

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

26 January 2022: 6:30 pm to 8 pm

*Location:* Zoom

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Introductions** – 7 people in attendance.

### **Treasurer's Report**

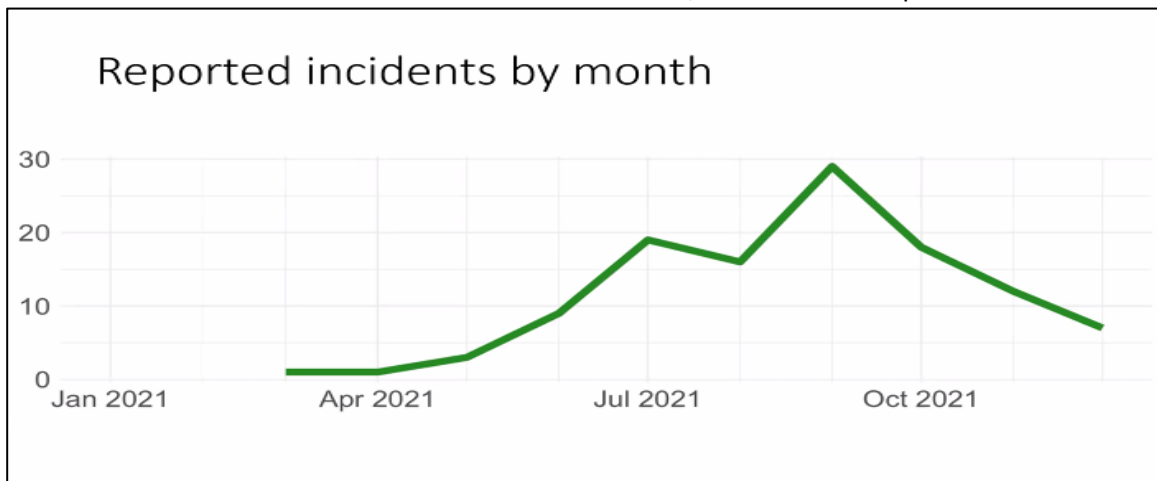
- Norm Lisy, the Treasurer for NoVA Families for Safe Streets, provided an update. We are in the process of moving the nonprofit organization from Alexandria's name to Northern Virginia to encompass the three NoVA organizations (Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax).
- Arlington's current cash balance is around \$790. In the last month, Arlington had \$27.77 in expenses. This year we anticipate some shared expenses among the NoVA chapters and are working on how to track expenses by Chapters.
- We just completed Giving Tuesday and the end of year donation campaign. As a result of those campaigns, Fairfax received about \$1,100, Arlington received about \$625, and Alexandria received \$3,300.

### **Old Business**

- Traffic regulation advocacy – GA update
  - Advocacy in Richmond will be different from advocacy in recent years because the administration has changed.
  - There are a couple of bills out there right now including:
    - A bill from a Republican delegate from Shenandoah that broadens the application of Automatic Speed Enforcement (ASE) to residential areas
    - A technical bill that expands the current 15mph regulation to makes it easier to implement. Jurisdictions would not need to have a test from an engineering firm to lower speed limits to 15mph in locations such a residential neighborhoods.
  - We received a request from Del Roem (Manassas) to help provide input on the Transportation Safety Fund (TSF) bill. She is trying to have surplus funds routed to the TSF so jurisdictions could more easily access funds directly to improve road safety.
    - A couple of NoVA FSS volunteers have collaborated to provide input to the bill.
    - When the bill was introduced, Mike Doyle served as an expert witness.
    - This bill would take 10% of excess revenue and dedicate it to transportation safety design measures. It would be allocated to jurisdictions specifically. This would function as a workaround to get past VDOT's bureaucracy.
    - The majority of the people on the committee were concerned about how to determine which jurisdictions would get it. In the end, the Committee tabled the bill (i.e. killed it)
  - 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 unanimously approved.

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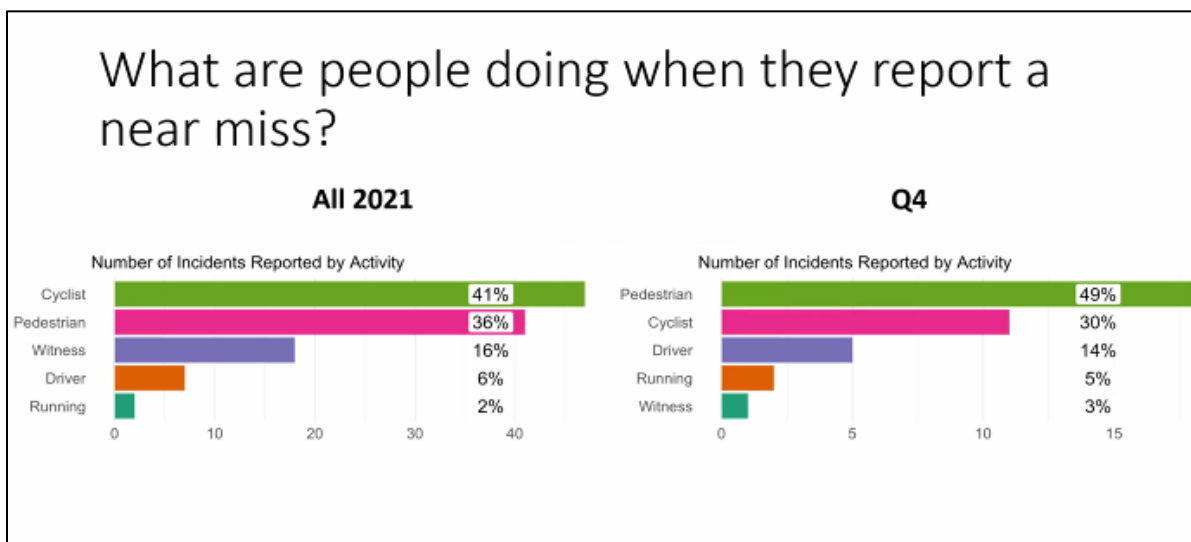
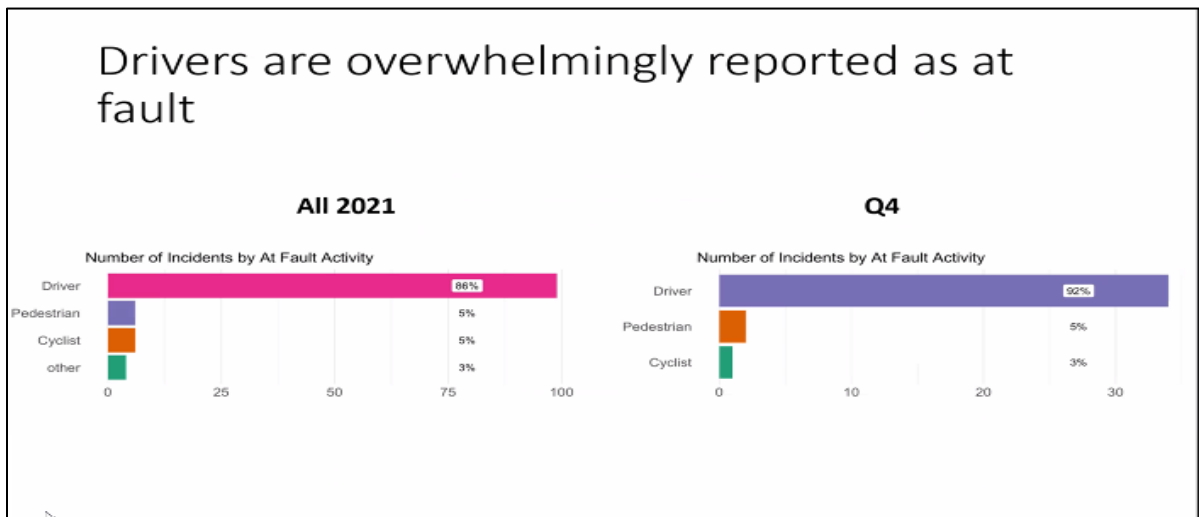
- Del Kaye Kory in Fairfax submitted a commendation for Families for Safe Streets that was put as a resolution yesterday on the floor of the House of Delegates. In the resolution, they credit the three NoVA chapters and the Richmond chapter. **The resolution passed unanimously.**
- Arlington County – Right on Red
  - Recently, signage has been added to traffic lights that prohibit turning right on red. We are not sure how many intersections have these new restriction but there is more to be done.
- Selected street corridor safety improvements campaigns
  - National Landing update
    - We hear a little bit about what is happening in the development of National Landing through Gillian. Working with VDOT is a challenge to make it a pedestrian and bicyclist friendly area.
  - Which neighborhoods can we focus on for improvement campaigns?
    - Courthouse West. Shirlington. Other neighborhoods?
    - In Shirlington, there has been lane reductions and some redevelopments to improve walking.
    - Dan Nabors helped provide comments on recent improvements in these areas.
    - Shirlington definitely has more issues with pedestrian infrastructure than Courthouse West.
- Near Miss Survey results from 2021
  - In Arlington, reports in the near miss survey increased from March through September 2021 and then decreased through the end of the year.
    - Between March and December 2021, there were 126 reported incidents.
    - Between October and December 2021, there were 53 reported incidents.



Most reports occur around rush hour both in the morning and evening. This is consistent when comparing 2021 data and Q4 2021 data.

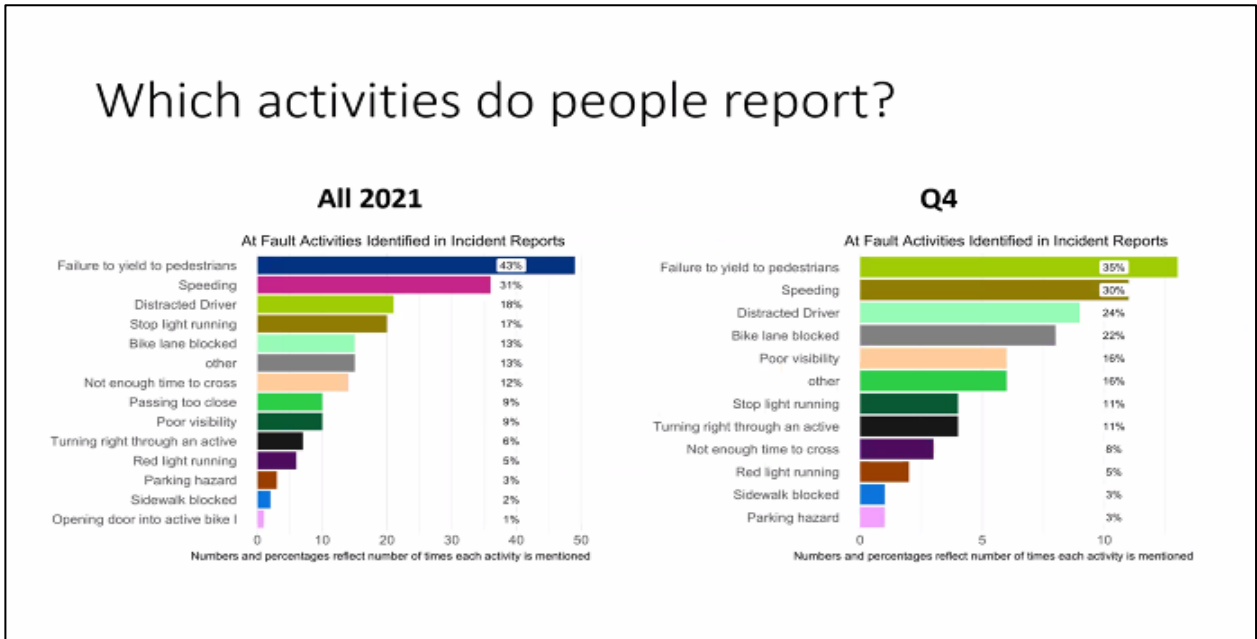
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In most cases, the person reporting the incident was a pedestrian or cyclist reporting the behavior of a driver.

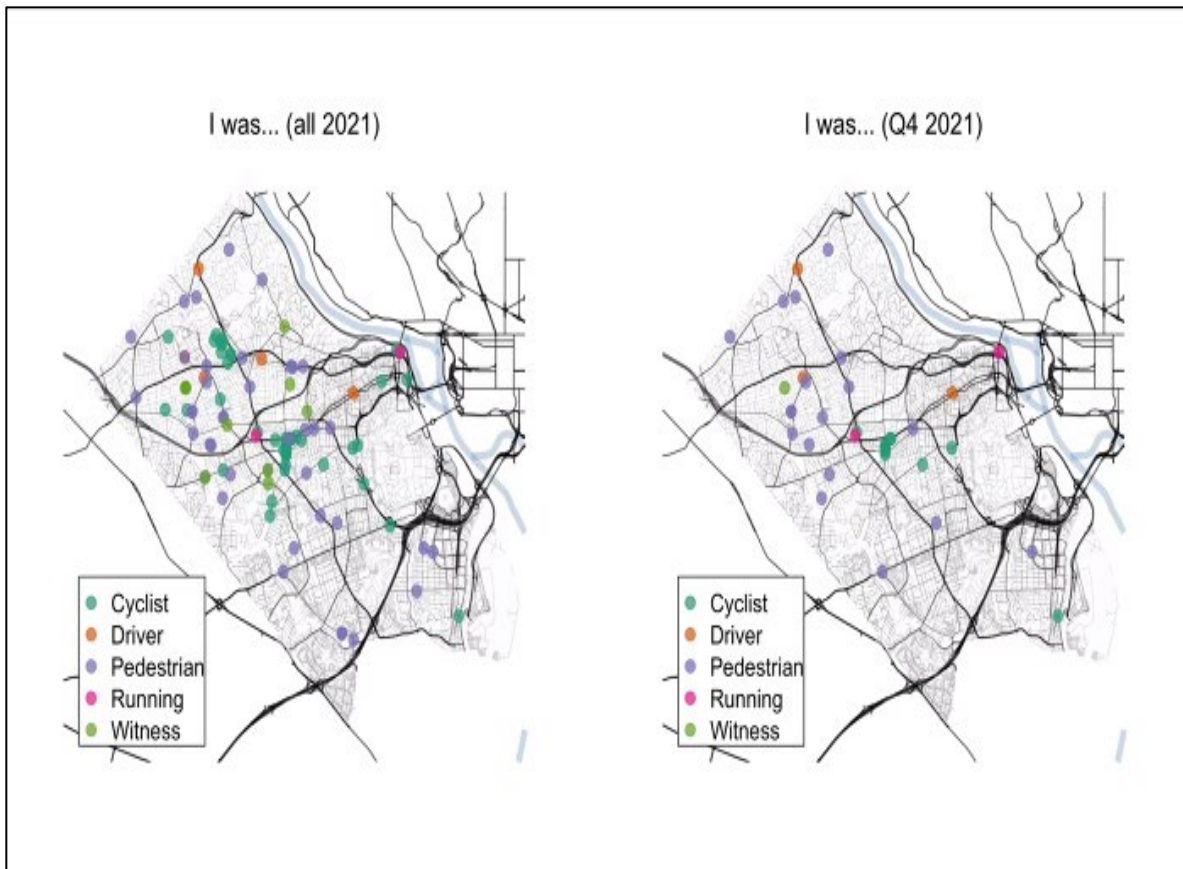


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Most incidents cite failure to yield, speeding, distracted driver, and stop light running as the reason for the Near Miss.

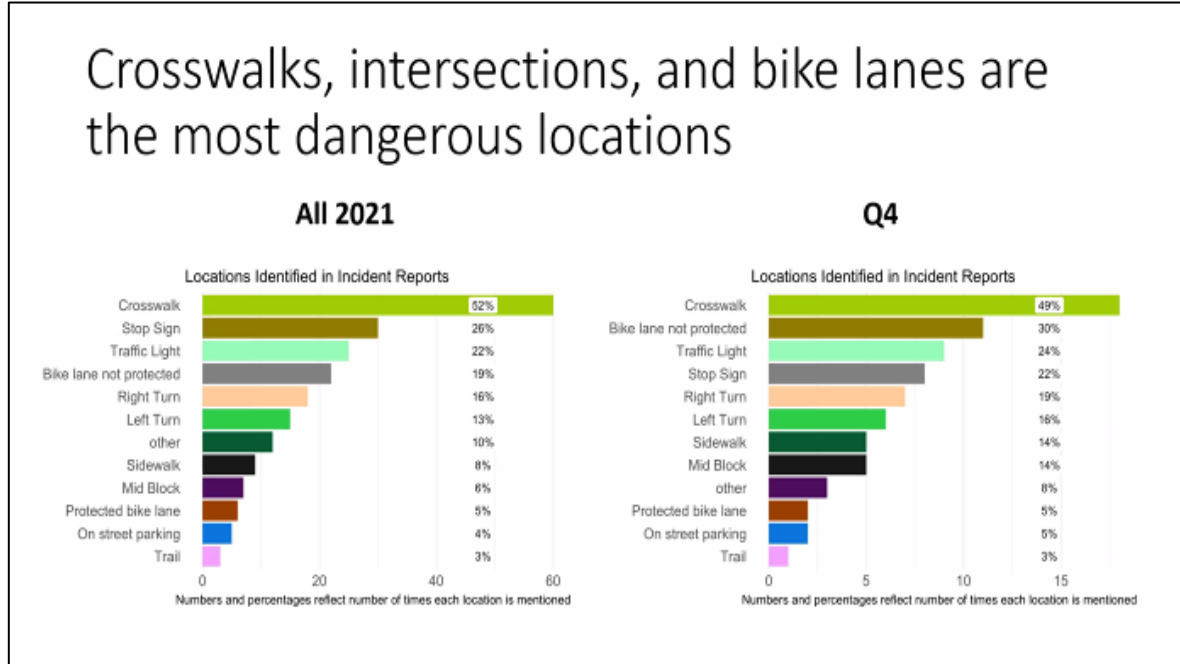


I was:



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Most incidents occur at a crosswalk, stop sign, traffic light, or in an unprotected bike lane.



### TPB Grant Update

- 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 survey and expand usability through translation and the creation of a mobile app.
  - The money would go directly to the consultants who will help us with the improvements to the survey.
  - We may be able to incorporate EMT Pedestrian injury reports into the data analytics since it is a distinct data set from the VDOT TREDIS data that we are currently using.
  - If you are interested in working with this initiative, please let us know.
- How to improve Arl FSS's outreach to the entire County?
  - We would like to improve the reach of the Near Miss survey. The survey gets better with more users and more reports.
  - Discussion:
    - Translation to Spanish and other key languages is essential.
    - A routine schedule of adding full size flyers in the libraries could work. Full sized pages catch eyes more than something like the smaller cards we already have.
    - We could reach out to high school students for volunteer support.
    - Non-app users and non-English languages?
      - Distribute/ hang flyers at bus stops, coffee shops, libraries, etc.
      - Pop up surveys with volunteers in underserved communities
        - If there are neighborhoods we can identify to have popup volunteer events. We can demonstrate how to use the survey.
    - Alistair and Hung volunteered to distribute NM cards.

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

### **New Business**

- NoVA FSS Web Site reformatting and updating
  - 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.
- Improve bench of volunteers with specific projects:
  - It is easier to recruit volunteers when we have specific tasks and assignments for them so that we can advertise tasks and timelines during recruiting.
  - Ideas include:
    - APS educational programs,
    - NM survey outreach campaigns
    - Social Media posting on FB/IG, NextDoor, WhatsApp, etc.
  - Please share other volunteer opportunities you think of.
- National Center for Mobility Management's (NCMM) regional conf
  - NCMM asked the NoVA FSS organizations if we would be interested in hosting one of their conferences.
  - Discussion on whether we think this would be a worthwhile pursue for Arl FSS. General consensus is that it is a good idea. We should plan on discussing with other chapters to see if NoVA FSS will bid for hosting the conference.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Next Arl FSS Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> Wed of the Month, February 23, 2022