

Arlington's Families for Safe Streets ("Arl FSS") Advisory Committee

22 February 2023: 6:30 pm to 8 pm

Location: Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Introductions – 7 people in attendance

- Discussion about the role out of the Near Miss updated dashboard. Hung Truong gave a demonstration of the new dashboard showing the clusters of Near Misses that are forming in Arlington as well as how to filter in the TREDs crash data so that a viewer can see crash history compared to Near Miss data and in the high crash corridors.
- We next talked about the Fairfax FSS "Pedestrian Crash report for 2022" that was in a recent NoVA FSS press release. That press release discusses the fact that VDOT controls the roads in Fairfax and therefore VDOT has accountability for the record number of pedestrian fatalities jumping from 13 fatalities in 2021 to 32 pedestrian fatalities in 2022. The report also highlights the disparity in traffic regulations criminal consequences to drivers who kill pedestrians. Out of the 32 drivers who killed pedestrians 10 faced criminal citations, but only one who pleaded guilty to reckless driving received a sentence of one month jail sentence (which was subsequently waived) and he paid a small penalty fee. All of the other drivers paid small amounts of a court fee or no fines what so ever. See page 5 of the report to appreciate the disconnect between drivers who are killing pedestrians, and the lack of any type of penalties or consequential deterrence being applied to those drivers.
- We also talked about the Near Miss 8x11 flyers, and the NM hand card with QR codes. Hung showed the flyers with the updated QR codes and the Near Miss description in five different languages, including English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Arabic. Hung got 40 of the laminated flyers printed and he started posting the flyers on trees and telephone poles around selected intersections. He posted the link to the flyers in a chat link. A lot of discussion followed about where to place the flyers most efficiently. Robert thought that posting the flyers near bus stations or bus shelters would be one of the most effective way to publicize the Near Miss survey / dashboard.
 - We could talk to the Metro bus authority in Arlington or in Fairfax (the Fairfax connector in the Q bus which is Fairfax City and George Mason University). In Alexandria it's the Dash system. We should try to establish communications with the respective bus authorities to see if we can work advertise the NM app as a public service.
 - Sarah, Robert, Lucas and others expressing interest in having a concise description of the Near Miss app and dashboard, and ideally have the QR code embedded in that description, so that they can disseminate this information through their social media and organizational contacts.
 - Another way to identify good locations for placing the flyers would be to look at the Arlington neighborhood conservation plans. Many neighborhoods'

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conservation plans are filed publicly and highlight issues about pedestrian safety and traffic concerns. These reports can give an indication of where residences in that community view to high risk street intersections from a pedestrian perspective. We could use this information as a guide to post the NM flyers.

- General Assembly legislative update is unfortunately disappointing. We advocated for three bills at the House of Delegates Transportation Committee but all three failed. Two bills provided jurisdictional discretion on lowering the speed limit from 25 mph to 15 mph and the third bill would allocate 10% of State budget surplus to improving safety on the roads. Senator Saslaw's bill about mandatory driver's stopping when there is a pedestrian sign in the middle of the crosswalk is the only bill that has a good chance of becoming law.
- Arl FSS has made several efforts to connect with APS including to Steven Linkous, Chief of Staff of APS, as well as Ms. Pilch and Dr. Allen (in charge of elementary and secondary school educational programs respectively). Neither of the last two contacts have responded but we did connect with Ms. Cathy Lin, the SRTS Coordinator. Cathy emailed back to say that APS just hired a new person to replace Laura Hassel (former SRTS liaison person). We are hoping to connect with the new SRTS person sometime in March.
- Lucas will be presenting to the GMU bicycle Association in a few weeks. It's a great opportunity for us to provide information about the Near Miss app. Mike to send Lucas, Sarah, Robert, etc. a summary description of the Near Miss app with the QR code.

Next Arl FSS meeting – Wednesday, March 22, 2023