

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.*

Street Car

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

I support the DC Streetcar extension to connect residents East of the River to the many grocery stores, restaurants, and businesses along the H Street corridor. I also support furthering the extension closer to Fletcher-Johnson where there is an urgent care clinic opening and possibly to the Maryland border to connect residents who live the furthest east to the RFK Campus. I will approach the DC Streetcar extension in four phases:

1. Convene a meeting with DDOT and DC Streetcar to initiate discussions about extending the line to Fletcher-Johnson and a concept to reach the Maryland border to get a baseline understanding of the logistics and budgetary requirements.
2. Meet with community stakeholders including residents, business owners, schools, developers, etc. to discuss community impacts and conduct a needs assessment.
3. Work with the federal Department of Transportation to explore what funding options exist for infrastructure projects that can supplement our budget of \$60M for the project.
4. Meet with our transportation unions to discuss hiring practices that benefit Ward 7 residents

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?

The Anacostia River Trail is one of our best resources for bicycling and making it easier for cyclists, particularly those who live East of the River, to safely connect to it. I will also improve safety conditions for cyclists around highway entrances such as along the Benning Road and Pennsylvania Avenue corridors. I will also work to ensure road changes are ADA compliant and account for the safety needs of everyone including those with mobility concerns.

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?

I will work with our partners at the Capital Trails Coalition and the National Park Service to expand access to the Anacostia River Trail and improve cycling infrastructure more generally East of the River. I would also sit down with leadership at CSX to discuss ways we can make progress on discussions

Vision Zero

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

I would first sit down with DDOT leadership to discuss where there are current plans to expand bus priority lanes and would prioritize placing these around schools.

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

I do not believe DDOT adequately consulted the surrounding communities with the Minnesota Avenue redesign. It is not clear what amenities or services the bike lane was supposed to

connect residents to and I've observed poor maintenance of the lane itself and motorcyclists using what is supposed to be reserved for regular cyclists. It is also causing an issue with emergency service vehicles from being able to easily move up and down the corridor because there is nowhere for drivers to pull over and out of the way.

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?

We need to crack down on aggressive drivers regardless of what state is on their license plate. Now that the STEER Act has passed the Council, I am interested in seeing if this improves our enforcement of out of state speeding tickets. This is a regional issue and because Ward 7 shares a border with PG County, it will be very important to work with Maryland leadership such as Angela Alsobrooks regarding speeding and aggressive drivers. The money we are owed by out of state drivers needs to be collected on, especially as we face budget constraints. DDOT also needs to be installing speed humps in a timely manner when it is requested by residents.

Enforcement

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

I am in favor of stiffening penalties for aggressive drivers and speeders by revoking licenses or impounding vehicles if necessary. I also believe we should be enforcing fines for smaller infractions such as throwing trash outside of your car window. While littering may not be "dangerous", it is a sign of disrespect to the community and makes our neighborhoods look trashy.

Bike Shop

More people will walk and bicycle as DC's network enhances. What will you do to get more bicycle shops built in Ward 7? Currently there is 1.

Ward 7 is in need of economic growth more broadly and bringing a new bike shop would present an opportunity for job creation in addition to improved access to cycling services and products. I'd love to see a bike store that comes with a workshop space where people of all ages can come take classes on how to repair their bikes. I would be most interested in supporting a small and local business owner from Ward 7 who is passionate about bicycling and looking for a retail space to set down roots and serve the community.