

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 County Council can perform 2 main functions for making walking and biking safer: 1) budgeting funds to make significant improvements to the most dangerous areas, until, over time, the entire county is welcoming for non-drivers, and 2) being proactive in the Council's oversight role to ensure and/or exercise authority over the quality and pace of transitioning from car-centric to person-centric movement.

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?

There will always be some need for police officers to be involved with traffic enforcement, such as to stop drunk driving, excessive speeding. That being said, there are a plethora of opportunities for police to focus their efforts elsewhere. Police shouldn't initiate traffic stops for administrative infractions like expired registrations, "fuzzy dice" obstructions, and should distribute enforcement evenly throughout the county.

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?

Oppose

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

Widening I-270 and I-495 won't alleviate traffic in a long term, meaningful way. I believe that it is a core function of government to provide adequate infrastructure for all people. There are already two Montgomery Counties. We don't need to expand these inequities onto our highways as well. I disagree that there should be better infrastructure for some people who can afford to pay for it while others have no other option than to use something inferior. While both roads are ripe for design alterations, they should not be expanded outside of their current footprint.

Bad solutions find their way into the mainstream because no one moves forward with a better solution. We take highway expansion off the table by doing the things that reduce auto traffic. We construct the Bus Rapid Transit network the correct way with dedicated lanes, we improve MARC, we make Metro reliable, we highly incentivize small vehicles and carpooling, we maximize efficiency, reliability, and access to Ride On and Metrobus, and we get aggressive moving jobs into the county so people don't have to travel as far. While we're adjusting to pandemic travel habits, constructing public transit systems, and assessing opportunities for federal funds, I don't believe it's appropriate to build new highways.

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 not working. Pedestrians continue to get killed all the time.

This is a perfect case of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing. Having two governments, the county and state, managing our roads isn't working. If we had to create a government from scratch, there's no way what we have now is the optimal design. In the same way that the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services took over functions from the state, the county and state should enter into an agreement where the county would be responsible for the design and maintenance of some state roads and receive block grants to do so.

Transportation Equity Pledge

[Will you sign our transportation equity pledge?](#)

I signed the pledge when it first became public.

Link to sign: <https://waba.org/blog/2022/01/transportation-equity-pledge-for-2022-candidates/>