

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 ___x___ 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?

I want to also focus on improving and connecting spotty sidewalk areas in areas that would otherwise be a comfortable walking distance for students and families to our public schools throughout the county. This would also include installation of bike racks at our public schools.

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?

It is far more cost effective to use speed cameras and red light cameras for most routine traffic enforcement. I do not support an absolute bar on enforcing the traffic code if an officer while in the performance of their duties observes a violation, such as a DUI, reckless or aggressive driving, and other traffic offenses which pose a significant risk to other motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists and are more significant moving violations.

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

It's better to fund preventive maintenance than to let things languish and try to repair and restore at a later time. This happened at the State level and we should not repeat that mistake at the County level.

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

To the greatest extent practicable, yes.

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

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

This is one that DEFINITELY requires an explanation. I do not support focusing only on one sector of transportation (not everyone wants a car/has a car; not everyone can ride a bike but those who do and can and can also use it to commute should be able to do so safely with an appropriate infrastructure, and public transit is vital). My issue with the 270/495 project is that a) it will take an incredibly long time to build and implement; b) we need to be working on other items at the same time; c) the tolls to be charged are far more onerous than those currently in play on the ICC and I would seek to revisit that and revisit how the expanded roadways could be accessed in a more equitable fashion. Prohibitively expensive tolls aren't designed for the common good.

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?

I know that many candidates will focus on our more densely populated areas in their response, but I want to tailor mine to D7 where I live. Parts of this district have access for individuals to walk or pike to public transit. Large sections of my district do not. There are, however, plenty of individuals who would like to bike, walk, and run for recreational purposes and to cut down on vehicle use but are regularly confronted with safety challenges due to lack of sidewalks, lack of shoulders on roads, and in some cases like the road I live adjacent to which is partially a rural and rustic road – vehicular traffic safety issues as well due to the size of current vehicles. Additional speed cameras will assist and should be deployed as a priority in areas with more frequent crashes. For some areas, it's increasing lighting and signage because some roads are used more frequently now than may have been intended even a decade ago thanks to traffic apps like Waze that reroute vehicles from major roadways onto side streets. The State is expanding its commitment to Vision Zero, and certainly we have witnessed a statewide (and nationwide) uptick in crashes due to aggressive and/or distracted driving which seems to have increased during the pandemic. It will be of the utmost importance for the County to work with the new State level administration in prioritizing needs and collaborating with adjacent jurisdictions to maximize efficiencies on achieving common goals with Vision Zero.

Transportation Equity Pledge

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

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

Done! Thank you! And please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns.