the road to one lane each way. It would make pedestrian crossings safer. **Re-striping is an easier solution than re-engineering the whole area.**

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- **AFSS can draft a note to City Council about our recommendations for Mount Vernon/Glebe and Braddock Metro Station and share our thoughts to various people (Letter to Editor, T&ES's Complete Streets staff, etc.)**

- Improve bench of volunteers for:
 - ACPS educational programs
 - NM survey outreach campaigns
 - Social media posting on FB/IG, NextDoor, WhatsApp, etc.

Upcoming Events

- **AFSS Meeting – Next meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2022**