



OVERVIEW

As the spring ushers in warmer weather, more people will take to walking and biking around the region. *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

- Pedestrian fatalities have been on the rise post-COVID-19, increasing at a pace nine times greater than population growth between the first halves of 2019 (the last pre-pandemic year) and 2022.¹
- Drivers struck and killed 3,434 pedestrians around the country in just the first six months of 2022, up 5% from the same period in 2021.¹
- Pedestrian fatalities hit a 40-year high in 2021 and based on data from the first six months of the year, 2022 may register another historic high when the national data is confirmed.¹

REGIONAL FACTS

- Pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities on our region’s roadways increased a staggering 37% in 2022 compared to the year prior.
- Preliminary numbers indicate that in 2022, there were 130 pedestrian and 11 bicyclist fatalities, compared to 96 pedestrian and 7 bicycle fatalities in 2021.²
- Police departments will conduct increased enforcement this spring, ticketing drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists who break traffic safety laws. Fines range from \$40 to \$500.

2022	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
FATALITIES															
Pedestrian	1	2	1	32	0	1	0	0	11	4	9	13	37	19	130
Bicyclist	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	4	1	3	11
All traffic	5	4	2	66	0	16	2	0	30	25	30	48	122	35	385
CRASHES															
Pedestrian	45	94	14	191	8	49	8	0	78	42	77	475	467	699	2,247
Bicyclist	13	41	0	74	2	17	2	0	20	10	24	112	98	415	828
All traffic	1,163	2,042	437	11,571	85	4,604	355	101	6,025	2,878	3,457	12,191	19,678	19,331	83,918

¹ Governors Highway Safety Association, [Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities by State: January – June 2022 Preliminary Data](#)

² Preliminary data compiled from DDOT, MDOT, and VHSO in March 2023, subject to change.

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, Bikeshare posters, 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 for more information.

