

## Dexter Williams

### 2022 Primary Election Candidate Questionnaire for Chair and At-Large Race

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](mailto: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

#### 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?

Yes  No

Question: What will you do to hold DDOT accountable and ensure protected bike lane projects in the District get completed in a timely manner?

*Having protected bike lanes is a top priority for me. People should be able to use our bike lane network without fear of being injured or killed. When I was a staffer at the Council, I worked hard to pressure DDOT to start constructing the 9<sup>th</sup> Street bike lane project because it had stalled for several years. As Councilmember, I will use a similar approach, and if necessary, introduce emergency legislation to direct the agency to complete the project it has already committed to doing.*

## 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?

*Vision Zero is a top priority. The program is not working as intended, and I'm looking forward to the Auditor's report that will give insight as to how the program is being implemented. I'm happy that the Administration is proposing additional funding around this issue, but the Council needs to carefully review the proposal to ensure that we're making the right investments and at the necessary levels.*

## 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?

*This issue is very important to me. I walk many of the trails in the city, and it's important that we expand this network to improve mental health, well-being, and the socioeconomics of our*

*communities, especially given the impact of the pandemic. As Councilmember, I will partner with the Coalition and my Council colleagues to find money during the budget process to expand our trail network.*

## **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?

*As I mentioned earlier in the questionnaire, we must make Vision Zero a reality. Last year, there were 40 people killed in traffic related incidents. That's not acceptable – not even a single death or injury. As Councilmember, I'll be reviewing the soon-to-be released Auditor's report on the program to identify gaps in Vision Zero's implementation and act on the Auditor's recommendations. In the interim, the Council should carefully review the Administration's FY23 proposed budget to enhance traffic safety and ensure that our investments in programs to slow down cars and improve safety is at the appropriate levels.*

## **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 ensure that the city's Vision Zero program is achieving its goals. Traffic safety concerns is at the forefront, and we need to make sure that we're enforcing our policies coupled with the right investments. Also, I'll work with WABA and other stakeholders to ensure that the Administration is building out the planned protected bike lane network. DDOT has a long history promising to implement projects and delaying it for several years. I will use the tools of Council to force the agency to fulfill its own goals.*

## **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/>