

# 2024 DC Council Ward 7 Candidate Questionnaire on Transportation Issues

*Host Organizations: Deanwood Citizens Association, Washington Area Bicyclist Association, Friends of the DC Streetcar.*

*WABA and other 501c3 organizations **do not endorse** candidates for any political office.*

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## Responses from Eboni-Rose Thompson

### Street Car

**What actions will you take to ensure that the DC Streetcar is extended to Benning Road Metro Station in a timely manner?**

*The extension of the streetcar to the Benning Road Metro station involves critical infrastructure upgrades such as the replacement of the Whitlock Bridge, the renovation of the Ethel Kennedy Bridge, and the addition of new ramps from DC-295. These enhancements will substantially enhance safety and transit for Ward 7 residents, a goal I fully endorse. My foremost focus will be advocating for and overseeing the timely completion of the Benning Road and Bridge Transportation Improvement Project.*

*In my budget advocacy I will continue to advocate for these vital Ward 7 priorities.*

### Protected Bike Lanes

Protected bike lanes would reward residents who choose to travel in ways that conserve land, energy, and fuel and they also fight climate change. Expanding the number of protected bike lane miles in the ward would make bicycling safer, easier and more popular and also reduces fuel use.

**Do you support increasing funding to expand biking infrastructure in your ward?**

Yes   X   No       

**How will you ensure the expansion of off-street paths and protected bike lanes on major thoroughfares and connecting streets that are comfortable for people of all ages and abilities?**

*Off street paths and protected bike lanes align with my priorities to create safe and connected transportation corridors for all forms of transportation in Ward 7. As councilmember, I will*

*advocate for the completion of needed improvement projects and redesigns in Ward 7, including Pennsylvania/ Minnesota Ave SE improvement project and the redesigns of East Capitol Street and Southern Avenue, and ongoing corridor studies. In my advocacy to both government agencies and on the council, I will work with city agencies and the National Parks Service to maintain and expand our existing off-street paths, while also building up supporting safety infrastructure in and around our streets, including calming solutions in hazardous intersections, completing sidewalk safety installations, renovating bus shelters, and protected bike lanes, while also coordinating with emergency services agencies to make sure any design also works with their needs as well.*

### **Capital 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 D.C. alongside MD and VA, dedicating funding to complete our regional trail network?**

Yes   X   No       

### **Further explain how you would advocate for the completion and maintenance of the ward's portion of the Trail Network?**

*Ward 7 has a beautiful trail network that connects many green spaces, parks, and communities. Those include Fort Dupont park, where I spent many a day as a kid. I would coordinate with the park service and other organizations and volunteer groups that work to keep our green spaces and trails clean and organized, and also work with our congressional representation to make sure we obtain federal grants and funding as well.*

### **Vision Zero**

#### **What plans do you have to pursue more bus-only lanes in Ward 7?**

*As councilmember, I would include bus-only as a part of our sorely needed transportation infrastructure planning and development. We have several major thoroughfares that are in various stages of transportation study and redesign. In pursuing the completion of these much needed projects, how we move buses most effectively on our major corridors is an essential consideration that I will prioritize.*

#### **Please discuss your opinion of the Minnesota Ave redesign that DDOT completed in 2023?**

*Ultimately, I think the Minnesota Avenue redesign was a missed opportunity for Ward 7. While I agree that the transportation redesign along major corridors in Ward 7 is sorely needed, the redesign's execution left a lot to be desired. Though the redesign has some high points including the bus bump outs that help with mobility and safety for transit riders, and safety upgrades in pedestrian-heavy areas particularly around schools and apartments, ultimately residents have continued to share concerns about the ability of emergency vehicles to move through the corridor. In future designs, I would prioritize designs that can address some of the*

*resident concerns while also addressing transportation safety and mobility priorities.*

**Washington D.C. has failed in its goal to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2024, what will you do to push the district to one day achieving the goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries?**

*Ward 7 has a disproportionate amount of traffic deaths and serious injuries. As the State Board of Education Representative for Ward 7, I have included traffic safety priorities in my budget letter, requesting traffic safety improvements around Ward 7 schools, many of which are on major corridors.*

*As councilmember, I would first review all existing transportation projects in Ward 7 and create a plan of action to work with DDOT and contractors to make sure that all currently requested improvements are completed. I will also work with my team to develop a transportation safety plan for Ward 7 that will include advocacy to complete of stalled existing transportation redesigns and corridor studies of our major corridors including Southern Avenue and East Capitol street, engagement with the executive and nearby jurisdictions to address issues specific to our Ward 7, Prince George's County borders, and working with DDOT to implement immediate calming solutions in hazardous intersections; beautifying medians, completing sidewalk safety installations, renovating bus shelters, and integrating bike and bus lanes.*

**Enforcement**

**What will you do to ensure the District is holding dangerous drivers accountable?**

*As council member, I will ensure equitable implementation of the STEER Act, work with the Executive on addressing our unique issues around reciprocity, and make sure dangerous drivers are off our streets.*