

Candidate name: Omodamola Williams

Office seeking: Gaithersburg City Council

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Q1. Bicycling and bike infrastructure enhance quality of life and address issues such as affordability, equity, access, health, and the safety of our streets. What can the City of Gaithersburg and you as an elected official do to actively encourage more people to bicycle for transportation and recreation?

Answer: Host a Q and A with the community about the wants and needs of the importance of pedestrian safety, Secondly, add more speed cameras, bike traffic lights like downtown silver spring and shorting the small backroads and add bike lanes with reflective strips.

Q2. People bike and walk when doing so is safe, comfortable, and connects to the places they need to go. Gaithersburg's bike infrastructure is incomplete and 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? Gaithersburg published a [Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan](#) in August 1999. Will you promote creation of a new, up-to-date Gaithersburg Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan?

Answer: Yes I am 100% supportive of bicycle and pedestrian plans and definitely promote anything needed making sure the streets are up to date. Being a bike rider and daily metro rider myself, I believe all of Gathersburg need to be reworked when it comes to bike lanes. Plenty of times I was almost hit by motorist while riding my bike to work from muddy branch to seneca to clopper and even the kentlands.

Q3. Cities across the country are installing protected bike lanes, with physical separation between bicycle and motor-vehicle 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 Gaithersburg's streets? Do you support installing protected bicycle facilities even if they require replacing a motor vehicle travel lane and delay motorized vehicles by a few seconds? Please explain your thinking.

Answer: Yes I support it because this will gradually reduce emissions and traffic. With protected bike lanes, the community will be encouraged to bike more. I've been wanting protected bike lanes for years and as an elected official, that would be one of my top priorities.

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

Answer: Because I am a father of two little girls that want a safer city for them to thrive in. I am a daily commuter of metro and walk all the time from Rio down to muddybranch and around lakeforest mall. I know first hand the fears of being almost hit by a distracted negligent driver. I want what's best for the community. I have the lived experience. It's best to have someone in office who depends on the metro bus, bike, walk daily, and actually know what's it like than have someone who only can imagine what's it like to not have a car and depend on public transportation and bicycling.

Q5. The City of Gaithersburg, unlike the State of Maryland, Montgomery County, and the City of Rockville, has not adopted a Vision Zero Plan. (Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.) Will you lead or support and fund efforts to put in place a Gaithersburg Vision Zero plan?

Answer: I will lead and find ways to fund and push for city of Gaithersburg to have a vision zero plan.

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

Answer: I live near the shady grove village community and I take walks at the Malcolm King Park and the lake at Seneca Creek State Park.

Q7: Gaithersburg residents have identified routes including Goshen Road, Centerway Road, Woodfield Road/MD 124, Montgomery Village Ave, and parts of Snouffer School Road as “very hazardous to cyclists due to having no shoulder/bike lane with heavy and fast traffic. All these roads are major connectors between common areas to cycle.” How would you tackle safety on these roads and other Gaithersburg roads like them?

Answer: Have WABA, community members, the transportation committee, and city council address these conditions and format a plan to make those roads safer.

Q8. What is your target for the proportion of Gaithersburg’s Capital Improvement Program transportation budget that should be allocated to pedestrian and bicycle improvements? How might the city better tap state and federal funding for projects?

Answer: I have to do more research as an elected official to accurately come up with a number but for now I’d say 10% would be a good amount because pedestrian safety should prioritize

knowing that we have a good amount of cyclist in our city.

Q9. How should Bus Rapid Transit on MD 355 mesh with bicycle and pedestrian improvements? How will you work with the Maryland State Highway Administration to promote bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Gaithersburg's other state roads, MD 28, MD 117, MD 119, and MD 124?

Answer: There should be more protected bike lanes, I'd push for a project and collab with officials to create a budget that satisfies safety standards.

Q10. Do you support bi-directional, full-day MARC Brunswick Line service? Do you support or oppose creation of the Midcounty Highway Extended (M-83)?

Answer: I support the idea of a full-day MARC Brunswick line service and oppose M-83.