

2022 Primary Election Candidate Questionnaire for Ward Races

Dear Candidate,

We ask that you complete our questionnaire so we understand your views on the pressing transportation issues facing DC. Your answers will be given to our membership and shared on social media for strictly education purposes only.

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 4/18. Please email the questionnaire responses to 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
Washington Area Bicyclist Association

Charles Allen
Ward 6, Council of the District of Columbia

Bike Network

Despite the Mayor's pledge to eliminate all traffic deaths on DC streets, fatalities from car crashes reached its highest levels since 2017, even while other Vision Zero cities are saving dozens of lives every year.

Question: Do you support [DDOT's plan](#) to expand the protected bike lane network by 10 miles every year for the next 3 years – including and all the bike lane projects in your ward?

Yes X No _____

Question: What will you do to ensure the protected bike lane projects in your ward get completed in a timely manner?

In my first two terms, I have repeatedly stood with DDOT at community meetings to incorporate resident feedback, answer questions and concerns, and ultimately, move projects with protected bike lanes forward. I have also pushed hard for safer street

designs such as Maryland Ave and C St., NE that incorporate bike lanes as part of a multi-modal design. And I have even taken legislative action to force DDOT into action on Florida Avenue NE for installation of bike lanes following tragedy. We need a connected network that gives DC residents confidence to try out a bike or e-bike as an alternative and I pledge to continue the push. I believe these lanes bring safer and quieter streets, a benefit for neighbors as well as for everyone who uses them actively. I'm looking forward to multiple projects I've secured funding for and stood with DDOT to work with neighbors on identifying the best design for the bike and bus lanes coming to Pennsylvania Avenue, SE and C St., NE. I'm currently working to identify funding in this year's budget to begin construction of the needed reconstruction of the Pennsylvania and Potomac Avenue Circle, SE.

Budget

Bike lanes are an incentive for District residents who choose to travel in ways that conserve land, energy, and fuel and they also fight climate change. DDOT's long-range plan envisions miles of protected bicycle lanes – which makes bicycling safer, easier and more popular and also reduces fuel use.

Question: Will you press DDOT to accelerate plans for more protected bike lanes (which may repurpose driving lanes and street parking) and budget adequate money for DDOT to build these bike lanes? Including ensuring DDOT has the staff and resources in the budget to complete the projects at a rapid pace?

Yes No

Question: What other budgetary biking and transportation items will you fight for and prioritize?

I led the charge to strengthen DC's Vision Zero efforts by getting the Vision Zero Enhancement Act passed, a massive law that takes steps forward in education, engineering, and enforcement including enhanced penalties for contractors who don't reinstall crosswalks, requiring DDOT to connect sidewalks, new construction to plan for both multi-modal lanes and TNC drop-off and delivery that often finds themselves in conflict, and much more. The key challenge now is locking in funding and forcing the executive branch to implement the law as passed. The Council created a way to fund these initiatives in an ongoing way through new Automated Traffic Enforcement - but that funding keeps getting shifted. I pledge to stay on it and get the law, already on the books, into action.

Trails Network

The Capital Trails Coalition seeks to create a world-class network of multi-use trails that are equitably distributed throughout the Washington DC region. The Coalition is in the process of finding funding to complete 800 miles of planned trails into pavement that people can walk and

bike on. Trails are an economic boost for local economies and improve the health and well being of communities, would you support DC, alongside MD and VA, dedicating funding to complete our regional trail network?

Yes No

Further explain how you would advocate for the completion of the DC's portion of the Trail Network?

I have been fully supportive and leading the charge during my time chairing the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Transportation Planning Board to advance our regional trails network as a stated goal for TPB and remain committed to supporting those goals on the Council.

Vision Zero

Do you support the recent bills before the Transportation Committee, that would ban right turn on reds and permit the so-called Idaho stop?

Yes No

Vision Zero - is it working and if not, what needs to be done by the District to achieve the goal of zero deaths due to traffic crashes?

No, Vision Zero is not working. Even as we saw more and more people turn to biking, scooting, and walking more during the pandemic, we did not see that interest matched with action from DDOT and other transportation planning to build out more permanent infrastructure. This is an example of the broader challenge with Vision Zero - it is simply not as high a priority as it should be. There's no boldness to build the next MBT or envision anything but the status quo and then try to make a multi-modal lane, streetery, and sidewalk all fit in the same limited space. I also have serious concerns about enforcement efforts, particularly in the lack of urgency for booting dangerous cars parked in the District. All of this while the Executive branch has fought to water down legislation and delay implementation of the Vision Zero law. If re-elected, I'll continue to fight to transform our streets into a safer and more welcoming place for all users.

Transportation Equity Priorities

If elected or re-elected this year, what policie(s) or legislation will you pursue in your upcoming term to ensure our transportation system is equitably moving forward?

I will get Metro For DC passed. I will fight to get the Vision Zero Enhancement Law into effect by meeting funding requirements and ending the run-around from DDOT. I will

advocate and vote in support of legislation to raise crosswalks and make permanent many of the temporary road designs we've seen.

Transportation Equity Pledge

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

Yes. I have tried to sign the pledge online. If that has not been recorded, please let me know and I would be happy to sign it again.

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