

# 2024 DC Council Ward 8 Candidate Questionnaire on Transportation Issues

*Host Organizations: Anacostia Parks and Community Collaborative, Washington Area Bicyclist Association, Anacostia Coordinating Council, Ward 8 Bike Alliance, and the Historic Anacostia Block Association (HABA).*

*WABA and other 501c3s do not endorse candidates for any political office.*

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## Responses from Salim Odofo:

### **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  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?**

*Expanding off-street paths and protected bike lanes to accommodate people of all ages and abilities is essential for promoting sustainable and accessible transportation. If elected to Ward 8 Council, I am committed to collaborating with community stakeholders and government agencies to prioritize infrastructure improvements that meet the diverse needs of Ward 8 residents.*

*To achieve this, I plan to develop a community engagement process to gather input and ensure proposed expansions align with Ward 8 preferences. Additionally, securing adequate funding and resources will be crucial, requiring innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships to support the design, construction, and maintenance of these vital transportation assets. I believe collaborative efforts and community education efforts can create safer and more inclusive streets for all members of our community.*

### **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  No

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

*A robust trail network not only enhances cyclist safety and promotes road safety but also fosters mental well-being by facilitating outdoor activities and access to green spaces. If entrusted with the role of Councilmember, I am committed to prioritizing the development and maintenance of trails, with a particular focus on Ward 8, which boasts a significant portion of D.C.'s green spaces.*

### **Vision Zero**

**Do you support expanding funding for the infrastructure changes needed to slow traffic on your community's streets, and improve crosswalks and intersections to make them safer for people who are walking and using mobility assistive devices?**

Yes  No

**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?**

*Addressing the failure to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries in Washington D.C. by 2024 requires a multifaceted approach. Firstly, we must intensify efforts in congestion mitigation through investments in alternative transportation modes like public transit and cycling infrastructure. Simultaneously, we need to emphasize accountability for all road users, including drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians, through strict enforcement and educational campaigns.*

*Furthermore, prioritizing infrastructure improvements such as intersection redesigns and traffic calming measures is crucial. By fostering collaboration among government agencies, community organizations, and residents, we can work towards the common goal of creating safer streets for everyone. If elected, I am dedicated to implementing these strategies to push the district towards the eventual elimination of traffic deaths and serious injuries.*

### **Enforcement**

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

*As a candidate for Ward 8 Council member, I recognize the importance of ensuring accountability for dangerous drivers while maintaining a balanced and effective approach. Alongside non-carceral measures like education and community-based*

*interventions, I believe it's pertinent for targeted enforcement efforts and stricter penalties for severe offenses to deter reckless behavior and protect public safety. In cases where the gravity of the offense warrants it, such as DUIs or incidents resulting in serious harm, I support the use of carceral response for first time offenders. However, it's crucial to ensure that such measures are applied judiciously and accompanied by rehabilitative efforts to address underlying issues and prevent recidivism. By prioritizing a comprehensive approach that combines accountability with support and rehabilitation, we can work towards a safer and more equitable transportation system for all Ward 8 residents and the greater DC community.*