

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?

Increased emphasis on policy, engineering and education solutions. In District 3, in particular, more coordination between the county and municipalities to build out multi-modal infrastructure is critical to building out a comprehensive infrastructure. Use of protected crossings, with protected islands for long crossings, HAWK lights, and other visibility enhancements at crossings, as well as building out protected routes for bikes and walkers are all key engineering improvements. Also prioritization of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure in transit project construction is key. For example, I was disappointed to see that the current plans for 355 BRT through Rockville and Gaithersburg does not include adequate planning within the right of way for a bike lane for much of the route in Gaithersburg. I think this is a missed opportunity, I have raised my concern publicly, and I will work to change focus on that. The County also needs to

work in earnest with the City of Gaithersburg to allow the city to access its \$14m in transit infrastructure funds, which has been stalled due to lack of agreement from the county for over half a decade. It would be a priority of mine to get this funding in place to allow the city to work on its transit priorities.

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?

With respect to traffic enforcement, I believe that law enforcement is best utilized focusing on public safety matters. To the extent we can shift low-level infractions and speed enforcement to automated enforcement or other means, I think we should explore that. In Gaithersburg, for example, we have tangible evidence that our speed camera program improves traffic safety without the use of officers in enforcement. We should also focus on policies that prioritize enforcement of serious crimes over minor infractions, de-prioritize/ban what is commonly referred to as “pre-text stops,” and train officers on such tactics as community-based policing, de-escalation and bias, to ensure that law enforcement is engaging the public in an equitable manner.

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?

Yes _____ No _____

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

I do not support the current plan being pushed by the Hogan Administration. While I do support infrastructure improvements to I-270, I-495 and Legion Bridge, such improvements should be directly funded by the Federal and State government (not using a P3 vehicle), should be within the current right of way, and should not use variable toll lanes. If the right project comes forward, I could support variable direction high occupancy vehicle lanes as a way of incentivizing more efficient car use, and to allow high capacity transit, such as buses to navigate traffic more efficiently. I have been communicating with advocates, particularly focused on Gaithersburg/Rockville and the I-270 Phase I, and will support those efforts. As for other road projects? I cannot think of any off the top of my head. Relevant to District 3, I do not support the construction of M83.

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 is a lofty goal, and it is important to set such goals. Those goals need to be followed with action, and it seems to me the County's trajectory on this has been increasing. For example, I recently used the County's efforts as an example to argue for the use of HAWK lights in the city at certain pedestrian crossings that I view as particularly problematic. The fact of the matter is, we need to continue building a culture that emphasizes pedestrian and bicycle safety as we move from a predominantly suburban way of life that emphasizes car-culture, to more dense, mixed-use communities and way of life. Change doesn't happen overnight, but it will come with appropriate thoughtfulness, and intention.

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

