

Candidate Name: Paul Scott
Office Seeking: Rockville City Council

Q1. Bicycling and bike infrastructure enhances quality of life and addresses issues such as affordability, equity, access, health, and the safety of our streets. What can the City of Rockville and you as an elected official do to actively encourage more people to ride their bikes?

Answer 1. I would ensure that first of all we establish a priority to focus on a strategic vision for our city that includes a focus on all aspects of transportation and mobility. Biking and walking are key ingredients for viable neighborhoods and are also key to attracting and sustaining business. We need to ensure that biking and walking are enjoyed by all segments of our community and that people see the health and community benefits. We need to continue to ensure that our city pathways and neighborhoods are safe and are “perceived” as safe as well. We should also look into designated bike spaces.

Q2. People bike and walk when it’s safe, comfortable, and connects to the places they need to go. Rockville’s bike infrastructure is still disjointed. In your opinion, where are the most urgent gaps in our bike network and what steps do we need to take to close these gaps?

Answer 2. I think we can make improvements in connecting our various communities and neighborhoods to our business areas and continuing to develop and maintain dedicated biking lanes.

Q3. Cities across the country are installing protected bike lanes, bike lanes with physical separation between bike and automobile traffic, to encourage more people to ride and increase comfort for cyclists of all ages and abilities. Studies have shown that protected bike lanes increase roadway safety for everyone – people bicycling, walking, and driving. Do you support the installation of protected bike lanes on Rockville’s streets? Do you support installing protected bicycle facilities if it requires replacing a motor vehicle travel lane and delays motorized vehicles by a few seconds? Please explain why.

Answer 3. I do support dedicated bike spaces. As a biker who bikes on on congested city streets all the way into DC I personally know the risks and see the benefits. I have also seen successful bike lanes in other cities across the country.

Q4. Voters care about street safety, bicycling, transit, and walking issues. Why should these voters vote for you?

Answer 4. Because I experience and are familiar with bicycling, transit and walking. That is a key attraction of Rockville for my wife and I especially as we age in place. I want to see Rockville be the example for multimodal transportation for all of Rockville neighborhoods.

Q5. The City of Rockville adopted a Vision Zero Plan in 2020, with the principle that transportation should focus on safety of all road users (cyclists, pedestrians, transit users, and motorists) as a foundation, and that the only acceptable number of deaths and serious injuries on the road is zero. How do you propose to advance Vision Zero in the city of Rockville?

Answer 5. By pushing to establish priorities and performance metrics and holding our city budgeting and planning process accountable thru the City Manager.

Q6. What neighborhood do you live in? Why? Where are your favorite places to spend time in our town?

Answer 6. I live in King Farm. I enjoy our Parks especially Matties Stepanek Park and especially Town Center and the entire 355 corridor in Rockville. I also spend a lot of time in East Rockville/Lincoln Park area.

Q7. Approximately 5% of the FY 23 Capital Improvement Program transportation program area budget is allocated for pedestrian and bicycle projects. Do you think that the capital budget allocation for bike infrastructure is too much, just right, or too little? Please explain your answer.

Answer 7. At this time I am not going say it is to high or to low. I have to do more research. I do think we can improve on the planning across all City Departments and engaging with the community more on biking and walking. I look forward to doing that.

Q8. Please explain your opinion of the proposed Bus Rapid Transit projects along MD 355 and MD 586, and how bicycling and walking fit into this picture.

Answer 8. I have no opposition to the Bus Rapid Transit projects that are in development along 355. I am open and would like to hear more regarding how Bicycling can be improved along 355 because I do bike along 355 all the way down to DC.

Q9. Do you have a biking related story you'd like to tell?

Answer 9. My biking allows me to connect with people and explore communities. I have biked all across Montgomery in DC and Virginia and back. I am not the fastest rider but I get great enjoyment and exercise. It is an activity that I encourage amongst my friends. By the way I do have aspirations of competing in a mini triathlon.