

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 As your proposal relates to the County Master Plan for Bikeways.

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?

From my understanding there is a significant amount budgeted within the next General Plan for Bicycle network. I believe things will be moving forward in the way of Bicycle mode shares as for safety this is a primary concern. We need more than plastic bollards protecting bicycles from cars. I need to research whether separate lanes with barriers from automobiles are better in terms of safety or whether entirely new bicycle paths should be part of ROW in all neighborhoods. But I WILL demand safety first.

Police out of Traffic Enforcement

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

Yes _____ No _____

How will you balance the need for traffic enforcement and equity while in office?

I am confused with respect to your definition of Equity? However, I do not think Traffic Enforcement is not necessarily exclusive to Equity? Equity is not normally used in terms with traffic management. From my perspective traffic enforcement should be *blind* to race, ethnicity, sexual preference, gender or gender identity. As time progresses society pushes new boundaries. Someday soon I suspect we will see automated intelligence technology enter into traffic management and transportation technology, as our technology improves I am sure some tasks of the Police may be shifted to computer automated intelligence. I do support using technology in place of manpower. This IMO is the future.

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 _____

Tunnel

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

Yes _____ No _____

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

Yes _____ 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 However, I might be more supportive with 270 Improvements with its spur to 495 and the American Legion Bridge. More studies are needed. I will wait to decide on 270 improvements until the CE and SHA/Governor submit something more concrete.

Why or why not? And how would you show that support or opposition. Do you support other new highways or road expansions?:

I am not a fan of Public Private Partnerships for Roads. I would like to see a better proposal come from SHA. I believe the current proposal would pray on Maryland drivers without proper controls in place and it could allow corporate interests to potentially create predatory situations with the public. The Beltway is the greatest problem today with no solution within sight today and needs more discussion and negotiation between the County and SHA. Homes should not be displaced for cars. 270 has more potential for additional lanes and other transit options which WILL increase capacity and move people faster and more efficiently. Corridor forward has much to be proud of IMHO!

I do support new roads or road improvements where it is demonstrated they will support best practices for improving transportation as well as Commuter Time reduction. As an example: I support the widening of Norbeck Road Route 198. This modernization and road improvement has been on the books for over 60 years and this boulevard concept provides for sidewalks, bike paths and tree lined medium and the road includes upgrades to storm sewer control as well as addressing existing over-verticals which exist along this roadway which need safety improvements.

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?

NO Vision Zero does not seem to be working as it was expected. It is with regret I do not know the answer as to how to achieve the goal of zero deaths. As long as people speed, drive carelessly there will be accidents. I believe and would like to see stricter penalties for people who exceed speed limits, and far more penalties for people who drive impaired. There also should be more traffic safety studies done to all road networks for the purpose of finding techniques which could increase safety. I also support pedestrian tunnels and bridges where practical. I also believe Smart technology should be implemented sooner rather than later at locations where there have been excessive accidents even with more speed cameras. Georgia Avenue above Hewitt Ave is one example. Road Sensors, more cameras as well as Pedestrian warning lights and rumble strips South of Hewitt Ave to make drivers slow down. These problems need continued public participation for solutions.

Transportation Equity Pledge

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

No, I agree with much of it although to sign a pledge which I have already suggested I disagree with part would be dishonest on my part. I agree with the portions stating Equity should be part of all transportation paradigms although I do not necessarily believe Police have conflict with the Department of Transportation which can and would conflict with traffic control? Your proposal would require a completely new DOT traffic enforcement agency which I believe is wasteful spending and not needed. I believe using best practices and the latest technology we could address the concerns of equity as well as providing increased safety. Also I indicated earlier I do support some new road improvements should move forward. I apologize however I cannot sign your pledge as written and still be honest to myself. I will pledge to push for all modes of transportation, including a robust bicycle network and safe pedestrian options. I commit to working towards providing a County Wide network for Bicycles which people may use to commute to work as well as use for recreation and exercise, I pledge to help work through conflicts and barriers which today exists for the safe implementation for commuting on roads sidewalks and trails. And to fully fund a comprehensive and robust Bicycle Network.

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