

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

28 Apr 2021: 6:30 pm to 8 pm

Location: Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Introductions – 10 people in attendance (Gillian Burgess, Cris Burbach, Gina Hoffman, Kristy Gallant, Leslie Tierstein, Lauren H., Tom Sanchez, Ruth Shearer, Alistair Watson, Mary Dallao)

Discussion Topics

- List of Volunteer Opportunities and Projects to Watch – summary of email sent by Gillian
 - [Sign-up to help for APS Rolls!](#) Arl FSS is teaming up to assist APS & Walk/BikeArlington to celebrate the students to walk, bike or roll to school during the week-long Walk/Bike to School Day. We need volunteers to pick up packets of giveaways from Cherrydale and deliver them to schools. Sign up for a group of 2-3 schools (grouped by location) via this sign-up genius. Pick up Sat-Mon and deliver Mon-Wed. Details in the link.
 - [Arlington's Vision Zero Action Plan](#): County staff have prepared the final draft of the Vision Zero Action Plan, which will go to the County Board on May 15. You can express your support to the Board by writing countyboard@arlingtonva.us.
 - [Capital Improvement Plan](#): The County Manager will propose a plan to fund capital projects for the next three years, which will include many transportation safety-related projects.
 - [Crystal City Bike Network](#): County staff postponed an update on this important project to better incorporate public comment.
 - [Route 1](#): VDOT is looking at bringing Route 1 in National Landing down to grade, meaning 18th and 20th Streets would cross at regular intersections, instead of via tunnels. The plans have been disturbing from a safety perspective, but we're continuing to watch this project.
 - [Boundary Channel](#): VDOT and the County are improving the interchange of Boundary Channel Drive & 395 and building a new trail that will connect to the Mount Vernon Trail under the Humpback Bridge.
 - [South Walter Reed Drive Complete Street](#): County staff are taking feedback on their design to improve safety on South Walter Reed Drive between 5th St S and Columbia Pike, by Arlington Montessori and the Career Center. Comments are due May 2
 - [Plan Lee Highway](#): This group looking at the future of Lee Highway has begun presenting concepts, including transportation plans. Meetings are neighborhood-focused on Thursday at 7 pm between April 22 and May 27 via Teams.
 - [MUCTD Update](#): The federal DOT is updating the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), the document that guides how all streets, sidewalks, and bike lanes in the U.S. are built. The document currently allows too much

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speeding by the heaviest, most dangerous vehicles. [People for Bikes has some handy template feedback.](#)

- Bike Month and Walk/Bike/Roll to School Day – Update from Gillian and Lauren
 - May is National Bike Month. Each May, there is a Bike, Walk and Roll to school day to encourage families to get to school through active transportation.
 - This is important from a safety perspective because it encourages families to think about car alternatives. Families who walk and bike may also notice the need for safer streets.
 - APS students are currently in a hybrid schedule and going to school only twice weekly. The plan is to have small giveaways at each school for anyone who walks or bikes to school.
 - Many people believe that driving is safer during the pandemic and hopefully this initiative will be a course correction to encourage active transportation.
 - Schools will coordinate the giveaway logistics and all we need to do is deliver the goodies for the giveaway to the schools.
 - Please sign up to transport the goodies at this link:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044daea722a4f94-arlington1>
 - There are numerous other activities for Bike Month through BikeArlington and WABA.
- Near Miss upgraded Survey & Outreach: summary of the work with VT grad students – Update from Cris and Tom
 - NoVa Families for Safe Streets partnered with the Virginia Tech Master of Urban and Regional Planning capstone project to improve the Near Miss survey. The new dashboard will be launching in Spring 2021.
 - The tool uses ArcGIS Survey 123 integration and geographically locates each response by manual pin drop or address input. It is also shareable by QR code and hyperlink.
 - The survey requests information about near miss incidents and details such as date, time, role in the incident, involved persons/vehicles, etc. Volunteers worked extensively with VT students to ensure that the survey captured sufficient data but was not so long that it would overwhelm users.
 - The data is displayed on a map that includes a heat map of crash survey data. Incidents can be filtered by type of risky behavior, weather conditions, nature of incident, location, etc. The diamonds indicate each reported incident.
 - Tom Sanchez highlighted the other two components of the capstone project: education/outreach and data advocacy. These teams are focused on spreading the word about the survey through social media and PTAs.
 - The team has compiled a list of all PTAs and corresponding points of contact in Arlington, Alexandria, and Fairfax but is missing a few contacts in Arlington. Please contact if you know the points of contact for the following PTAs: Taylor Elementary, Arlington Community High School (if they have a PTA), Cardinal Elementary, and Barrett Elementary. Lauren will look up the points of contact.
 - The Virginia Tech Masters of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) Studio is set to present their recommendations and projects to the Alexandria, Arlington, and

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Fairfax Families for Safe Streets chapters on April 29th at 6 PM. This presentation is open to the public. Please join us for the presentation at: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/my/tomwsanchez>

- National Walking Day Debrief – Update from Mary
 - National Walking Day was April 7 and it went well. Mary reported that there were 1171 people who registered for the event. We do not have data on how many of those who registered participated in the virtual hunt or hidden gems around Arlington. Several people posted photos on social media and completed an experience survey with positive feedback.
 - Arl FSS helped promote the event and the Hidden Gems on social media with a graphic and QR code. This was good experience using QR codes to generate clicks that promote Arl FSS.
- Summer Plans
 - Advocacy on ASE (speed cameras)
 - We plan to advocate for more automated speed enforcement (ASE) in Arlington. Currently, Richmond authorizes ASE only in school and work zones and Arlington has not introduced any yet. Implementation in school zones in Arlington would cover a lot of ground since there are numerous schools.
 - Ideally, other jurisdictions would also implement ASE to increase the data available to analyze efficacy.
 - 15 mph changes
 - The Dillon rule allows localities to act only to the extent explicitly authorized by the state. The state has authorized localities to reduce speed after an engineering study. However, Arl FSS was successful in advocating to change the law, effective July 1, that will allow localities to reduce speed to 15 mph. Arl FSS will advocate for Arlington to start reducing speed limits on road to 15 mph.
 - Planning for Next Year's Legislative Session
 - Last year, we learned that to be successful advocating in Richmond, planning and outreach must start early. Often, only a day's notice is provided when they are going to vote on something. It is time to plan legislative advocacy work.
 - Arl FSS will need to decide which issues to focus on for the next year's legislative session. One proposed cause is "contributory negligence."
 - VA is one of the few states that have contributory negligence instead of comparative negligence. Contributory negligence means that if a pedestrian is struck, if they are in any way partially at fault, they cannot recover from the driver.
 - DC recently changed their own contributory negligence rules for vulnerable road users. A similar approach may be good for advocacy in VA.

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- Previously, Arl FSS has used postcards to send advocacy messages. This can be effective when used occasionally. We must consider who should be contacted and the most effective communication method.
- If you are interested in reaching out to Arlington board members for advocacy or if you have a contact that would be helpful, please contact Gillian.
- Newsletter
 - Alexandria Families for Safe Streets publishes a newsletter periodically. Now that Arlington and Alexandria Families for Safe Streets are combined under NoVA Families for Safe Streets, we would like to publish a combined newsletter, perhaps twice a year.
 - Content may include links to volunteer opportunities and projects to watch, proposed advocacy topics for feedback, and articles about recent accomplishments and changes in legislation.
 - Newsletters can be a useful tool that recipients can forward to other interested people and organizations like civic associations.
 - If anyone has ideas for the newsletter or would like to volunteer to work on it, please contact Gillian Burgess. Mary Dallao indicated interest in volunteering.

Upcoming Events

- Fairfax FSS Meeting – 1st Mon of the Month, May 3, 2021
- AFSS Meeting – the 3rd Tuesday of the Month, May 18, 2021
- Arl FSS Meeting – 4th Wed of the Month, May 26, 2021