

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

Wednesday, Feb 24, 2021 - 6:30 pm to 8 pm

Zoom Conference Call

Meeting Notes

Attendees:

[Michelle Brydges, Cristina Burbach, Gillian Burgess, Mary Dallao, Mike Doyle, Ruth Shearer, Bob Trencheny, Chip Gurkin and others]

Discussion Points:

❖ **Recap of Virginia General Assembly Results**

➤ ~400 postcards sent to General Assembly members

➤ **WINS:**

■ 15 mph minimum speed limit passed! Allows communities to easily reduce to 15 mph in residential neighborhoods and business districts.

■ A modified version of the Bicycle Safety Act passed! Cyclists are allowed to ride side by side, and drivers are required to move into the other lane to pass cyclist(s). A proposal to allow cyclists to treat stop signs as yield signs, rather than come to a complete stop was deferred. The bill that was passed directs the State Police to convene a working group to review this issue, and to report recommendations to the Chairs of the House and Senate transportation committees.

➤ **DEFERRED:**

■ Expansion of Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) to residential and business areas, as well as ending contributory negligence, are deferred to the 2022 Virginia General Assembly.

➤ **NEXT STEPS:**

■ Thank you notes to representatives, continue to nurture relationships

■ **15 mph:** Take the 15 mph ruling to Arlington County policy makers, who would be capable of passing the ordinance (legal analyst volunteer possibly to draft) -- prioritize specific neighborhoods (e.g. Nottingham) and business districts. Consider petitions to put before policy makers (as well

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as grow Arlington FSS community). Consider working at civic association level -- tie to Neighborhood Conservation Plans (anchor for investments) -- listening tour.

- **ASE:** Advocate for implementation of ASE in school zones and work zones -- need to collect statistics from before and after ASE implementation in order to make the case for expansion in 2022. Legislative cycle starts Sept/Oct, so need to start in the spring. Candidate schools may include: Washington Liberty HS, Nottingham (has a wealth of "before" data), Carlin Springs Elementary, Kenmore, Campbell, Arlington Traditional School, Swanson MS, Ashlawn Elementary, Wilson Blvd -- noting the Carlin Springs road diet (next 6 months)
- **Contact County Board:** Gillian to reach out regarding both 15 mph and ASE topics, perhaps liaise with Takis Karantonis.

❖ National Walking Day

- Mary's update -- Walk Arlington is promoting a map of "hidden gems" using QR codes and prizes. Arl FSS will plan to amplify that initiative. Post-meeting update: Arl FSS will select a subset of the locations and hide its own QR codes, promoting sign up to the Arl FSS member list + prizes.

❖ Next Meeting: Arlington County Budget (process runs Feb-April)

- All should investigate budget line items ahead of next meeting
- Funding Vision Zero was not one of the priorities announced by Manager

❖ Arlington's Vision Zero Action Plan

- General concern over lack of detail, specific targets

❖ Volunteer Arlington

- Registered 12 volunteer opportunities on the site - receiving volunteer interest. Need to make sure we regularly align listings with actual needs so we don't disappoint anyone.

❖ Education

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- There are a myriad of ways to engage kids at all different ages with a "travel curriculum", can be everything from STEAM topics, engineering, art, communications (e.g. traffic gardens, testing air quality, sustainability campaigns)-- and adults then tend to learn from the kids. Gillian is working with Rick Holt at GMU, toward integrating a travel curriculum into Arlington Public Schools. Especially timely as walking and biking is becoming an important part of the APS plan.
- ❖ There will be two sessions at the upcoming Accelerating Active Transportation Change in NoVa event -- both at 1:00 p.m.
 - one on Travel Curriculum and
 - the other on Crash Data where Arl FSS / NoVA FSS's Near Miss survey with upgraded GIS mapping capabilities
- ❖ Upcoming Events
 - [Comments due on Arlington's draft Vision Zero action plan Feb 28](#)
 - [Accelerating Active Transportation Change in NoVa - Mar 25th](#)
 - Sister Ffx FSS Meeting – 1st Monday of the Month, Mar 1st
 - Sister Alx FSS Meeting – 3rd Tuesday of the Month, Mar 16th
 - Next Arl FSS Meeting – 4th Wednesday of the Month, Mar 24, 2021