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# **Board Matter**

## **With Supervisor Alcorn**

### **March 21, 2023**

### **Pedestrian Safety Initiatives**

Over the past several years, this Board has taken significant steps to prioritize pedestrian safety, not the least of which are the endorsement of the Safe Streets for All Program, the installation and maintenance of safety related equipment, marking and signage, such as Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons, Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons, high visibility crosswalk markings and “Yield to Pedestrian” signage..and the commitment for \$100 million for pedestrian and bicycle safety and access projects.

Despite our efforts, there were twenty-three pedestrian fatalities in Fairfax County on our roads in 2022 – the highest number since consistent statistics started to be collected in 2010.

The Trails, Sidewalks, and Bikeways Committee has delved into this issue and has requested that the Board prioritize additional measures along major arterials in the County.

The first is a “turn calming” program like those being implemented in jurisdictions including New York City, San Francisco and Portland. These programs can reduce turning speeds and thus pedestrian fatalities and injuries at intersections.

Secondly, the committee recommends that no crosswalk in which there has been a pedestrian fatality be eliminated unless there is a compelling reason to do so, as crosswalks markings serve as warnings to drivers that pedestrians may be present.

As the safety of our pedestrians and bicyclists is so important, I move that the Board direct the Department of Transportation to review “turn calming” programs in other jurisdictions, discuss these programs with VDOT, and return within four months to the Board’s Transportation Committee with its analysis of how such a program could be implemented in Fairfax County, including any cost or resource implications. I also move that the Department for Transportation review the Committee’s suggestion regarding the crosswalks, discuss it with VDOT, and bring their analysis and recommendations back to the Board at the same Transportation Committee meeting.