

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

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?

Through the State Board of Education, I have worked with many parent groups to fight for street safety improvements at their schools, such as Langley, McKinley, and Mundo Verde. More importantly, I authored a State Board resolution, which passed unanimously, calling for traffic safety improvement measures around each school. This resolution informed legislation introduced to Council by Councilmember Lewis George

mandating safety improvement measures around every public school. This will undoubtedly improve safety and perhaps save lives.

As Councilmember, I pledge to continue my practice of active engagement with Ward 5 residents and then holding government agencies accountable to make sure residents get the public services and facilities they want and deserve. Accountability, meaningful community engagement, and relentless oversight are the key tools to make sure we are identifying priority places where bike lanes are most needed and then following through with our plans

For example, Rhode Island Ave NE is often treated as a dangerous highway running through the heart of Ward 5. My vision would be to expand the sidewalk, which has become dangerous for folks of all abilities to traverse, to create space for pedestrians to walk comfortably and safely.

I would bring my oversight capacity, and my bully pulpit, to hold DDOT accountable to completing protected bike lanes. And I would engage actively when projects are slowed down over resident concerns about giving up parking or driving lanes. I lead by listening and I've proven myself a capable leader at balancing tensions in the community to come up with solutions that address everyone's concerns.

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?

Yes No

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

I support devoting funds for connected trails and a focus on trails in low income communities. I also support an e-bike and e-trike subsidy so more folks can afford to have accessible, sustainable, gas-free, and family-friendly electric options. On other transportation issues, I

support funding to create more dedicated bus lanes, as well as to move toward free public transit. I'm also open to calls for congestion pricing, which could provide funding for these and other transportation projects.

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?

As noted above, I would prioritize devoting budget resources to expanding our trail network and accountability mechanisms to make sure they get done. I would work to ensure that this is done with equity and working families lenses. That means ensuring that communities that have been harmed by housing and transportation discrimination are prioritized as trails are being planned and completed.

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?

As noted in my [Safe Streets platform](#), Vision Zero is not working. With reckless driving and pedestrian fatalities on the rise, I don't see how anyone could consider it a success.

My platform calls for the following:

- 1. Create a REAL Vision Zero action plan that protects community members:**

- Make street redesign a budget priority with dedicated revenue streams to aggressively curb traffic violence
- Expand DDOT capacity and legal mandates for designs to default to safest alternative
- Redesign every deadly arterial prioritizing MoveDC plans for bus and bike lanes
- Complete the protected, connected bike network
- Create a Safe Routes to School Intersection redesign plan to systematically improve intersections adjacent to every school. Use interim and then permanent tactical improvements like raised crosswalks
- Establish a Sidewalk Strike team to clear sidewalk repair requests in weeks and proactively connect with neighbors to find needed fixes
- Hold DC agencies and contractors accountable to laws requiring safe accommodations for pedestrians and cyclists due to construction

2. Redesign enforcement to change dangerous behavior, not just collect revenue:

- Remove traffic enforcement from MPD to end biased stops and reduce armed encounters
- Adjust automated enforcement fines to income levels to reduce the inequality of flat fares that harshly punish low-income neighbors while barely slapping the wrist of wealthy ones
- Get consistently dangerous and reckless drivers off the street with license suspension
- Boot and tow cars with thousands of outstanding tickets reflecting persistent violations -- particularly out-of-state drivers

3. Reduce car ownership and trips by establishing a local e-bike tax credit/subsidy, incentivizing car-share programs, and advocating for walkable neighborhood amenities (i.e., parks, groceries, restaurants)

4. Increase bus services and routes, including bringing a Circulator route to Ward

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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?

From your pledge, here are my top priorities:

- Reduce and eliminate the deaths, especially vulnerable road users, in traffic crashes – fully funding and implementing county and/or city vision zero plans and legislation
- Ensure all residents have access to continuous even sidewalks placed along both sides of all local streets with the purpose of developing sidewalk connectivity.
- Fully fund the completion of bus and bike networks

Transportation Equity Pledge

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

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