City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 16, 2003

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER

FROM: RICHARD J. BAIER P.E., DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: PEDESTRIAN SAFETY BROCHURE UPDATE

This is a follow up to update Council on the Pedestrian Safety Brochure that was approved by Council. Attached please find a copy of the brochure to promote pedestrian safety.

Attachments: 1. Pedestrian Safety Brochure

cc: Michele Evans, Assistant City Manager

Pedestrian Signals

Pedestrian crossing signals are designed to get you across busy streets safely. Some signals are not automatic and must be activated. Those signals have a push button to activate the WALK signal. To activate, simply push the button and wait for the WALK light. Just because the light goes red does not mean the WALK light is on. Always use the WALK light because the WALK light provides more time to cross the street.

Things to remember to watch while crossing:

- A steady WALKING signal indication means that a pedestrian facing the signal indication may start to cross the roadway in the direction of the signal indication.

- A FLASHING UPRAISED HAND signal indication means that a pedestrian shall not start to cross the roadway, but that any pedestrian who has already started to cross on a steady WALKING signal indication shall proceed out of the traveled way.

- A STEADY UPRAISED HAND signal indication means that a pedestrian shall not enter the roadway in the direction of the signal indication.

- A COUNTDOWN SIGNAL displays the number of seconds you have left to cross the street.

For more information about pedestrian safety call:

The Division of Transportation
(703) 838-4411

Alexandria City Council
Mayor Kerry J. Donley
Vice Mayor William C. Cleveland
Councilwoman Claire M. Eberwein
Councilman William D. Euille
Councilwoman Redella "Del" S. Pepper
Councilman David G. Speck
Councilwoman Joyce Woodson

City Manager
Philip Sunderland

Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES)
Richard J. Baier, P. E., Director

Prepared in cooperation with the Alexandria Police Department.
Photo courtesy of www.pedbikeimage.org;
photographer: Dan Burden

Pedestrian Safety

Supported by the T&ES Transportation Division

The Law and Crosswalks

Many people think that a marked crosswalk gives pedestrians the right of way over vehicle traffic – not true. Crosswalks do not give pedestrians any legal rights. This is very important because many pedestrians think they can step out in front of moving traffic and traffic must yield.

Section 46.2-923 of the Virginia State law states that "Pedestrians shall not carelessly or maliciously interfere with the orderly passage of vehicles." Section 46.2-924 states that "No pedestrian shall enter or cross an intersection in disregard of approaching traffic."

The purpose of a marked crosswalk is not to give pedestrians the right of way over motorists. A marked crosswalk has three purposes:

1. To alert drivers that pedestrians may be crossing the street.

2. To show pedestrians where to cross the street.

3. To keep cars from stopping and parking on regular pedestrian crossings.

Tips for Crossing the Street

Never step out in front of moving traffic because drivers may not see you and may not be able to stop.

- Always assume the driver does not see you.

- Always look in the direction of approaching traffic when crossing the street.

- Always cross at marked crosswalks where possible.

- Never step out from between parked cars or anything that blocks a driver's view of you.

- Always make sure you can see approaching traffic and approaching traffic can see you.

- Bright is right! Brightly colored clothing makes it easier for drivers to see you during the daytime. Fluorescent green, yellow or orange are all great choices. Wear reflective clothing at night.

- Remember, 65% of pedestrian fatalities occur at night.

- Always walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, and you have to walk in the street, always face traffic so you can see any car that might go out of control.

- When walking in the street, remember that drivers turning from a side street may not see you because they are looking in the opposite direction.

- Watch all lanes which you must cross. Even though one vehicle has stopped, another driver may pass by in another lane and not see you.

- When crossing the street in front of a stopped car always remember to try to establish eye contact with the driver before and during crossing.