

Fairfax Families for Safe Streets (“Ffx FSS”)

6 December 2021: 6:30 pm to 8 pm

Location: Zoom

Meeting Notes

Introductions – 12 people in attendance including Mike Doyle, Sonya Breehey, Christine Mayeur, Lauren Delmare, Sally Smallwood, Max Jenkins, Hannah Neagle, Phil Kemelor, Bob Jordan, Karen McClusky, Colleen Cranna, 2nd Lt. Jason Long

Guest Speaker

- FPCD – 2nd Lt. Jason Long report on Pedestrian crashes from Oct to November 2021
 1. Oct 11th at 10:30 pm; Person on an electric skate board was killed on Hunter Mill Road. The skate boarder had no reflective clothing / gear and may have fallen on the street before a car ran over him. The skate boarder had some type of drug in his system but not sure if he was legally impaired
 2. Nov 1st at 9 pm; On Route 1 and Collard Street. Pedestrian did a mid-block crossing, trying to walk to a Bus Stop and was seriously injured. No charges to the driver.
 3. Nov 2nd – 7 am; A pedestrian was seriously injured when walking in a crosswalk and driver crashed into the pedestrian. Charges are pending: Vulnerable Road User citation?
 - Lt. Long said historically there is a correlation between major bus routes and pedestrian crashes

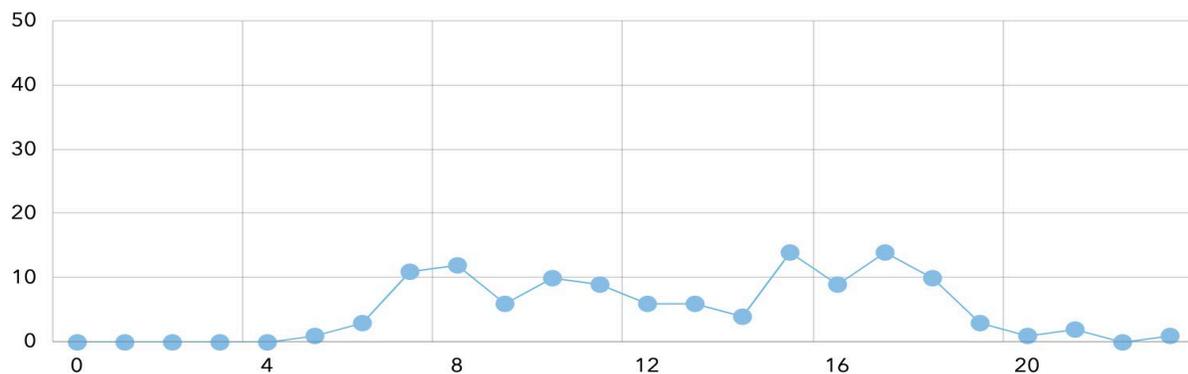
Fairfax County YTD Pedestrian / Bike Crash data – 11 pedestrians killed YTD 2021 vs. 14 killed YTD 2020

- But also 2 bicyclist killed YTD 2021 so total is 13 killed YTD 2021

Old Business

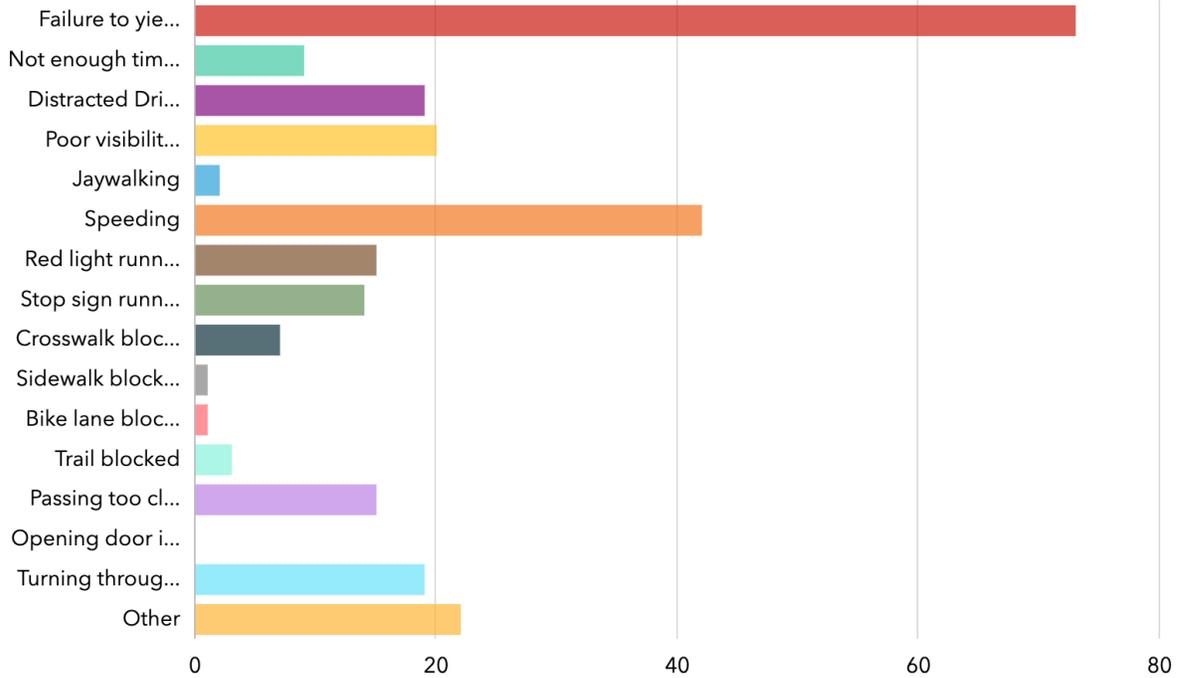
- Update on FFX FSS’s Near Miss Survey data – Karen McClusky reported that:
 - Drivers are overwhelmingly reported as at fault
 - Most frequent nature of the NM incidents are “failure to yield” and “speeding”
 - Crosswalks at traffic lights and stop signs are where most incidents occur, right turns cited as also dangerous
 - Averaging 20 Near Miss reports per month since June through November.

Reported incidents by time

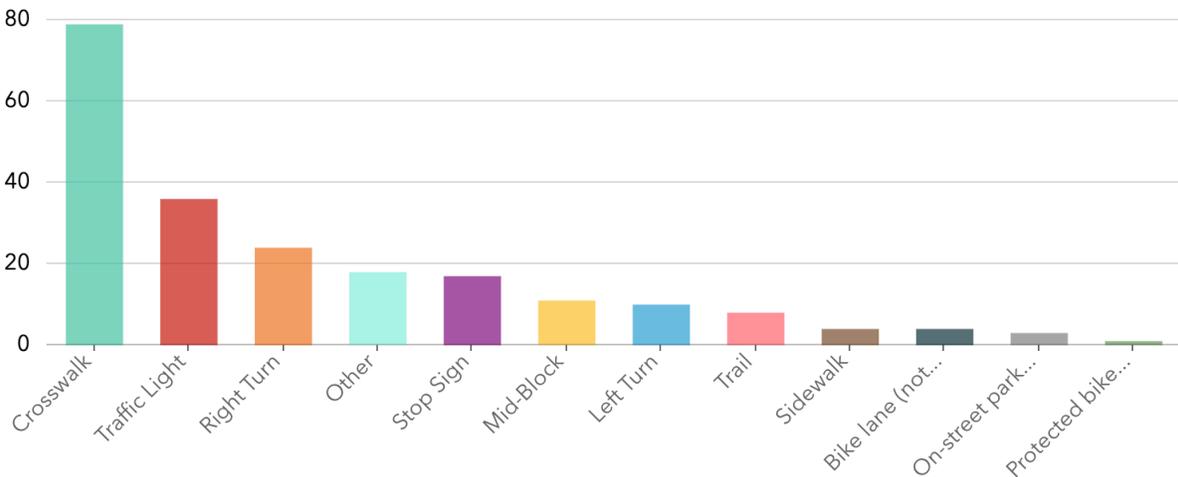


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Nature of incident



Crosswalks at traffic lights and stop signs are common risk locations. Right turns also of high concern



- Ffx FSS's recent marketing plus public outreach plans
 - Ffx FSS has had conversations with FCCPTA and FC PTOs. Trying to encourage distribution of the NoVA FSS Near Miss Survey
 - Published Stop-Look-Wave article in Annandale Blog
 - Mason District Supervisor’s office provided list of organizations to contact for potential introductions and blinker distribution

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- Distribution of 3-way blinkers – 500 blinkers to FCPS; ~ 300 blinkers distributed to neighborhoods and around bus / metro stations. We have another ~ 200 blinkers remaining to give away.
- World Day of Remembrance (WDoR) results
 - Close to 60 participants including Northern Virginia policymakers from Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax (including District Supr. Alcorn and Lusk). We asked both Fairfax County District Supervisors if they supported:
 - reducing speed limits in residential neighborhood?
 - putting Automatic Speed Enforcement (Speed Cameras) in school zones?
 - If so, when would these steps be taken?
 - Answer: FCPD is conducting studies on several potential school zone sites to test the technology and they should have some recommendation soon.
 - The ability of the County to reduce speed limits in residential neighborhoods is hampered because VDOT and the Attorney General have to approve any changes.
 - *Ffx FSS should do some research and figure if there is a way we can help Fairfax County navigate these obstacles*
 - Supr. Lusk talked about Street Simplified’s video records and data analytical technology to capture Near Miss incidents at intersections. We mentioned that Ffx FSS is working with Street Simplified to share our NM survey data to see how that helps with identifying dangerous locations
 - As part of raising awareness about the WDoR event, Ffx FSS Board member **Christine Mayeur** suggested and then designed lawn signs with a picture of a person walking in a crosswalk at an intersection and the words “A person lost their life here in a crash” plus the words “World Day of Remembrance” with the NoVA FSS logo and QR code. We planted 12 signs around the area at intersections where pedestrian have been killed.
- Traffic regulation advocacy priorities for the Virginia State General Assembly
 - Because of the House of Delegates change in political balance, post the Nov 2021 elections, the new traffic regulations that we were hoping to see implemented are not going to happen this GA 2022. However, we will advocate for a Virginia statewide Vision Zero resolution that would lay out in broad terms the goals of zero traffic fatalities (by the modest time line of 2050). A similar resolution is being circulated at the Federal level where we asked and got co-sponsorship signatures from Senators Warner and Kaine plus Representative Don Beyer.

New Business

- TPB Grant update award of \$45,000 to NoVA FSS (via Alexandria City’s sponsorship)
 - NoVA FSS is very pleased to announce that the MWCOG, through its Transportation Planning Board (TPB), has awarded grant money to NoVA FSS in order to enhance our existing Near Miss (NM) street incident reporting application by developing:
 - an advanced analytics tool that provides data correlation and predictive analytical algorithms between the State of Virginia’s TREDIS crash data and AFSS’s Near Miss data
 - a smartphone application of the NM data collection survey,

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- translate the data collection survey and other materials into relevant non-English languages, and
- community outreach programs that expand availability of the NM data collection survey to our member communities.
- NoVA FSS wants to thank Mayor Wilson and the other members of Alexandria City Council as well as letters of support from Fairfax County Chairman McKay and District Supr. Lusk for their support.
 - *Note: The TPB will administer the disbursement of all the grant money to the consultants that they hire to execute the project. NoVA FSS nor Alexandria City will not see a penny of the funds.*
- Street Simplified – Fairfax County Transportation Innovation grant winner to install video cameras at ~50 intersections in order to record and analyze “Near Miss” (NM) incidents recorded on video 24/7 at these selected intersection. Street Simplified takes the mega data extracted from the videos, analyzes the “NM” incidents, and then correlates the NM data to VDOT’s TREDIS crash data and runs some predictive analytics on where future crash sites might evolve if corrective action isn’t taken. Street Simplified will use our Ffx FSS Near Miss data to incorporate into its analysis.
 - Andrew Janzen, the CEO of Street Simplified, says that while his system can provide good technology analytics, cameras don’t talk and what is missing is the human feed back on what happened. To paraphrase Andrew’s comment about why he wants to include NoVA FSS’s Near Miss reports, because “it can provide that key, anecdotal missing information.”
- ActiveFairfax Transportation Plans / Ffx FSS liaison reports – Sonya and Christine reported
 - Active Fairfax - The comment deadline for the draft Safe Streets for All program recommendations was Dec. 10th. Some members of Ffx FSS submitted comments.
 - West Falls Church Metro Plan – Sonya will be representing Ffx FSS on the advisory group for the WFC Metro Plan study. Jeremy Hancock is also participating but representing other organizations. The first kick off meeting was Dec. 13th.
 - Huntington Active Transportation Plan - Christine is representing Ffx FSS on this stakeholder group. Sonya also joined but is representing CSG. They had a kickoff meeting last month. There's nothing new this month.
- Community Centers Outreach
 - A discussion pursued as to which Community Centers Ffx FSS should prioritize regarding public street safety outreach efforts. Bailey’s, Gum Springs, and James Lee were endorsed by **Bob Jordan** and others as good organizations b/c they are in low income/immigrant communities.
 - **Christine Mayeur** also commented that people go to libraries for internet access if they don't have it at home, grocery stores on 1st and 15th, and some immigrant communities (Eritrean/Ethiopian) hang out at a few Starbucks or other coffee houses in the area. Many of these grocery stores and coffee shops have comment boards to post information.
 - **Karen** suggested other locations for outreach are Fairfax County Connector & Metro bus stations.

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- Fairfax County Public Schools - Sally Smallwood from SRTS reported that:
 - SRTS conducted an arrival audit on November 30th. We have scheduled the debrief for December 13th from 12:30-1:30. The plan is to review the observations and then make both short term and long-term suggestions to improve safety around the school. The speed limit on Burke Lake Road is 4 lanes 40 mph and it is hilly coming from Rolling Road. Very few cars are doing 40 during the day when the school lights are not flashing. In the morning it is a bottleneck. It is a major commuter route allowing people living in the Burke area to access 495 via Burke Lake Road to Braddock Road and onto Rt 495. I think the speed limit should be lowered to at least 35 mph and the entrance should have a pedestrian signal for students who need to cross after the crossing guard has left, such as students staying for after school activities. A pedestrian refuge would also be nice. Lots of students walk to the school.
- Year-end fund-raising ideas
 - Despite the TPB \$45,000 grant award, Ffx FSS needs to raise money to fund its outreach activities such as 3-way blinker giveaways, social media announcements and advertisements, maintaining our website, etc. We will not have direct access to any of the \$45,000 b/c the TPB disburses the money directly to the consultant hired to assist with the NM enhancement project.
 - Ffx FSS (as well as all of the NoVA FSS chapters) is an all-volunteer run organization w/o any employees. We don't charge membership dues, so our funding comes from donations by the general public. We talked about ways in which Ffx FSS can connect better with people in the County. Suggestions included:
 - Members of PTA organizations
 - Local neighborhood communities / civic associations
 - Newsletter publication
 - Community blogs such as what **Collen Cranna** and **Phil Kemelor** did with the Stop Look Wave article
 - Communications about our NM app, Stop Look Wave, etc. should be Spanish
 - A Near Miss blog will be developed by **Karen McClusky and Phil**
 - Two fund raising messages should go out, one next week and the other near the end of the year.
 - ❖ The PayPal donation button on the Ffx FSS site needs to be changed to read that the money goes to Ffx FSS, not an AFSS donation
 - ❖ Ffx FSS Board member **Jeremy Hancock** has been helping us to keep our web site up to date as well as fix the PayPal account.

Upcoming Events:

- **Fairfax FSS meeting – 2nd Monday in January; Jan 10th, 2022**
 - **Note: moved to the 2nd Monday in January b/c of the Holidays**
 - Feb 7th, 2022 (the 1st Monday of the month) resumes normal schedule