City of Falls Church
Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation

TO: Mayor Tarter and Members of City Council

FROM: Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation

SUBJECT: Falls Church Motor Vehicle Crash Data 2017-2019

DATE: January xx, 2021

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The CACT conducted a study of motor vehicle crashes in the City from 2017 to 2019 using the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles Traffic Records Electronic Data System (TREDS): https://www.treds.virginia.gov/Mapping/Map/CrashesByJurisdiction.

The committee's objectives are to inform Council and to encourage staff responsible for the planning, construction, and safety of City streets to determine whether conditions at high crash locations can be modified to reduce or eliminate motor vehicle accidents.

The intersections with the highest number of crashes were:

Primary Street & Intersecting Street

		2017	2018	2019	Total
1	**Broad St & West St**	6	4	6	16
2	**Washington St & Broad St**	3	5	3	11
	Broad St & Cherry St	0	5	6	11
3	**Washington St & Columbia St**	3	6	1	10
4	**Broad St & Maple Ave**	4	3	0	7
	Broad St & Pennsylvania Ave	2	4	1	7
	Roosevelt Blvd & Wilson Blvd	1	2	4	7
	Washington St & Annandale Rd	4	1	2	7
5	**Broad St & Oak St**	2	3	1	6
	Broad St & Spring St	2	0	4	6
6	**Broad St & Little Falls St**	0	2	3	5
	Washington St & Jefferson St	4	0	1	5

For all but one of the highest crash intersections, the primary street was Broad or Washington.

The City's heavily trafficked streets had the highest number of crashes:

		2017	2018	2019	Total
1	Broad St	53	46	44	143
2	Washington St	25	33	21	79
3	Hillwood Ave	8	3	7	18
	Wilson Blvd	8	5	5	18
4	Roosevelt Blvd	2	3	8	13
5	Annandale Rd	1	5	6	12
	Maple Ave	4	4	4	12
6	Great Falls St	2	5	2	9
	West St	3	4	2	9
7	Park Ave	3	3	2	8

Here are basic statistics on the City's reportable crashes:

	2017	2018	2019	Total
Total Crashes	121	130	121	372
Fatalities	0	0	0	0
Crashes with Injuries	94	98	89	281
Total Injuries	177	154	150	481
Pedestrian Involved	6	6	4	16
Bicycle Involved	5	7	4	16

TREDS has much more data. The publicly accessible version has 28 data elements for each crash, and even more data is accessible to law enforcement officials.

TREDS data is entered by the Police Department on "reportable" crashes. A reportable crash is a "motor vehicle accident resulting in injury to or death of any person or total property damage to an apparent extent of $1,500 or more" (Virginia Code 46.2-373).

Captain Rau of the Police Department met with the CACT and assisted the committee in interpreting the data and distinguishing between reportable and non-reportable crashes. The Police Department records and locally maintains less extensive information on non-reportable crashes, which far exceed the number of reportable crashes. For example, in 2019, Falls Church had 121 reportable crashes and 332 non-reportable crashes.

Complete TREDS data for 2020 was not available at the time this report was prepared. However, because of the reduction in motor vehicle use during the pandemic, the committee believes 2017-2019 data is a more accurate representation of City crash statistics.