

ARLINGTON FAMILIES FOR SAFE STREETS

FALL 2020



A NEW NEWSLETTER FOR ARL FSS

Welcome to the Arlington Families for Safe Streets (ARL FSS) inaugural newsletter! We are publishing this newsletter to inform the community about our ongoing pedestrian, cyclist, and other vulnerable road users safety advocacy programs.

In this inaugural issue, we'll be discussing Arl FSS 2020 accomplishments so far, our plans to expand the Families for Safe Streets organization in the Northern Virginia region of Arlington, Alexandria, and Fairfax counties, a new studio class partnership with VT Graduate School of Urban Planning to help us advance Arl FSS street safety advocacy programs, our "Near Miss" survey extension, and more.

If you'd like to learn more about what we do, join us for our monthly meeting, scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of every month, with our next meetings being Tuesday, September 22, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. (EDT) and Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 6:30 (EDT).

We're also looking for volunteers! Join Arl FSS and help make our streets safer in Arlington.

Sincerely,
Mike Doyle
Arl FSS Member



Northern Virginia FSS
(NOVA FSS)
est. 2020

Alexndria FSS
(AFSS)
est. 2017



Arlington FSS
(Arl FSS)
est. 2019



Fairfax FSS
(Ffx FSS)
est. TBD 2020



FAIRFAX FAMILIES FOR SAFE STREETS COMING SOON

FSS is continuing to expand its safe streets advocacy through the establishment of a chapter in Fairfax (Ffx FSS) later in 2020.

We are creating an umbrella organization called NOVA FSS to help coordinate a regional safe streets advocacy effort.

"NEAR MISS" SURVEY EXTENSION

Visit ARL FSS online at
www.arl.novasafestreets.org.

Email inquiries to
contact@novafss.org.

The "Near Miss" survey is being extended from Alexandria into Arlington! (And, eventually, Fairfax!)

Families for Safe Streets is collecting data to identify areas where pedestrians and cyclists have experienced near misses and/or identify dangerous intersections.

Data is reported anonymously to the county to identify locations with street safety issues that do not show up in traditional crash data sources.

Take the survey today and help improve street safety for the people **you** care about:

<https://arl.novasafestreets.org/near-miss-and-dangerous-intersection-survey/>

Follow ARL FSS



Follow NOVA FSS



NEW TRAFFIC LEGISLATION

ISSUES FOR NEXT LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- Contributory Negligence. A narrow bill to eliminate Contributory Negligence for crashes involving vulnerable road users.
- Subrogation. Current VA law allows insurance companies to take a crash survivor's trial award to settle its claims associated with the crash but can leave the crash survivor with little or no compensation for their injury.



OCTOBER 2020: FSS PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MONTH



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Vulnerable Road User. Provides that person who drives in a careless or distracted manner that results in a KSI to a Vulnerable Road User equals a Class 1 misdemeanor.
Effective date 7/1/2020
- Stopping for pedestrian. Illegal for drivers to pass a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk.
Effective date 7/1/2020
- Automated (Photo) Speed Monitoring Enforcement in school and work zones.
Effective date 7/1/2020
- Distracted Driving ("Hands Free"). This bill would prohibit holding a hand-held device & more enforceable than the current "no texting" ban in VA.
Effective date 1/1/2021

National Walk to School Day is held annually on the Wednesday of the first full week in October. Walk to School Day 2020 is October 7; however, due to COVID-19, APS and its SRTS affiliated program will be holding events for the week of October 6 that focuses on students safely walking on our sidewalks and crossing streets.

Most students will still be doing online learning in October. SRTS will promote students and families by conducting at home Sidewalk Surveys as part of the **National October Walk Month**. The plan is to use sidewalk and street safety learning opportunities probably using a simplified Google form for student and family involvement aligned with AARP template/County Sidewalk Survey.

Details of the plan for Sidewalk Survey roll-out and Walk Month 2020 will be developed in September. Arl FSS will try to support the program in as many ways as possible plus supplement with educational street safety programs for adults through a social media campaign and (hopefully) some in person connections with appropriate social distancing protocols.



ARL FSS IN 2020: LOOKING AHEAD

- Coordinate with Arl FSS and its sister chapter in Alexandria (AFSS) to elevate the "Near Miss" survey to a broader regional monitor that can reflect in more real time the street safety dangers on our streets.
- Announcement! of a new studio class partnership with VT Graduate School of Urban Affairs & Planning students to help us advance Arl FSS and the entire NOVA FSS network with a series of street safety advocacy programs that could include:
 - Crash and Near Miss data analytics,
 - Design and execute crosswalk, sidewalks, and streets audits,
 - NOVA FSS with Public and Government outreach programs in the region, and
 - Research and develop street safety educational programs for K-12 school curricula.
- Coordinate with Arlington's Public Schools (subject to class schedules/reopenings) in teaching street safety best practices
- Get Involved - Volunteer opportunities!
Arl FSS needs volunteers for:
 - Public outreach
 - Social media
 - Education
 - Marketing
 - Government outreach
 - Fundraising



Arlington Families For Safe Streets mission is to bring the community together to create safe streets for all people to walk and bike, by telling the impact stories, educating the general public, and educating policymakers about policies and investments that eliminate traffic-related fatalities and injuries in our community.

501.c3 Private Foundation
c/o Mike Doyle, Member
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Alexandria, VA 22314

