

2022 Election Candidate Questionnaire for Montgomery County Council

Dear Candidate,

We ask that you complete our questionnaire so we understand your views on the pressing transportation issues facing Montgomery County. Your answers will be given to our membership for strictly education purposes only. Answers will also be posted on our website, shared on social media, listservs, and with our members in Montgomery County.

The questions are yes or no as well as questions that require you to elaborate for your response. We ask that you return the questionnaire by COB 4/2/22. Please email the questionnaire responses to me at advocacy@waba.org. If you have any questions please email us. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to complete the questionnaire.

WABA **does not endorse** candidates for any political office.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Lowery
Advocacy Director, WABA

Bike Network

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association is proposing that the County fund the construction of bikeable/walkable networks in four Equity Focus Areas of the County, in Wheaton, White Oak, Langley Park and Downtown Silver Spring. Do you support this \$110 million proposal which will also help achieve the County's Climate and Vision Zero goals over six years?

Yes No

What else do you think the County Council can do in the next term to make walking and biking safer and to help increase the biking and walking and transit mode shares?

We need to fix the sidewalks that make up the five-year backlog for sidewalk repair requests. We need to also look attractive, inexpensive ways to separate bike lanes to lessen the cost of such lanes, many of which used recycled materials. Encouraging multi-modal transit is key to fighting climate change. We have a robust bicycle master plan, but enough studies. Let's actually build those bike lanes using inexpensive, attractive materials today. We don't need to over-engineer bike lanes or build only top-of-the-line bike lanes; instead, let's lay the foundation

of a bike lane network that we improve over time. If Paris can turn their city into a biking mecca, so can Montgomery County.

Police out of Traffic Enforcement

Do you support removing police from all or some traffic enforcement?

Yes XX No _____ Some of traffic enforcement

How will you balance the need for traffic enforcement and equity while in office? Some traffic enforcement – running red lights, speeding, tag expiration – can be handled by technology. Other traffic enforcement requires police – stopping the racing that too often endangers pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers and getting impaired and distracted drivers off the road.

Trails - repaving

Do you support fully funding the budget request of the Parks Department to include monies for repaving the Sligo, Rock Creek and Capital Crescent Trails?

Yes _____ No _____ Maybe XX

Since we have a limited amount of funding, we need to examine if that money ought to be spent repaving trails or creating new ones. Not all parts of those three trails are in disrepair, so I suggest we fix the parts that are in need of repair and use the rest of that money to create new trails in underserved communities.

Tunnel

Do you support funding the \$55m project for this important regional trail connection through downtown Bethesda?

Yes XX No _____

Do you support funding that will complete construction of the project within the current FY 23-28 CIP period or sooner/later?

Yes XX No _____

270 widening

Do you support or oppose the proposal to widen parts of I-495 and I-270 to add four express toll lanes?

Yes ____ No _____ Partially ___XX___

Why or why not? And how would you show that support or opposition. Do you support other new highways or road expansions? I think we should configure 270 to add two reversible lanes that could be use for carpooling and busses during rush hour. We do need to address the capacity issues of the American Legion Bridge, however. We should investigate what options are available to alleviate capacity issues on 495, including increasing transit and utilizing shoulders during rush hour for transit. Creating a true network of bike lanes and expanding the use of electric bikes and pedal-bikes can help alleviate some of the traffic and the need for highway expansion. I

Vision Zero

Vision Zero - is it working and if not, what needs to be done by the County to achieve the goal of zero deaths due to traffic crashes? What would you do to work with the State Highway Administration to achieve true Vision Zero? Vision Zero is more of a PR pledge than an actually policy right now. We need to make Vision Zero a true policy, one that is fully funded and truly does make pedestrians safer on both county and state roads. We know that there are many strategies that work – road diets, better lighting, raised crosswalks, HAWK signals, etc. – and we need to ensure we have the budget – and the partnership with SHA – to install these life-saving pedestrian measures.

Transportation Equity Pledge

[Will you sign our transportation equity pledge? YES](#)

Link to sign: <https://waba.org/blog/2022/01/transportation-equity-pledge-for-2022-candidates/>