

Ffx FSS Meeting
Venue: Zoom conference call

26 Jan 2021

13 people attended the meeting

Old Business

- ❖ **Blake Lane Safety Issues** – Follow up to Supervisor Palchik’s open forum
 - A representative from the County’s Transportation Department gave an update on some alternatives the County is investigating regarding changes on Blake Lane, such as:
 - Reducing Blake Lane from 4 lanes to 2 lanes and install 2 roundabouts in order to slow drivers’ speed down but such a change would be radical and subject not only to the County’s approval, but it would also require VDOT’s approval (which is unlikely because it would create traffic congestion on other roads)
 - Install four to five Rapid Flashing Beacons (RFB) at certain crosswalks (including Blake Lane). This could cost up to \$1.1 mil. The County does not have extra money to do all of these RFBs.
 - The conversation then turned to other alternatives including adding bike lanes along all of Blake Lane (which would cost ~\$15 mil) and other infrastructure changes.
 - **The ASE option:** Another alternative discussed to reduce drivers’ speeding was to install Automatic Speed Enforcement (ASE) devices; aka speed radar cameras.
 - By current Virginia law, ASE can only be used on road construction projects and/or in school zones. Ffx FSS (and its NoVA FSS affiliated chapters of Alexandria and Arlington) advocated at this year’s 2021 Virginia State legislative session in Richmond to allow jurisdictions, at their discretion, to implement ASEs on residential streets and/or in business districts.
 - ASE is a cheaper way to reduce speeding than major road infrastructure changes. The cost of installing & monitoring the equipment is usually paid for w/ initial fines.
 - The State legislators said no to further expanding ASE installations, not until they see results from the existing ASE regulations that allow for installation around schools.
 - So it is important for all of us who think ASEs can slow drivers down (lots of studies support that fact) to encourage our local municipality to start installing ASE around a few schools in order to collect speed and crash data.
 - What is critical is to gather speeding data before the ASE is officially installed and then after installation to compare driver behavior.
 - In Virginia, ASE’s are installed and monitored by the local police. Unfortunately, Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) has not installed, nor does it plan to install, ASE equipment around any of Fairfax’s schools.
 - FCPD says that such a project requires staff and resources to install & monitor the device and the problem with drivers’ speeding and crashing into pedestrians is more acute on other roads in the County, not so much around schools.
 - The benefit of collecting data on speeding in one of the few places in the County where such data can legally be recorded doesn’t appear to be a

high priority for FCPD, given all of the other issues they are contending with today.

- If we aren't able to obtain sufficient data proving the results of how ASE technology slows drivers down we may not be able to encourage the State law makers to allow for the installation of this technology in our residential neighborhoods.
- **Ffx FSS has a call to action: Join Ffx FSS to advocate that the County Board of Supervisors authorizes FCPD to install ASEs around a couple of the County's schools.**
 - If you are interested in helping to campaign for ASE implementation please let us know. We have a small committee of volunteers, but it helps to have constituents from all of the County's Districts.

❖ **Update on New Traffic Regulation Advocacy Campaign**

- Current traffic regulation advocacy at the State's 2021 General Assembly
 - Speed limits to 15 mph (HB1903) in residential / business districts is going well with recent passage in the House of Delegates and now crossing over to the Senate.
 - Allows for jurisdictions, at their discretion, to lower speed limits to 15 or 20 mph in residential neighborhoods w/o having to incur a \$10K-15K traffic study.
 - NoVA FSS members sent ~ 400 postcards to legislators asking them to vote yes on this "15 mph" bill.
 - Zebra Crosswalks (HB 1841); deferred for a VDOT study to be done by Nov 2021.

❖ **New Business**

- Social Media
 - Ffx FSS is using FB and Twitter to try to connect with Fairfax residents.
 - Other suggestions on how to connect?
 - Print Media? HOAs? Others?
- Volunteer recruitment
 - **Greatest Ffx FSS volunteer needs: Social Media, Web Maintenance**
- 2021 Summer/Fall project: Walk audits to improve understanding of Ped / Bike infrastructure and identify dangerous sections such as Blake Lane and Shreve Road.
 - Other crash corridors candidates?

❖ **Upcoming Events:**

- **Fairfax FSS meeting changed to the 1st Monday of a Month. So, our next meeting will be on Monday, Mar 1, 2021**
 - **Therefore, no Ffx FSS meeting in February**
- Sister AFSS Meeting – the 3rd Tuesday of the Month - Feb 16, 2021
- Sister Arl FSS Meeting – changed to the 4th Wed of the Month – Feb 24, 2021