

# 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 Veda Rasheed

### Street Car

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

*When the time is right to extend the streetcar, I will work with the Mayor, the DC Department of Transportation, and the DC Streetcar team to ensure that the extension to Benning Road Metro Station is completed and operational. This will involve regular monitoring of construction progress, advocacy for sufficient funding, and coordination with other agencies as necessary.*

### 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?**

*I believe in a comprehensive transportation plan, which includes bike lanes where community members indicate they are most needed. If the need is confirmed by constituents and more funding is required to meet that need, I would support increased funding.*

**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?**

*In addition to my above answer, I would ensure the following-*

- *Clear and obvious signage;*
- *Supports for those hard-of-hearing and vision impairment in crosswalks, etc;*

- *Appropriate and environmentally-friendly building materials to ensure safety and traversability;*
- *Regular clean-ups to keep pathways safe and free of litter and hazardous materials;*
- *Allowance for motorized mobility aids like wheelchairs on off-street paths and trails; and*
- *Other concerns my constituents bring to me that will improve our walkable infrastructure.*

**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?**

*I would support efforts to fundraise for the project and use my legislative powers to protect the safety and integrity of the Trail, as well as ensure that regular clean-ups and general maintenance occur. I will also commit to walking the trail consistently in my “Ward Walks” to help bring awareness to its existence and increase local buy-in by the community.*

**Vision Zero**

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

*Similar to my answer about bike lanes, I would work with the community to identify where bus lanes are most needed.*

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

*The single lane slows traffic and creates gridlock, which has led to heightened frustrations and slow emergency response. These unintended consequences have affected how Ward 7 residents and all those who traverse Minnesota Ave feel about the project and, most unfortunately, how efficiently emergency services can help residents in need.*

**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?**

*Transportation safety is a critical issue for the District, especially considering the rising number of traffic fatalities. To make the District more livable for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists alike, I will champion several measures:*

- *Invest in infrastructure improvements: Prioritize investments in sidewalks, crosswalks, lighting, signage, etc.*
- *Strict enforcement of speed limits and educating drivers about the importance of safe driving practices. This could involve targeted campaigns in schools, community centers, and other public spaces.*
- *Promote public transportation: We must work with residents to find gaps in public transportation and invest in expanding and improving our public transit options.*

### **Enforcement**

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

*All those who endanger people on the road should be held accountable. That's why I support strict enforcement of our speeding and reckless driving laws, as well as cracking down on citations for owners of cars with out-of-state plates. MD and VA drivers account for 75% of unpaid camera tickets in the District, and there is no mechanism to hold them accountable for endangering residents here in DC. This needs to change.*