

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

Omar Lazo for County Council District 6:

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?

I truly believe that we should expand our Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Area and make sure that we continue to advocate for more funds from the federal government for these programs. We need to invest in Tier 1 protected pedestrian and bicycle lanes. People must feel safe when they are out on the roads and having cars going by you at 50 MPH is not safe or conducive to people choosing bicycles over other transportation modes. As the federal government looks to invest in infrastructure, we must make sure that our biker's and walkers are also taken into consideration. The county needs to work harder to create good relationships with the MDSHA to take a holistic approach to our roads and the state highways that intersect our communities.

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? **We need to invest in technology that will allow police officers to enforce traffic laws like broken tail lights, burnt out light bulbs, expired tags, and other violations that can in some cases be used for pretextual stops. We can easily have the technology to take a picture of the offending vehicle and have a repair order or court summons be issued to the owner on file. We must also analyze the laws on the books to see if there are laws that can be weaponized in order to make a stop. Not to long ago we had an incident where a police officer used a bicycle registration law to harass a resident who was standing up for his right.**

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

I have ridden these trails many times, and they are a hazard to our residents even walking. We must make our trails inviting for folks to use, otherwise they will not venture out and choose walking or bicycling over cars.

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

This project has so many benefits from reducing carbon emissions, to reducing traffic, to increasing the health of our residents. These are all issues that need to be solved yesterday. We can not wait to be planning for solutions 10 years down the road.

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 **X**

Why or why not? And how would you show that support or opposition. Do you support other new highways or road expansions? I would consider an expansion of the bridge over the Potomac as it is the main source of the bottleneck in our region. In general, I prefer we focus on getting cars off of the road by expanding public transportation rather than a never ending expansion of our roads that lead to more traffic and more carbon emissions. I would consider looking at 270 changes as long as they do not go outside of the footprint of the current infrastructure of 270. This could include ideas such as multidirectional lanes. 495 should not be expanded in my opinion. I plan to work with my colleagues on the council in those areas where 270 is located to make sure we make the best decisions to improve the quality of life of those residents as long as we take a look at the impact on equity, the environment, and the property owners adjacent to the road.

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?

Vision Zero to me is not working because there is no way to hold anyone accountable. It is something that is there in theory. I do believe though that the council has made strides to make this a priority and I hope to continue that trend. I truly believe that there have been many strides made with the MDSHA including the dedicated bike lanes on University Blvd, though temporary. I think it is very important to work with our community advocates to convey to the MDSHA the importance of these projects to the community. Kristy Daphnis, Alison Gillespie, and Peter Gray joined together and almost single handedly brought this project into existence. The power of community is not to be underestimated. I have worked with my community for decades and I plan to make sure that we continue to work with all our community partners to make our community more walkable and bikeable.

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/>