



## OVERVIEW

As the fall and winter months usher in shorter days and darker commutes, the risk of pedestrian-involved crashes increases. *Street Smart* is launching a fall safety campaign this National Pedestrian Safety Month to give Metro Washington area drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians a refresher on traffic laws and to provide tips for traveling safely through the region with fewer daylight hours.

## A NATIONAL PROBLEM

- Nationwide, there were 2.37 pedestrian deaths per billion vehicle miles traveled in 2022, up slightly from 2.32 the year prior and continuing a trend of elevated rates beginning in 2020.<sup>1</sup>
- Pedestrian deaths are increasing at a faster rate than all other traffic fatalities, rising 77% from 2010-2021 compared to a 25% increase in other traffic fatalities over the same period.<sup>1</sup>
- According to 2021 data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 75% of pedestrian fatalities occurred at night.<sup>1</sup>

## REGIONAL FACTS

- Preliminary numbers indicate that in 2022, there were 129 pedestrian and 10 bicyclist fatalities, compared to 96 pedestrian and 7 bicycle fatalities in 2021.<sup>2</sup>
- Pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities in the region increased a staggering 35% in 2022 compared to the year prior.<sup>2</sup>

	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>TOTAL REGIONAL FATALITIES</b>				
Pedestrian	92	94	96	129
Bicyclist	7	5	7	10
All traffic	305	314	358	384

2022	Alex. City	Arlington Co.	Fairfax City	Fairfax Co.	Falls Church City	Loudoun Co.	Manass. City	Manas. Park City	Prince William Co.	Charles Co.	Frederick Co.	Mont. Co.	Prince George's Co.	DC	TOTAL
<b>FATALITIES</b>															
Pedestrian	1	2	1	32	0	1	0	0	11	3	9	14	36	19	<b>129</b>
Bicyclist	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	3	<b>10</b>
All traffic	5	4	2	66	0	16	2	0	30	25	30	48	121	35	<b>384</b>
<b>CRASHES</b>															
Pedestrian	45	94	14	191	8	49	8	0	78	33	73	419	425	744	<b>2,181</b>
Bicyclist	13	41	0	74	2	17	2	0	20	10	24	114	98	415	<b>830</b>

<sup>1</sup> Governors Highway Safety Association, [Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities by State: January - December 2022 Preliminary Data](#)

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary data compiled from DDOT, MDOT, and VHSD in September 2023, subject to change

## CAMPAIGN COMPONENTS

- Testimonial television spots, documentary videos, and webpage featuring local residents affected by pedestrian crashes.
- “Shattered Lives” 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.
- Police departments are conducting increased enforcement this fall, ticketing drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists who break traffic safety laws. Fines range from \$40 to \$500.

## STREET SAFETY TIPS

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

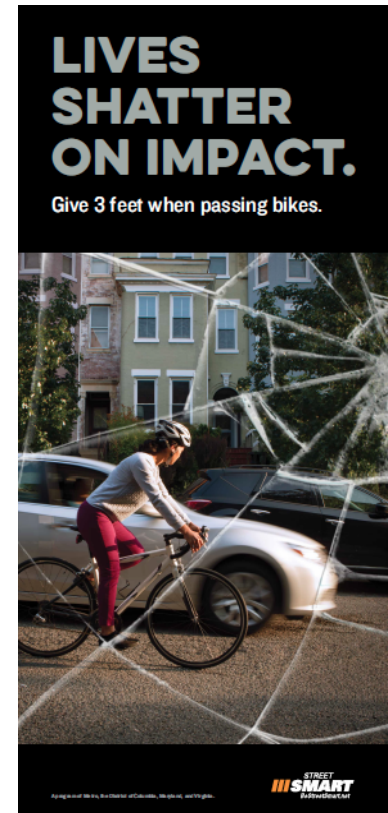
- Slow down and obey the speed limit.
- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks and take extra care to scan for pedestrians after dark.
- Be careful when passing buses or stopped vehicles.
- When turning, yield to people walking and biking.
- Look for bicyclists before opening your door.
- Allow at least 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.

### *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.*