



Welcome and Thank You!

November 2021

Thank you for your interest in Arlington Families for Safe Streets (Arl FSS), one chapter of Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets, alongside Alexandria and Fairfax.

The last Arl FSS meeting of the calendar year will be **Tuesday, December 7th, 6:30-8 p.m.** (a combined November/December meeting, scheduled to avoid the holiday weeks). [Notes from our October meeting](#) are available on the website.

We'd love to hear from you about our newsletter! We invite you to [please send suggestions and other feedback at any time.](#)



Volunteers hand out giveaways for Walk & Bike to School Day!



New ArIFSS board member Alistair Watson was on hand at a local farmers market to hand out three-way safety blinkers for bikers and pedestrians.

Recent News

- We're celebrating safer days ahead with the [County Board's approval of the School Slow Zones pilot](#) -- implementation for the first 13 schools is expected to take 3 to 5 months.
- We're handing out three-way safety blinkers at farmers markets and parks, and delivering hundreds more this week to schools in the vicinity of the [Arlington County Vision Zero High Injury Network](#). Contact [Michelle Brydges](#) if you would like to help.
- We're engaging in advocacy work at many levels, including support for the [U.S. Congressional Zero Traffic Fatalities resolution](#), started by National Families for Safe Streets and other interested organizations. Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets approached Senator Warner, Senator Kaine, and Representative Beyer, who all agreed to co-sponsor the resolution.
- We welcome new board members, Lucas and Alistair!
 - **Lucas Henneman** is a biker, runner, and walker in Arlington. In his day job, he studies air pollution as an environmental engineering faculty at George Mason University. He is passionate about policies and street design that keep travelers of all modes safe.
 - **Alistair Watson** is a native Arlingtonian pursuing a lifestyle where he can confidently write on his grave "he did not own a car". A dedicated walker, biker, scooter, and public transportation user, Alistair believes the challenge is making sure cars don't interfere with those more vulnerable who share the road.

- We continue to promote our new and improved [Near Miss Survey](#) (more below), launched this summer via a successful partnership with the [Virginia Tech Master of Urban and Regional Planning Program](#).

What's Up Next?

[World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims](#) Sunday, November 21, 5-6 p.m. Pedestrian fatalities are up 7% this year so far, with 99 reported lives lost across Virginia according to Virginia DMV data for the period of January 1 to November 1. Biking and walking infrastructure saves lives and gives people transportation options that don't involve reliance on driving. But the conversation needs to center those most impacted by unsafe driving, those who have lost loved ones or who have survived serious crashes. Join victims and survivors of traffic crashes, those belonging to the four Virginia chapters of Families for Safe Streets, for World Day of Remembrance. Share stories of tragedy and turn them into productive conversations with local and state politicians for building the solutions to save lives. [RSVP to the Eventbrite here](#).

[November 30th is Giving Tuesday](#), the United States' largest day of giving annually! Giving Tuesday is a global movement where millions of people in 75 countries raise funds for charitable causes. It is a day of generosity following major shopping holidays that re-centers our focus on our communities. No amount is too small -- every penny helps organizations further their mission.

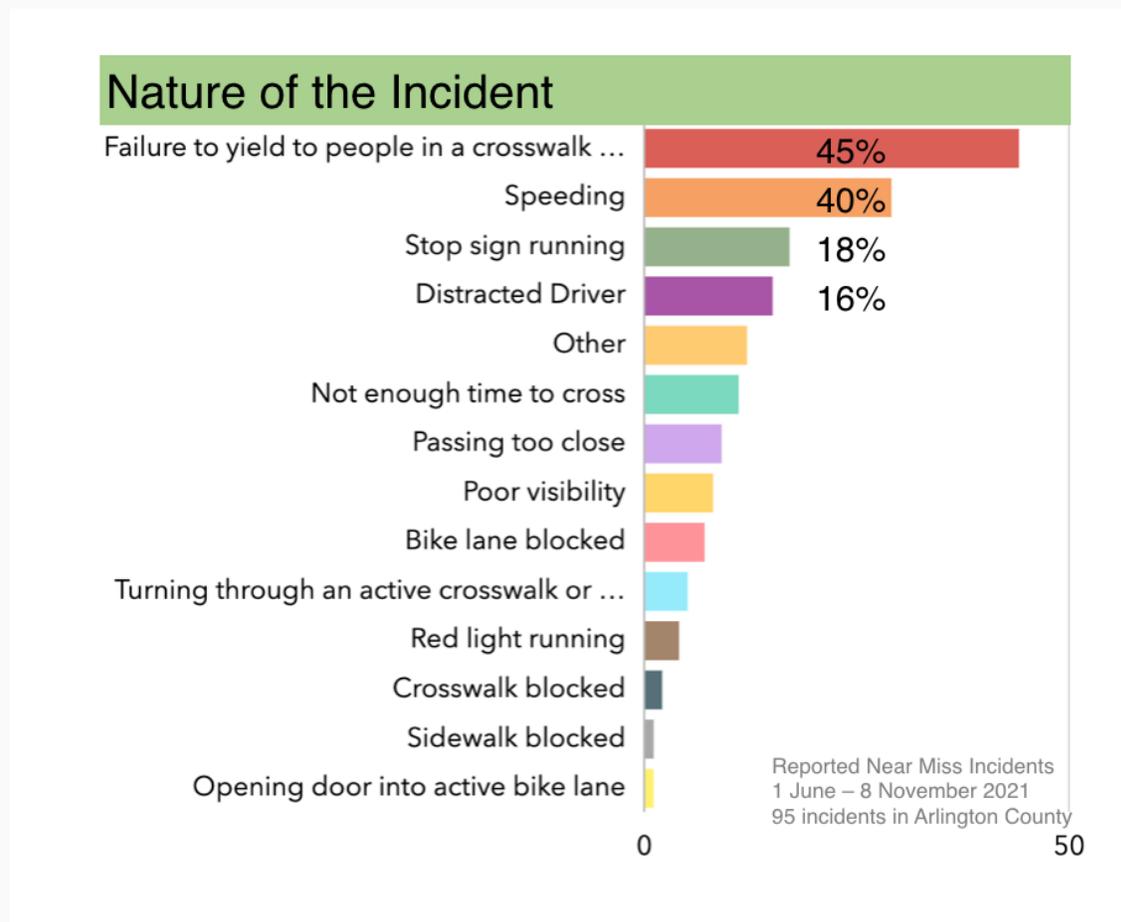
Please consider supporting [Arlington Families for Safe Streets](#) to help improve street safety for all. Funding is particularly needed for education and outreach materials (printed materials and three-way safety blinkers) and toward other efforts to promote the Near Miss Survey, so that we may continuously grow this important [safety leading indicator](#) dataset.

Use the [Donate button on the website](#) and use the "write a note" option to indicate your contribution is for Arlington Families for Safe Streets - thank you!

Near Miss Survey

The [Near Miss Survey](#) is a joint project of all the NoVa FSS chapters. It collects information about dangerous behavior and dangerous locations on our transportation network, which enables us and local authorities to know where to focus efforts to make the transportation network safer.

We are working towards a system to share this information to constructively supplement the County's data and improve everyone's understanding of where risk for pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users is high.



Our Near Miss Survey data so far shows that the top two factors contributing to incidents are the failure to yield to people in a crosswalk and speeding. Most incidents happen during morning and evening rush hours.

How You Can Help

Follow us on social media on:

- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/arl safestreets>
- Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/arlingtonsafestreets/>
- Twitter <https://twitter.com/arl safestreets>

Slow down and pay careful attention to your surroundings as you move around Arlington, especially when behind the wheel.

Tell your neighbors and friends about the Near Miss survey. Neighborhood listservs and Nextdoor are great and if you post on social, please tag us. You are welcome to borrow the language above to post. When you see people discussing unsafe situations, you can respond with something like: "You can report this incident using Arlington Families for Safe Streets [Near Miss Survey](#), which is a quick way to add your experience details into a larger data set that is used to support our advocacy efforts and may be used to help prioritize locations for improvements. Information can be shared anonymously, and the specific location can be pinpointed on a GIS map. You can also report the incident to the [County](#)."

Join us at upcoming farmers markets. Please contact [Michelle Brydges](#) if you would like to join us.

Share traffic safety materials with everyone and remind them to stay vigilant -- our [Stop-Look-Wave Flyer](#) is appropriate for use by elementary school children and older, scout troops, and other organizations.

Watch & share educational resources. For example, using a new set of videos created by FHWA and NHTSA entitled, [Understanding Crashes and Safe Behaviors to Help Prevent Them](#). The crash video series portrays common situations that lead to a crash between a driver and a pedestrian or bicyclist. The videos show the crash from each road user's perspective and offer actions for avoiding the crash.

Spread the word about Arlington County resources - Arlington collects reports about street safety issues through three primary methods:

- [Report a problem](#) with **existing** traffic control devices, signs, markings, meters, as well as sidewalk and road surface damage -- photos can be uploaded.
 - [Traffic Investigation Request](#) (also called C3 Requests) is used to request that the County investigate traffic safety issues at a location and provide detailed information and/or potentially take action to change traffic signs, signals and/or markings.
 - **Report to the police** using the [Aggressive-Driving-Form](#) to report dangerous driving behavior, and the [Police enforcement request](#) to share **ongoing** parking and traffic complaints. Call the Emergency Communications Center at **703-558-2222** to report **in-progress** violations and hazards.
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