

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

Kathy Henderson for Ward 5 Councilmember

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 No

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

I intend to facilitate community meetings with affected Ward 5 residents for their input; it is important to listen to the community and document the feedback received. I will work with DDOT to thoughtfully execute the plan according to the wishes of Ward 5 residents, if I am elected as the next Ward 5 Councilmember.

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?

I believe we need to undertake adding additional bike lanes in a thoughtful and well-documented manner, ensuring resident feedback and buy-in, appropriate DDOT response and implementation, including actual costs versus projected costs. The city clearly needs to do more to make cycling safer in the District of Columbia and I commit to facilitating safe cycling if I am elected as the next Ward 5 Councilmember. I enjoy cycling; however, the city is not safe for cyclists and is clearly not safe for pedestrians. We need to allocate enough time to get the process right and that includes hearing from all affected residents. I am not interested in declaring war on vehicles and I want Ward 5 residents to engage in thoughtful, respectful discourse. I commit to leading the process if elected as the next Ward 5 Councilmember.

Yes conditional yes No _____

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

Infrastructure matters and DDOT is the primary steward of all of our roadways, sidewalks and bridges. As a city, we need to ensure that we have enough resources to keep our infrastructure safe for all users. I called for a full investigation of the Ward 7 pedestrian bridge collapse, along with Councilmember Gray. The engineer reports were not prioritized, reflecting a need for increased funding for DDOT. I commit to ensuring DDOT gets enough funding to keep our infrastructure in excellent condition. I will provide vigorous oversight, if elected to prioritize adequate resources for one of my favorite District agencies. I created the agency slogan "DDOT Delivers".

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 commit to holding community meetings, roundtables and hearings to prioritize attention to the issue of safe cycling and increasing the capacity of District residents to traverse bike trails safely. You cannot have a full discussion regarding completing the bike trail network without also increasing funding for police officers, which help to keep them safe for use. The Metropolitan Branch Trail, while a critical infrastructure need for safe traversing has had numerous public safety challenges for users. We need additional officers to allocate the necessary resources to make this trail and future trails safe, without diverting police resources from the neighborhoods.

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?

Pedestrians continue to die despite the stated goals of Vision Zero, underscoring a serious problem in our city. One of the issues contributing to making pedestrians less safe is improperly timed crossing signals. I have advocated for DDOT reviewing all traffic signal times to allow pedestrians to cross safely. If elected, I will use the office to compel this review as part of a plan to make walking easier and certainly safer for all in Ward 5 and the District as a whole.

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?

My first order of business, if elected, is hearing from Ward 5 residents. Within my first 100 days in office, I will lead safety walks and meetings in every Ward 5 neighborhood to assess and correct infrastructure issues such as a need to repair potholes, sidewalks, plant trees, install speed humps and making it easier for ambulatory, disabled, older residents and all residents to safely cross streets.

My website: www.kathyhendersonfordccouncil.com

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/>