

Fairfax Families for Safe Streets (“Ffx FSS”)

7 February 2022: 6:30 pm to 8 pm

Location: Zoom

Meeting Notes

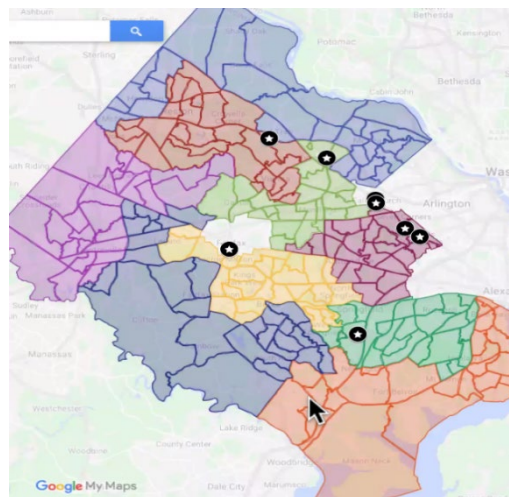
Introductions – 16 people in attendance including Sally Smallwood, Jamie Bluth, Patricia Leslie, Karen McClusky, Gina Hoffman, Collen Cranna, Mike Doyle, Christine Mayeur, Lauren Delmare, Max Jenkins, Hannah Neagle, Phil Kemel, Bob Jordan, 2nd Lt. Jason Long, Michael Ricard, Shyamali Roy Hauth

Old Business

- FCPD – Jason Long
 - Since the last meeting, there was one crash involving a pedestrian on Thursday, February 3. The crash was at Baron Cameron Avenue and North Village Road in Reston. We do not know the status of the pedestrian right now.
<https://www.restonnow.com/2022/02/03/pedestrian-suffers-life-threatening-injuries-in-reston-crash/>
 - VDOT will finalize year-end numbers in TREDIS soon. It takes some time after December 31 to collect and finalize the data.
- Update on Leesburg Pike/VDOT campaign – Phil Kemel
 - Fairfax FSS is trying to get action from VDOT to address Leesburg Pike where a woman was crashed into and killed in December. We sent a letter to VDOT and relevant Fairfax politicians/staff recently and received a quick, positive response expressing interest in working with us to develop a solution.
 - VDOT staff later said they would get back to us in early February and then said it would be several weeks before they get back to us. This morning, Fairfax FSS sent a response to request a specific timeline from VDOT and reaffirming our interest in this being a collaborative process.
 - Lauren Delmare (FCDOT) shared that Leesburg Pike has been an issue for years that FCDOT has been trying to resolve with VDOT. She said there have been recent discussions between FCDOT and VDOT to address the issues in this corridor, but the action discussed will take a long time to implement.
 - We asked why can't VDOT produce near term interim solutions like improved signage, lowering speed limits in high pedestrians traffic areas, etc.? Lauren can't answer that question. It is a VDOT question.
- Update on Ffx FSS's marketing /public outreach plans – Phil Kemel
 - In association with the Ffx FSS Leesburg Campaign, we leveraged the content from the letter to create a blog post that was shared on Annandale Today and Tysons Reporter.
 - <https://annandaletoday.com/leesburg-pike-unsafe-for-pedestrians/>
 - <https://www.ffxnow.com/2022/01/20/traffic-safety-groups-implore-officials-to-make-upgrades-for-pedestrians-cyclists-after-recent-deaths/>
 - We have lots of great ideas for public outreach, but we need volunteers to step up and make it happen.

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- We would like to see if there are volunteers who can help support working with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) on popup events for distributing marketing / safety materials. We could also use help developing more content so we can publish in local blogs, on our website, and on social media. Please reach out to Phil (philkemelor@gmail.com) if you are interested in writing articles or content or helping by working at popup events around selected schools.
- We discussed how Ffx FSS could connect to FCPS High School video clubs. We need volunteers to help put these great ideas into action.
 - Sally Smallwood said that working with FCPS on videos may take a year to plan, coordinate, and produce.
 - Sally also told us about a High School honors class that had done some GIS data analytics. Sally provided the teacher’s name, and we sent an inquiry to meet and discuss how these students might help Ffx FSS.
- Another idea is to have a more regular newsletter that can help mobilize volunteers at a local level.
- We are working on redesigning and reorganizing the NoVA FSS websites. We currently have a NoVA Families for Safe Streets website along with a separate website for each of the 3 chapters (Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax). There are a lot of similarities between the four websites. A committee is working on trying to consolidate the websites and make them easier to navigate and easier to maintain.
- Phillip, Alistair (Arlington FSS) and Joe (AFSS) attended training on how to use Story Corps. This could be a great tool to record stories of Near Misses and crashes from victims and families. If you want to learn more, reach out to Phil.
- Update on FFX FSS’s Near Miss Survey data - observations from Jan 1-Feb 6, 2022 - Karen
 - Eight near misses were reported
 - 2 Mason District (Route 7) – failure to yield, stop light running
 - 1 Providence (McLean) – failure to yield
 - 1 Hunter Mill (Vienna) – speeding
 - 1 Lee (Springfield – Old Keene Mill Road) – distracted driver, speeding, stop light running, passing too close
 - 1 Fairfax City – jaywalking



- 2 Arlington County (Route 7) – failure to yield

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- 7 out of the 8 reported incidents were reporting driver behavior
- Weather was not cited as a factor in any of the reported incidents.
- Facebook, Twitter, and Supervisor’s office (Hunter Mill) reported as “how did you hear about us”
- **Time of day varies throughout the day. We need more data points to identify trends.**
- Traffic regulation advocacy priorities re: 2022 GA - Mike
 - 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 House of Delegates Transportation committee will write a letter to VDOT to consider these topics but essentially the bills were killed.
 - Del. Danica Roem (13th Dist. - Manassas) – 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 unanimous among the subcommittee.
 - Jason Long noted that the issue they have had applying this law has not been because it doesn’t include fatalities, it is because the definition of careless driving is vague and open to interpretation.
 - Del. Kaye Kory in Fairfax submitted a **commendation for Families for Safe Streets** that was put as a resolution yesterday on the floor of the House of Delegates. In the resolution, they credit the three NoVA chapters and the Richmond chapter. The resolution passed unanimously.
- ActiveFairfax Transportation Plans updates
 - West Falls Church, Huntington Active Trans., Vienna Metro
 - Sonya wasn’t able to attend this meeting to provide an update.
 - CSG/CASA Safe Streets for Baileys Campaign

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- The Coalition for Smarter Growth and CASA are working together on a campaign for safer streets in Baileys. This is a community-based effort to improve safety for walking, biking, and accessing public transportation.
 - Sonya is working with this campaign. It is still in the planning stages.
- Update on TPB Grant
 - We received \$45,000 through a grant from the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG). This grant will help run analytics on the data generated from the NM survey correlated to VDOT’s crash data to see if we can develop some predictive analytics on high potential future crash sites using NoVA FSS’s Near Miss data. The Grant may also be able to create a mobile Near Miss app.
 - The money would go directly to the consultants who will help us with the improvements to the survey. NoVA FSS / Ffx FSS will never touch the money.
 - We may be able to incorporate EMT Pedestrian injury reports into the data analytics since it is a distinct data set from the VDOT TREDs data that we hope to be using.
 - If you are interested in working with this initiative, please let us know.
- Another grant opportunity might be the National Safety Funding program, a public health issue that tries to address the problem with a “Safe Systems Approach.” Supposedly \$6 billion for safe streets.
 - Not sure if this is part of the new Infrastructure Bill or something else.
 - FHWA has a Safe Systems Approach data driven effort so this may be the same effort.

New Business

- Supr. Rodney Lusk Discussion – Karen McCluskey
 - Fairfax FSS recently met with Supervisor Rodney Lusk (Lee). Supr. Lusk was engaged and interested in the work that we do. This is a relationship that we should develop with his staff.
 - Discussed Richmond Highway outreach efforts. This is a problem area where there have been many pedestrian crash issues. Also discussed Route 7 and doing outreach in these areas.
 - Discussed the NM survey and how important it is to do outreach in multiple languages.
 - A staff member in Supr. Lusk’s office did a Spanish translation for our NM app survey and hand-out card with the QR code. **Thank you Supr. Lusk!**
 - Representatives from Supervisors Alcorn and Palchik’s offices also said that they would be happy to set up meetings to discuss the NM results, particularly the comments made by people in the NM reports regarding the observed dangers.
- National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM) regional
 - NCMM is seeking letters of interest from communities who would like to have NCMM facilitate a one-day meeting with mobility management practitioners and their partners to try to solve a particular perplexing mobility issue that requires cross-agency coordination.
 - https://nationalcenterformobilitymanagement.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Solicitation_2022.pdf
 - Question: Does Ffx FSS have an interest in working on such a project (perhaps with FCDOT)?

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- Regional FSS Meeting – Hannah Neagle
 - Recently, Families for Safe Streets organizations in the DC Metro area met for a regional meeting. Each group is unique and has different initiatives and projects. However, they each have some shared experiences and a shared mission. It is helpful to collaborate with these organizations and learn from each other.
 - During the meeting, each organization shared updates on recent projects and discussed how each chapter observed World Day of Remembrance.
 - The biggest takeaway from the meeting is that this year we may all be able to collaborate on a regional vision zero report card.
- Secretary Buttigieg announced the National Roadway Safety Strategy
 - The National Roadway Safety Strategy includes more funding for safety initiatives and takes a public health and behavioral health approach to tackling issues.
 - There is an opportunity for jurisdictions to access some of these Infrastructure Funds
 - For more information, read the strategy here:
https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2022-01/USDOT_National_Roadway_Safety_Strategy_0.pdf

Upcoming Events

- **Fairfax FSS meeting – 1st Monday of the Month, March 7, 2022**