

Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) Education Series:

Creating a Safe Multimodal Environment: From Analysis to Implementation

August 2023





Agenda



• Introductions

- Arlington County, VA
- Vision Zero & safety
- Balancing multimodal needs
- Safety Analysis
 - Spot-based
 - Corridor-based
 - Systemic
- Safety Projects
 - Tactical projects
 - Quick-build projects
 - Pilot projects
 - Capital projects
- Integrating Safety into your Program
- Wrap Up





Introductions



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Arlington County, Virginia

Arlington, VA is a semi-urban community located just southwest of Washington, DC

2023 Facts:

- Population: 237,300
- Housing Units: 121,200
- Jobs: 214,600
- Land Area: 26.3 Sq mi







Arlington County & Vision Zero



In July 2019, the County Board adopted <u>a resolution</u> committing to Vision Zero and requesting that staff create a Vision Zero Action Plan.

In May 2021, the County Board adopted a <u>Five-Year</u> <u>Action Plan</u> to get us to Vision Zero by 2030. The Action Plan includes:

- An assessment of existing safety needs/areas
- Goals for a safer transportation system
- A list of action items to achieve each safety goal
- A plan for tracking and reporting our progress



What is Vision Zero?

TRADITIONAL APPROACH

Traffic deaths are INEVITABLE PERFECT human behavior Prevent COLLISIONS INDIVIDUAL responsibility Saving lives is EXPENSIVE

VISION ZERO

Traffic deaths are PREVENTABLE Integrate HUMAN FAILING in approach Prevent FATAL AND SEVERE CRASHES SYSTEMS approach Saving lives is NOT EXPENSIVE

- Focus on preventing serious and fatal crashes.
- See a safety issue in one place and fix everywhere like it (aka safe systems approach).
- Triage safety issues so that we address our biggest problems first.
- Ensure equity in access to safe transportation.



Vision Zero is: **"a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all."** - Vision Zero Network

visionzeronetwork.org/resources/vision-zero-cities/





Community-Identified Vision Zero Goals



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	Our Vision Zero Program Will Be	Community Action Plan Goals	To me, "safe transportation" means
	Multimodal	Ensure safe transportation, no matter how you get around.	MORE BIKE PATHS I
V	Safety-First	Put safety first on County projects and policies - big or small.	
	Transparent & Accountable	Be transparent, responsive, and accountable on Vision Zero progress and outcomes.	VISIONZERO ALIACIÓN COLARY
0000	Data-Driven	Apply timely data to take action on safety.	To me, "safe transportation" means To me, "safe transportation" me
	Collaborative	Promote a culture of transportation safety for everyone.	
ŶŶŶ	Equitable	Prioritize transportation safety investments equitably in the most vulnerable communities.	

Vision Zero Initiatives: Responsive vs. Proactive



Responsive

Critical Crash Follow Up

Collaborate with an interdepartmental team to identify immediate action to address severe & fatal crash locations (and identify next steps to address similar locations to prevent crashes).

Hot Spot Program

Identify crash hot spots using crash & near miss data and implement safety improvements through quick-build projects.

High-Injury Network Audits

Conduct walking assessments of HIN corridors to identify quick fix/build improvements and ensure future planning efforts consider large scale corridor needs.

Community Report-A-Problem

Respond to safety concerns reported by community members – typically involves an investigation, data collection, and implementation of recommendations. Proactive

Systemic Improvements

Identify a safety issue in one location, we actively identify and improve other similar locations to prevent crashes.

Equity Analysis

Perform an analysis of transportation safety issues countywide to identify and address areas or people disproportionately affected by crashes.

Community Education

Promote Vision Zero and transportation safety messaging through targeted advertisements and education materials throughout the community.



Vision Zero Annual Cycle

- Late fall through early spring: Planning and programming.
- **Spring through fall:** Implementation of projects through construction and repaving.
- **April:** Release of annual Vision Zero report covering activities and metrics from the previous calendar year, program open house, and safety feedback engagement.
- October: Release of the mid-year Vision Zero report covering activities within the calendar year to-date in October, annual meeting of the Vision Zero External Stakeholders Group.
- Year-round: Programmatic safety work, such as the crash hot spots program, High-Injury Network safety audits, critical crash reviews, community request response, collaboration, and communication.
- Every two years: Hot Spots analysis
- Every three years: High-Injury Network update





Collaboration and Communication

Action Plan Update (2025)



Balancing Multimodal Needs



Vehicle Lanes + Bike Lanes + Bus Stops + Sidewalks + Curbside Loading + Trees + Lighting + Parking = A whole lot for one street





Balancing Multimodal Needs



Vehicle Lanes + Bike Lanes + Bus Stops + Sidewalks + Curbside Loading + Trees + Lighting + Parking = A whole lot for one street

With a Vision Zero policy, we put safety first, which means protecting vulnerable users.





Data-Driven Safety Analysis



Let's look at Arlington's various data analysis programs and learn more about how each analysis initiative allows us to identify different safety needs.





Spot-Based: Crash Hot Spots

Identifying Hot Spots

- Identified for concentrations of each vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian crashes
- Calculated using crash, volume, hard-braking, and infrastructure datasets
- Weighted crashes based on severity (fatal crashes having the highest weight, hard-braking incidents having the lowest)
- Identified county-wide and specifically within Equity Emphasis Areas (block groups identified because of lower income or higher BIPOC populations)
- Conducted every two years

Addressing Safety at Each Location

- Reviewed in detail to identify safety issues and potential improvements
- Monitored once improvements are in place to ensure safety needs were addressed
- Reassessed if they reoccur on the hot spot list



Spot-Based: Critical Crash Follow Up





Each severe or fatal injury (critical) crash is reviewed and evaluated to identify potential quick-response safety needs.

- Police, engineers, planners, and other interdisciplinary representatives participate in a quarterly review of all critical crashes.
- The reviews result in action items (engineering, education, or enforcement based).



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Corridor-Based: High-Injury Network Audits

Identifying High-Injury Network Corridors

- Identifies street segments with a relatively high number of serious injury and fatal crashes
- Covers 52% of all fatal, severe, or injury crashes in Arlington on only 6.8% of all roadways.
- Calculated using crash (injury-only) and volume datasets
- Weighted crashes based on severity (fatal crashes having the highest weight, injury crashes having the lowest weight)
- Updated every three years

Addressing Safety on Corridors

- Allows for staff to prioritize analysis and resources on these corridors
- Safety audits conducted on a rolling basis to address immediate safety needs (to be addressed short-term) and long-term safety needs (to be programmed into capital project budgeting)



Corridor-Based: Repaving Plans



Identifying Repaving Plans

- The annual repaving program identifies roads that need to be resurfaced.
- When a street is being repaved, staff will conduct a crash analysis to identify potential safety issues.
- Staff have established an annual public engagement process to communicate and obtain input for repaving projects.

Addressing safety through repavement plans may include:

- High-Visibility Crosswalks
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs)
- Bump outs
- Medians
- Buffered or Protected Bike Lanes





Systemic: Spatial Analysis

- Identifies combinations of risk factors from crashes to then proactively address these risk factors and prevent crashes
- AKA "See a problem in one place, fix it in all other places"
- Variables analyzed:
 - Travel mode (vehicle, pedestrian, bike)
 - Vehicle volumes
 - Speed limits
 - Pre-crash movements (ex. making left turn, making right turn, proceeding straight, etc.)
 - Crash factors (ex. alcohol, senior)
 - Crash types (ex. angle, fixed object, rear end, sideswipe, etc.)
 - Nearby land use
 - Equity emphasis areas

Addressing safety through spatial analysis:

- Inventory and assess conditions on all segments to ensure that they meet current County standards for signage, pavement markings, and pedestrian ramps.
- Assess the potential for further safety measures from Arlington's Multimodal Safety Engineering Toolbox.



Systemic: Countywide Trend Analysis

Critical Crash Trends Analysis

- An annual review of commonalities across critical (serious or fatal) crash characteristics using a multiyear period of analysis
 - Common behaviors
 - Patterns for crash modes or crash types
- Identifies common factors involved in critical crashes to help focus engineering, education and outreach efforts

Annual Crash Analysis

 An annual comprehensive crash analysis that identifies short and long-term crash issues and patterns





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Safety Projects



Safety projects, big or small, all have significant safety benefits.

Some are temporary and some are permanent.





Tactical Safety Projects

- Typically includes signage, markings, flex posts, and/or other temporary materials
- Cost is low and typically funded through general operating, repaving, or Vision Zero funds
- Can be implemented within a year.
- Community engagement is typically low/"communicate" level
- Provides an opportunity to adjust the design based on real world operating conditions.



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Transforming autooriented roadways...







...by repurposing space for other modes, as a shortterm means...





...through a phased approach...







...to achieve long-term goals.







Tactical design allows concepts to be tested to see if concepts will work





Step 1







Find opportunities though routine maintenance





Step 2



Consider longterm design





Step 3



Engage effectively







Step 4





Iterative implementation



Tactical Safety Project: Before/After

Collisions Before and After: Richmond Hwy & N Marshall Dr

In 2020, the County installed safety modifications at the intersection of Richmond Hwy and N Marshall Dr, including signs to clarify turning movements for vehicles on Richmond Hwy. The average number of collisions per year decreased from 8.3 in 2014-2020 (before project) to 3 in 2021-2022 (after project).





and warnings to facilitate safe flow of all road users.

Tools Implemented

Collision Characteristics



Before (2014 - 2020) After (2021 - 2022)







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Tactical Safety Project: Before/After

Collisions Before and After: N Pershing Dr & N Irving St

In August 2017, the County installed an all-way stop at N Pershing Dr and N Irving St due to a high number of qualifying collisions within 12 months. The average number of collisions per year decreased from 3.25 in 2014-2017 (before project) to .5 in 2018-2022 (after project).



Rain

First Harmful Event

Motor Vehicle in

Transport

13

Before

Speed Related

Distracted

Senior

Before (2014-2016) After (2017-2022)



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Before/After: Systemic Evaluation of AWS Application **VISION**ZERO



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Tactical Safety Project: Before/After

Collisions Before and After: N Meade St & Arlington Blvd

In October 2020, the County installed <u>safety modifications</u> at the intersection of N Meade St and Arlington Blvd to remove the southbound turn lane and add a protected bike lane. The average number of collisions per year decreased from 4.3 in 2014-2020 (before the project) to 3 in 2020-2022 (after the project).





Tactical Safety Project: Before/After

Collisions Before and After: Fort Myer Dr and N Fairfax Dr

In November 2017, the County installed safety modifications at the intersection of Fort Myer Dr and N Fairfax Dr to clarify the merging and turning lanes and implement a yield sign. **The average number of collisions per year decreased from 3.25 in 2014-2017 (before the project) to 2.2 in 2018-2022 (after the project).**



Before (2014 - Nov 2017) After (Dec 2017 - 2022)

Tools Implemented



Reduce the speed of traffic, crossing distances, and/or provide additional space for other uses of the roadway.

Total Collisions





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Quick-Build Safety Projects

- Cost is typically low- to mid-range and funded through capital funds.
- Can be implemented within one to three years.
- Intended to be permanent projects.
- Lower intensity planning and design compared to longer-term, capital-funded projects.
- Community engagement is typically low/ "communicate" level.
- Can begin with temporary materials and later be followed up with permanent materials.





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Quick-Build Safety Projects: Before/After



This project installed flashing beacons to improve pedestrian visibility at this mid-block crossing that is on a critical path to three schools.











Quick-Build Safety Projects: Before/After



BEFORE TREATMENT



This project added curb extensions to visually and physically narrow the roadway, reduce crossing distance for pedestrians/bikes, and reduce turning vehicle speeds. The project included marking stop bars and high visibility crosswalks.





Pilot Safety Projects



When we apply a new safety tool or strategy for the first time or in a new type of location, it is called a "pilot safety project." Pilot projects typically use temporary materials so they can be installed, adjusted, and removed easily.



Why do we pilot?

We place pilot projects where there is a safety concern identified by observations and data.

Pilots allow us to (1) respond quickly to safety needs and (2) test materials or strategies in new environments to determine their effectiveness or impact.



How long is a pilot?

A pilot can last from one month to over one year.

If the pilot addresses the safety concern and receives positive feedback, it may remain in place longer. If the pilot does not have the intended safety impacts or creates new concerns, we may adjust or end it sooner.



Pilots are a temporary response to safety concerns, so preproject engagement involves only those directly affected.

During the pilot, we welcome feedback from the community and may host a formal call to gather feedback.



What next?

Staff defines performance metrics, collects data, and reviews results/feedback to assess if the pilot was impactful in addressing the safety concern.

If the pilot was impactful, we may keep it in place or install permanent materials. If the pilot had adverse impacts, we may try something different.

Observe, Adjust, Repeat



Because pilots involve new tools or settings, we closely observe how the pilot is working and adjust or remove if there are immediate safety concerns.



Pilot Safety Project Example – Lane Closure



There were 100-130 people using the buffer area per day. 40-50% were students. VISIONZERO ARLINGTON COUNTY

Observed travel modes along the sidewalk and buffer area:



The pilot reduced travel lane space, which encouraged yielding for vehicles entering/exiting driveways.

About 9 in 10 cars approaching the driveways yielded to approaching pedestrians/bicycles/etc.



Pilot Safety Project Example – Temporary Roundabout







Numbers on map correspond with numbers on chart at left.



Speeds Approaching the Intersection



Driver Yield Rates to Pedestrians Crossing: Despite a low sample size, data generally indicate that yield rates are high for pedestrians at new crosswalks and improved at preexisting crosswalks.





Pilot Safety Project Example – Turn Lane Removal & LPI







Crashes at Fort Myer & Langston EB



Severe Injury

Visible Injury

2021 (before pilot) to 3 in 2021-2022 (during pilot).

Pedestrian/Bike Crashes at Fort Myer & Langston EB



Removal of the outer left turn lane and addition of the Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI) phase now allows 40% of pedestrians to cross with no vehicle conflict.



Capital Safety Projects

- Cost is mid-range to high (funded through the Capital Improvement Program or part of a site plan development).
- Longer implementation timeframes (three or more years).
- Typically built with permanent materials.
- Requires significant data collection before implementation to ensure appropriate long-term design.
- Intensive planning and design of individual capital projects is the most intensive (ex. may require easements, etc.).
- May require procurement for construction services.
- High level of community engagement.







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Condition

- Heavily used trail
- Adjacent arterial

General Improvements

- Improve crossings (3)
- Widen trail





Condition

- Heavily used trail
- Adjacent arterial

General Improvements

- Improve crossings (3)
- Widen trail



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Design Change After Analysis

 Initial concept proposed shared right turn/through lane







Design Change After Analysis

- Initial concept proposed shared right turn/through lane
- Final design included right turn pocket



Capital Safety Projects: Before/After



Collisions Before and After: Langston Blvd Esplanade Project

In May 2020, the County completed the removal of a traffic lane and enhancement of the multi-use trail on Langston Blvd from N Lynn St to N Oak St. The average number of collisions per year decreased from 29 in 2017-2020 (before the project) to 10 in 2020-2023 (after the project).









Tools Implemented





Tool-based Systemic Safety Applications

- Selected on an ongoing basis (as issues are identified)
- Application breadth depends on the scale and volume of improvements
- Prioritized on high-injury network, at hot spots, in equity emphasis areas
- Recent examples:
 - Stop bars (countywide)
 - School Zone Retrofits (countywide)
 - SLOW SCHOOL XING markings (uncontrolled arterial crossings in school zones)
 - Leading Pedestrian Intervals / No Right on Red (HIN corridors)
 - Tactical intersection tightening (wide corridors with crash history)
 - RRFBs (multi-lane uncontrolled crossings)













Countywide Spatial Systemic Safety Analysis



- In 2021, Arlington conducted a study to proactively identify and address common risk factors involved in injury crashes in the County
- Reviewed crash points from 2016 2020
- Looked for similarities across contributing factors and geographies
- Considered County-wide crash locations AND crashes specifically in Equity Emphasis Areas*



Systemic Safety Analysis: Crash Stats (2016 – 2020)



- All Crashes 8,577
- Fatal & Severe Crashes 212
- Equity Emphasis Area Crashes 2,228
- Equity Emphasis Area Fatal & Severe Crashes 49

Systemic Crash Review Matrix





Systemic Safety Analysis: Crash Profiles

- The Analysis resulted in "Crash Profiles": Locations across the county/equity areas with similar crash patterns (combinations of crash factors and geographic characteristics)
- The crash profiles strive to balance total crashes and fatal/severe crashes with patterns that can be tied to specific location-, user-, or behaviorbased countermeasures.

Results:

<u>10</u> Countywide Crash Profiles AND <u>10</u> Equity Emphasis Area Crash Profiles

Crash Factors and Geographic Characteristics Assessed:

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- Travel Modes Involved
- Roadway Type (volumes, posted speed, signals/controls, sidewalks)
- Pre-Collision Movements
- Collision Factors (ex. alcohol, seniors)
- Collision Types
- Vehicle Type
- Proximity to Bike Share Station
- Nearby Land Uses
- Equity Indicators (low-vehicle access, limited English, disability status)



Crash Profiles: 10 Countywide



1	र र र र र र र र र र र र र र र र र र र	Pedestrian-involved crashes at signalized intersections with high ADT and medium speed limit
2		Pedestrian-involved crashes within 50 feet of a bus stop or Metrorail Station entrance
3		Pedestrian-involved crashes with motor vehicle making left turn in mixed use areas
4		Pedestrian-involved crashes in low vehicle access areas
5 ×	· / \	Pedestrian-involved crashes with motor vehicle proceeding straight at unsignalized intersections and midblock locations with low ADT and low speed limit
6		Bicycle proceeding straight and motor vehicle making right turn within ¼-mile of a community facility
7	/ \	Alcohol-involved crashes at unsignalized intersections and midblock locations with low ADT and low speed limit
8		Left turns at unsignalized intersections with high ADT and medium speed limit
9 🔞	7007 77007 7007	Right turns at signalized intersections with medium ADT and medium speed limit
10 💮		Left turns at signalized intersections with medium or high ADT and medium speed limit



Crash Profiles: 10 Equity Emphasis Areas



1	ŝ		Pedestrian-involved crashes within ¼-mile of a community facility		
2	ŝ		Pedestrian-involved crashes with motor vehicle proceeding straight in low vehicle access areas		
3	ŝ		Pedestrian-involved crashes within residential areas		
4	ŝ		Senior-involved (60+) crashes within 50 feet of a bus stop or Metrorail station entrance		
5	ŝ		Pedestrian-involved crashes with motor vehicle turning left in low vehicle access areas		
6			Left turns in commercial areas		
7	NEW		Under 19-involved crashes in residential area		
8	Ā		Alcohol-involved crashes within ¼-mile of a school		
9	Ŕ	\bigcirc	Alcohol-involved crashes in residential areas		
10			Left turns within ¼-mile of a school		



EQUITY EMPHASIS AREA CRASH PROFILE 1

Pedestrian-Involved Crashes within One Quarter-Mile of a Community Facility



COUNTYWIDE CRASH PROFILE 1

Pedestrian-Involved Crashes at Signalized Intersections with High ADT and Medium Speed Limit







That was interesting... But what are you going to do next?



Systemic Crossing Review

- Based off Equity Emphasis Area Crash Profiles, Identified 500+ locations for review.
- Do they meet current county standards for signage, markings, pedestrian ramps?
- Data Collection Using Google Forms and Power BI for tracking and user interface





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What are we looking for?



Example: Midblock Crossing Review

Does a Midblock crossing meet our current county standards for signage and marking?





Midblock Crossing Review

Midblock Crossi	ng Rev	VIEW Midblock Crossings - Equity Areas Notematil (grand con Settle account Perspect		ARLINGTON COUNTY
Is a median present? Issues and markings usay depending on whether a crossing has a median or not. Methods: - an example of the Arlington County sign and marking standard for methods crossings. Intibleck: - an example of the Arlington County sign and marking standard for methods crossings. Image:	YES			ards for midblock epending on whether a nt or not. asked to determine if a
Midblock w/ median - an example of the Arlington County sign and marking standard for midblock crossings with medians.	NO	Back Next Midblock Crossings - Equity Areas Network11@grad con bitCh accout *Regred Vedeolian Sprage	Clear form Choosing yes of path the review different set of	nt. no determines the wer takes, with a questions for each
Is a median present? * Ves No		Is pedestrian warning signage present? * Yes No 		
Back Next		Cle Back Next	Clear form	



Midblock Crossing Review

- After each crossing review is submitted, the results will be tallied, making note of each standard that was not met.
- This tally of unmet standards, will then be used to prioritize the locations most in need of upgrades and will help build out a crossing upgrade work plan.

Signage

No

Yes

Yes

Sight Distance

No

Yes

Yes





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Midblock Crossing Review







Integrating Safety into your Program

- Plans
- Policies
- Project Prioritization Processes
- Site Redevelopment
- Maintenance





Wrap Up & Questions

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