



## OVERVIEW

Spring is here and that means more people are out walking and biking in the warmer weather. *Street Smart* is launching a safety campaign to remind Washington area drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians to slow down, be alert, and obey traffic laws.

## A NATIONAL PROBLEM

- With COVID-19 restrictions lifting across the country, total miles traveled by vehicles between January through June 2021 increased by 13% from 2020, in the same period, to total 1.5 trillion miles<sup>1</sup>
- As more Americans were on the road, pedestrian fatalities jumped 17% from January through June 2021 there were 3,441 pedestrian deaths, while in 2020, there were 2,957 for the same time period.<sup>1</sup>

## REGIONAL FACTS

- As traffic increased on our region’s roadways, the number of pedestrian and bicycle fatalities increased from 2020, in line with national trends.
- Preliminary numbers indicate that in 2021, there were 96 pedestrian and 7 bicyclist fatalities, compared to 93 pedestrian and 5 bicycle fatalities in 2020.<sup>2</sup>
- Police departments will conduct increased enforcement this spring, ticketing drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists who break traffic safety laws. Fines range from \$40 to \$500.

2021	Alexandria City	Arlington Co.	Fairfax City	Fairfax Co.	Falls Church City	Loudoun Co.	Manassas City	Manassas Park City	Prince William Co.	Charles Co.	Frederick Co.	Montgomery Co.	Prince George's Co.	DC	TOTAL
<b>FATALITIES</b>															
Pedestrian	5	0	1	14	0	0	0	1	7	2	1	9	39	17	<b>96</b>
Bicyclist	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	<b>7</b>
All traffic	7	4	1	50	0	8	1	1	32	18	23	42	129	40	<b>356</b>
<b>CRASHES</b>															
Pedestrian	46	92	9	145	7	45	7	1	70	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	706	<b>N/A</b>
Bicyclist	14	33	2	53	2	31	3	1	27	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	413	<b>N/A</b>

## CAMPAIGN COMPONENTS

- Testimonial television spots, documentary videos, and webpage featuring local residents affected by pedestrian crashes.
- “Lives Shatter on Impact” Testimonial Wall, a touchless experience where visitors can read stories and watch videos of individuals talking about the aftermath of a serious or deadly crash on their lives.
- English and Spanish exterior bus ads, interior bus cards, bus wraps, and transit shelters.

## STREET SAFETY TIPS

### ***If you're driving...***

- Slow down and obey the speed limit.
- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks.
- Be careful when passing buses or stopped vehicles.
- When turning, yield to people walking and biking.
- Look for bicyclists before opening your door.
- Allow at least 3 feet when passing bikes.
- Avoid using your cell phone and never text while driving.
- Be especially careful if you drive an SUV or pickup truck—high profile vehicles are more likely to kill or seriously injure people walking and biking.

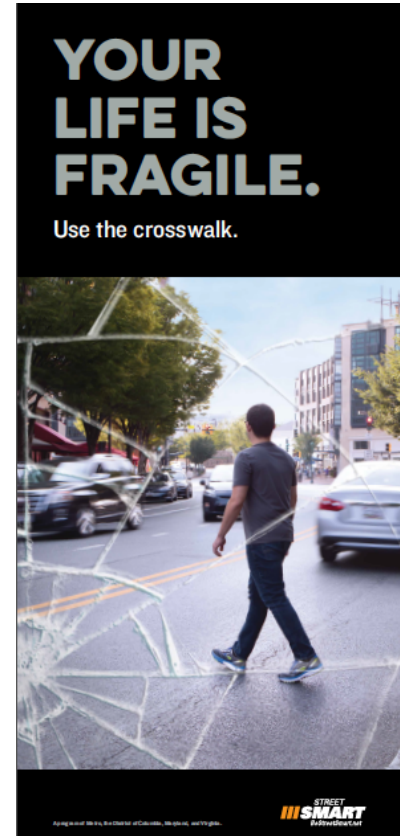
### ***If you're walking...***

- Cross the street at the corner and use marked crosswalks when they're available.
- Use the pushbuttons.
- Wait for the walk signal to cross the street.
- Watch for turning vehicles.
- Before crossing look left, right, and left again.
- Be visible. Wear something light or reflective after dark.
- Watch out for blind spots around trucks and buses.
- Avoid using your cell phone while you're crossing the street.
- On an off-street trail, obey all posted signage and approach intersections with caution.

### ***If you're biking...***

- Obey signs and signals.
- Never ride against traffic.
- Ride in a straight line at least 3 feet from parked cars.
- Use hand signals to tell drivers what you intend to do.
- Wear a helmet.
- Use lights at night and when visibility is poor.
- On an off-street trail, obey all posted signs and approach intersections with caution.

*Laws and regulations differ between jurisdictions.  
Visit [www.BeStreetSmart.net](http://www.BeStreetSmart.net) for more information.*



<sup>1</sup> Governors Highway Safety Association, [Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities by State: January – June 2021 Preliminary Data](#)

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary data compiled from DDOT, MDOT, and VHSO in April 2022, subject to change