

Lorna Forde
LORNA PHILLIPS FORDE
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

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?

The Council could start by looking at other jurisdictions and how they have developed best practices for bicycle and pedestrian networks.

Our heavily-populated areas, including Clarksburg and Germantown, and Equity Emphasis Areas, including the East County, Wheaton and Montgomery Village,

are where we should focus our investments in bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

Not all new bike lanes need to be protected lanes. The need for physical barriers to create protected lanes is greatest on higher-speed roadways. I would question the need for protected lanes on low-intensity residential streets.

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?

Black and Latino drivers tend to be stopped and searched during traffic stops at disproportionately higher rates than White drivers. That's fact; however, there are situations where a police presence is clearly required. I will mandate sufficient training and accountability from MCPD to ensure social justice. Automated enforcement makes sense for speed, red light and school bus cameras. I will initiate programs, to include a component of community engagement/oversight, to ensure that there is equitable distribution of automated and in-person enforcement policies that will lessen racial disparity and increase safety.

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? **I oppose.**

Yes No

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

When I came to the area 35 years ago, there were cows next to the model home I visited during my house search. Much has changed and I am very aware of the need for efficient and effective transportation infrastructure. Some in Upcounty want new roads and highways (which often also means tolls). This is no longer practical for a host of reasons – including fiscal responsibility, climate sanity, racial equity and social justice. We need to be open and flexible in our pursuit of remedies and have a discussion about transportation options we can support without all the negative down-sides. Prioritizing local projects, existing roadways...these are measures that can be the start of a long term process to ultimately ease congestion while at the same time protecting homes, forestland, parks and streams. And don't discount the impact of the new work-from-home paradigm. That is not going away and will positively impact traffic congestion. Improving transit and existing Upcounty roads, improves transportation for all, and avoids the expense, inequities and pollution of highway projects.

I have lived Upcounty for 35 years and feel the pain of residents who want a hassle free commute. It may sound good to say "we need roads"; but, in my opinion, it is irresponsible when it is clear that the fiscal, human and ecological costs are great. Projects that expanding existing infrastructure could yield better long-term, sustainable effects. You just have to be willing to compromise.

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 100% agree with the overall mission of Vision Zero. It's important to understand that we cannot sit back and wait for development opportunities to solve issues, especially when public safety is in question. There are areas all across the district where incomplete sidewalks put residents at extreme risk. This includes sidewalks near transit stations, where 80% of the ridership are BIPOC, near elementary schools and at bus stations dotted throughout the community. I would ensure adequate funding to increase the bike lanes, provide equitable conditions for riders who are waiting for transit, prioritize incomplete sidewalks over repaving existing sidewalks and ensure that the walk-path for students includes clear curb designation for pedestrian right of way. I live in Council District 2 so my recommendations are focused on this area:

- **Pedestrian safety - Need for continuous brick sidewalk completion in the Clarksburg historic district. This would really help to spur other historic district property owners to invest in their properties and ultimately may help to drive town center retail development.**
- **Incomplete sidewalks (Clarksburg) – prioritize sidewalks where there is clearly a school and BIPOC neighborhoods where residents need to get to grocery store or gas station.**
- **Bus stops (uncovered) – higher end subdivisions get a canopy; but other neighborhoods are without canopies (increase size of canopies).**
- **Rural/Town intersections – Little Bennet & Clarksburg elementary school (no traffic light, no curb designation for pedestrian right of way)**

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/>