

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

17 January 2023: 6:30 pm to 8 pm

Location: Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Introductions – 10 People in Attendance

Treasurer's Report

- There were a couple of small recent expenses for accounting support and checks. Upcoming, we will have a large expense for the website redesign (about \$5000) and some small registration fees and insurance payments.
- We received two recent donations totaling \$125.
- Currently, the NoVA Families for Safe Streets organization has a balance of \$24,395.42 in the bank.

Guest Speaker - Alex Carroll – T&ES, Discussion on Ped Safety Projects

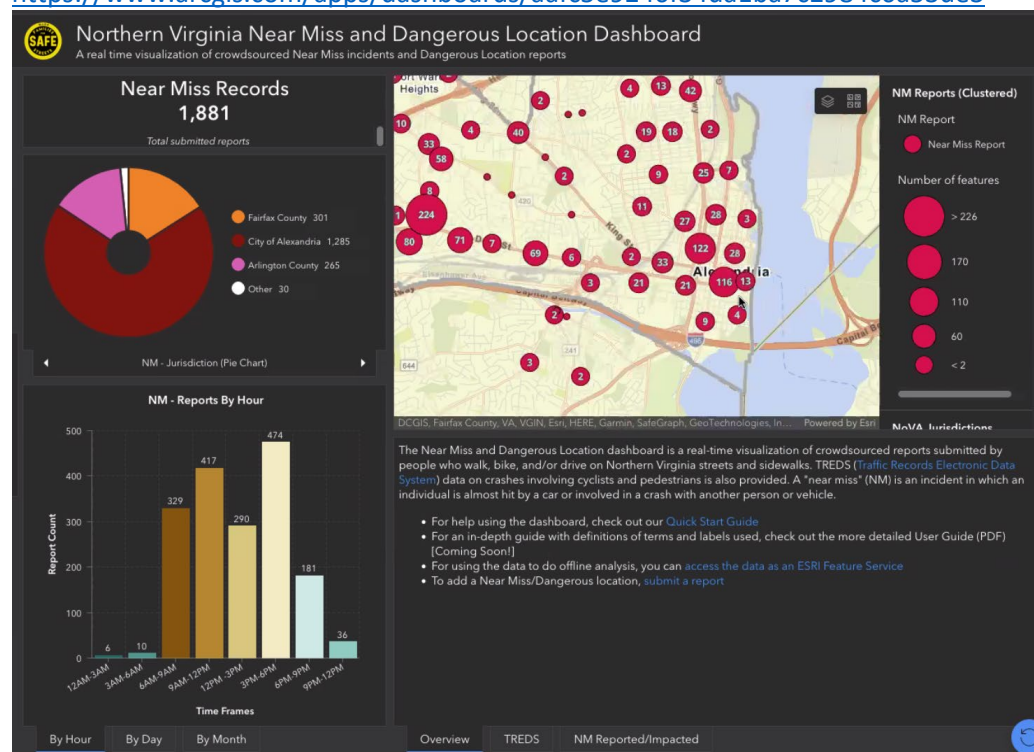
- Alex Carroll is the Complete Streets manager in Alexandria and oversees the Vision Zero initiative. Read more about Complete Streets on their webpage: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/CompleteStreets>
 - Each year, the team creates a Vision Zero plan that is intended to improve safety and promote education about road safety. <https://www.alexandriava.gov/VisionZero>
 - The FY23 work plan is available on the Vision Zero webpage. <https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/Vision%20Zero%20Annual%20Work%20Plan%20FY%202023.pdf>
- There are several projects in progress right now that Alex shared:
 - Mount Vernon Avenue North Project – This project is currently in planning and conceptual design phase to improve intersection safety on Mount Vernon Avenue. Currently in the process of improving designs based on community feedback. Ultimately, they want to arrive at recommended designs for each intersection and then make a recommendation to the city. AFSS can help participate during future public hearings when they make a recommendation.
 - High crash intersection project – They received a grant through WMCOG to study the intersection safety at Duke and S Patrick and Duke and S Henry which are two high-crash intersections. They will be evaluating why crashes have happened there and the risks that exist there. Community engagement is coming in the next month.
 - Corridor speed management project - Late last year, the speed on Beauregard and West Braddock was reduced. Speed limits in school zones was also reduced to 15 mph. Complete Streets will be increasing speed radar signs to help enforce the new speed limits.
 - Corridor turn “calming” – On Duke Street between N Ripley and Jordan, flexible bollards may be added to slow down turning vehicles and the leading pedestrian intervals may be increased to give pedestrians a head start when they cross the street.
 - No turn on red restrictions – 10 intersections on Patrick and Henry in Old Town have been selected to install no turn on red signage.
 - To provide comments on the No Turn on Red restrictions for Patrick and Henry, email Bryan.Hayes@alexandriava.gov by February 6. Locations are available on the VZ webpage.

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- Speed cameras in school zones – city Council has allowed use of speed cameras in school and work zones. Alex has been working with ACPS and schools to evaluate locations and work with the vendor to implement. Speed cameras should be up and running in next few months.
- The second round of Safe Routes to School audits will be conducted this spring. Phase 1 was conducted about 5 years ago. This time, they are taking a step back to capture the 5 schools that weren't captured in the first audit. They are gathering data now and there will be a community engagement period in the near future. AFSS can participate in the community engagement forums and the walk audits.
- William Ramsey Safe Routes to School project - There were several recommendations for William Ramsey as a result of the first audit. Now they are in the planning stage to implement the recommendations in the next fiscal year.
- Grants – they will be applying to a WMCOG assistance grant to do planning, outreach, and concept design to do improvements on S Pickett street and look at ways to make that corridor better. The project will be starting in the fall whether or not the grant is awarded. Another grant that they are applying for is a pedestrian lighting study to result in recommendations for key locations we need to improve lighting to improve pedestrian safety.

Old Business

- Updated NM dashboard & survey
 - The NM survey has been redesigned! It is easier to use and navigate now. See below for a sample screenshot. The inputs in the survey have been re-worded to improve the quality of reporting. The new dashboard is linked here:
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/aafc5e9246f34da1ba7c2984c6a53de3>

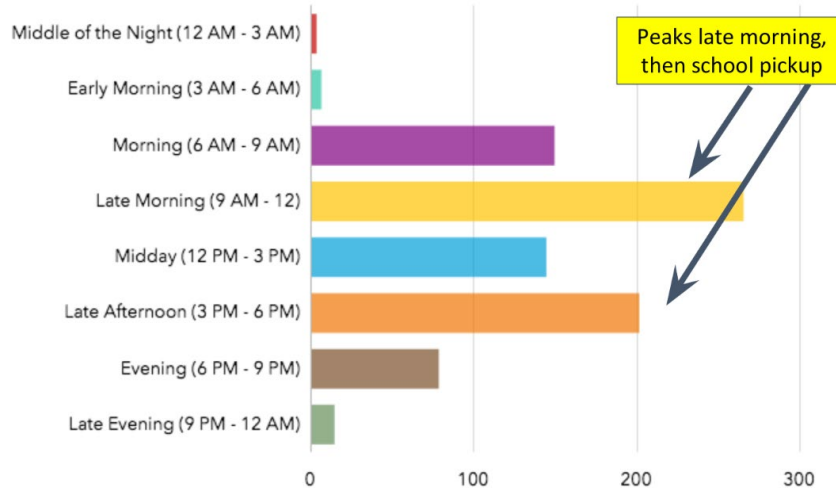


- The survey now has a total of 1881 reports through 1/16/2023.

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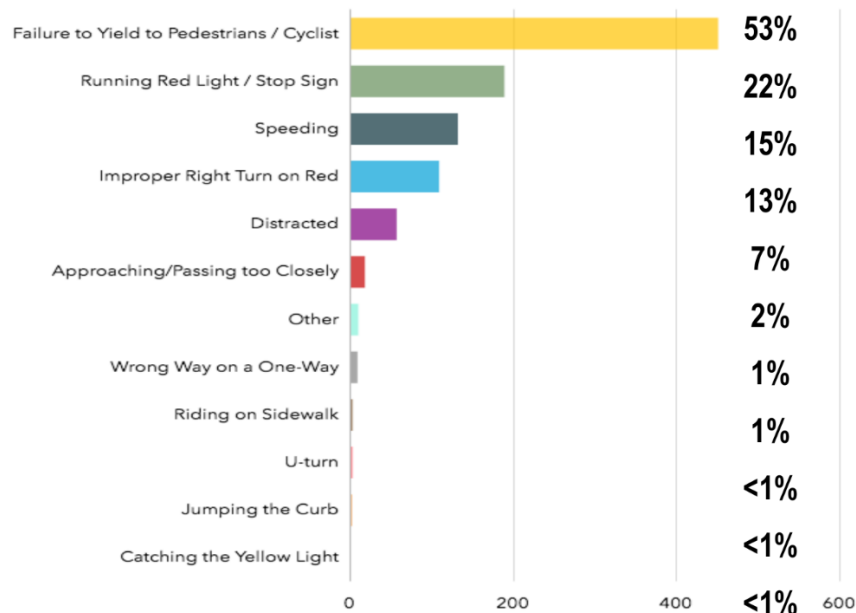
- We see peaks in incidents between 9am and noon and between 3pm and 6pm:

Alexandria Incidents 2022 By Time of Day



- Almost all reports are by pedestrians and in most cases, children are not present.
- Failure to yield is by far the most commonly reported behavior. There are few instances in which a pedestrian's bad behavior is reported.

Driver / Cyclist Bad Behaviors City of Alexandria 2022

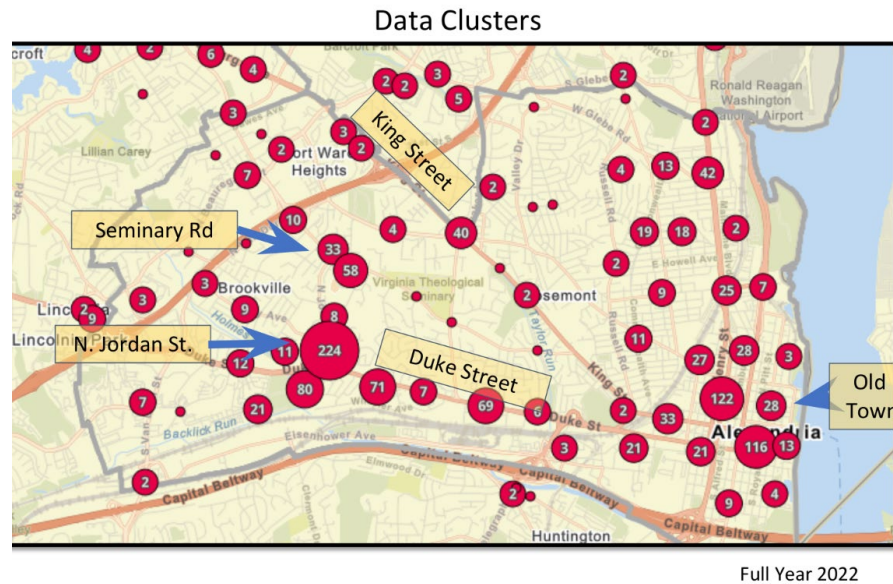


- Most instances occur at a traffic light and involve a right turn lane.

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- The map below highlights the clusters of reports we are seeing across Alexandria:

Alexandria NM Reports YTD 2022

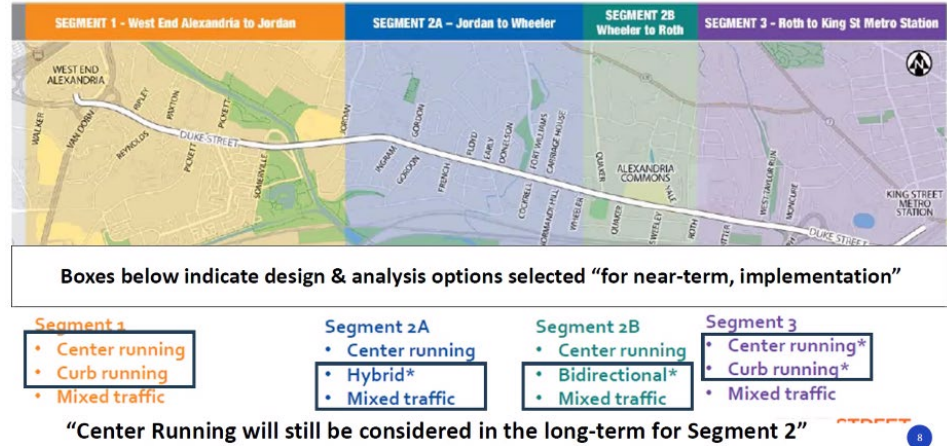


- Farmers Markets & other outreach efforts from this fall
 - Del Ray Farmers Market Outreach Event - On December 10th, AFSS representatives handed out 120 blinkers and Near Miss promotional cards at the Del Ray Farmers Market. The QR code on the promo cards still works, however it directs to the old survey. We need to order new cards.
 - Old Town Farmers Market Outreach Event – On December 17th, AFSS representatives gave out 220 blinkers and Near Miss promo cards.
 - We've also distributed about 100 blinkers and cards to Senior Services of Alexandria, Carpenter Shelter, and Casa Chirilagua.
 - Alive – 500 blinkers / NM cards – Wm Ramsey
 - AFSS was invited to join a food distribution event hosted by Alive. Gave out about 300 blinkers and left another 200 with Alive for future events. This was a successful event, and we would like to join more of these types of events.
- Duke Street Mobility Project update
 - The Duke Street In Motion (DSIM) project is still in progress. <https://www.alexandriava.gov/DukeInMotion>
 - We are hoping that the Duke Street redesign will make it safer for pedestrians. The advisory group has forwarded recommendations to the city.
 - The City is not going to consider center-running lanes for some sections. See the diagram below for the recommended options for each section of Duke Street:

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DSIM UPDATE – NOV & DEC AG MEETING RESULTS

- The AG gave direction to advance the following options for further design and analysis for near-term implementation:



- The upcoming DSIM meeting is on February 16 at 3000 Business Center Drive (DASH Facility) and will focus on curb features and green space along Duke Street.
- ACPS – Hammond (Jan 26th & 27th w/6th graders)
 - On January 26 and 27, AFSS representatives will go to Francis C. Hammond Middle School for a few hours to hand out flashing blinker lights and AFSS promotional cards and to do a presentation to 6th graders.
 - Please let us know if you want to get involved in these outreach events.

New Business

- Grant application updates (Graham & AARP)
 - We were not selected to proceed to the second round of the PL Graham Fund grant, but it is a recurring application so we can apply next year. If we do so, we will have a better idea of what will be required.
 - We are in the process of applying to the AARP Purpose Prize Award, which is a national-level grant and will be very competitive. The Executive Director of the Carpenter Shelter has generously offered to help us hone the application.
 - We are considering highlighting individuals who have been directly impacted by our work as a nonprofit in the application.
 - We intend to apply to the Virginia Highway Safety Office (VAHSO) for FY24 funding and are in the process of setting up an account in their portal and completing the required grants application training. These are the first steps of a larger process of applying for funding.
- General Assembly Legislative Asks
 - There are several bills proposed in the General Assembly that we are monitoring and advocating for:

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<u>HB 1785</u>	Speed limit in residence districts; local authority; penalty	<u>01/16/23 House: Assigned Transportation sub: Subcommittee #2 Infrastructure and Funding</u>	<u>Betsy Carr (D)</u>	Authorizes cities to reduce the default speed limit to less than 25 mph
<u>HB 1939</u>	Powers of local authorities; reducing speed limits	<u>01/10/23 House: Referred to Committee on Transportation</u>	<u>Kenneth R. Plum (D)</u>	Authorizes localities to reduce speed limits to less than 25 miles per hour on VDOT roads
<u>HB 2104</u>	<u>School crossing zones.</u>	<u>01/13/23 House: Assigned Transportation Sub #2 Transportation Infrastructure and Funding</u>	<u>Jeffrey M. Bourne (D)</u>	The bill increases the default boundaries of a school crossing zone from 600 feet to 750 feet from school property
<u>HB 2379</u>	Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program; surplus funds.	<u>01/16/23 House: Committee Referral Pending</u>	<u>Danica Roem (D)</u>	Allocates 10% of budget surplus to Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program
<u>SB 1069</u>	Drivers stopping for pedestrians	<u>01/09/23 Referred to Committee on Transportation</u>	<u>Richard L. Saslaw (D)</u>	Requires Stopping for Pedestrians instead of Yield by Stopping

- Volunteer opportunities: social media, public outreach
 - We need more folks to help us promote our message both on social media and distributing flyers around town. Please reach out if you are interested and available.

Upcoming Events

- AFSS Meeting – Next meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2023