

2013 Candidate Questionnaire

OVERVIEW

For New York City to compete in the global economy and provide the safety and quality of life New Yorkers deserve, our leaders must embrace a 21st Century vision for our streets that puts well-being of people first. StreetsPAC supports candidates for public office who will champion safe, complete and livable streets.

Safe Streets are safe enough for children, seniors, and people of all abilities to travel without fear of death or injury. Despite recent gains, our streets remain unsafe:

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of preventable death in New York City; crash fatalities increased 12% in 2012 compared to 2011, and hit-and-run fatalities increased by 31% from 2010 to 2012.
- Although speeding is the top factor in NYC traffic deaths, police rarely enforce speeding laws on neighborhood streets, and prosecutors rarely pursue charges against sober drivers who kill.

To foster safe streets, StreetsPAC supports speed cameras and other enforcement strategies as well as changes in roadway design, which are proven to calm traffic.

Complete Streets encourage mobility and health by allocating space for walking, public transportation, bicycling and wheelchair access, and by prioritizing curbside access for taxis, delivery trucks and passenger loading over the underpriced curbside parking that now makes such uses difficult or impossible. For example:

- Select Bus Service using dedicated bus lanes has been an unqualified success, reducing travel times by 20% and increasing ridership.
- Increased bicycle lanes have made cycling for everyday transportation a viable option for thousands of New Yorkers. Protected lanes have been proven to reduce crash injuries among bicyclists, walkers and drivers by approximately 40%.
- Countdown clocks, sidewalk extensions and landscaped pedestrian safety islands make walking more pleasant and efficient.

StreetsPAC supports improving the quality and variety of transportation choices to improve personal mobility and build a more sustainable transportation system of complete streets.

Livable Streets are comfortable and welcoming to local residents and visitors and attract patrons to shops, restaurants, hotels and other local businesses. New Yorkers want to live, work and shop on livable, economically vital streets. Research shows:

- Pedestrian plazas, bike lanes, play streets and other amenities dramatically increase retail property values, and significantly raise other commercial and residential property values.
- The reduction and elimination of motor vehicle traffic on Broadway from Columbus Circle to Union Square has created a mecca for tourists as well as internet-based and other new-economy businesses.

StreetsPAC supports repurposing street space for the use of people to promote livable streets where commerce and community life can thrive.

Process and Deadlines. StreetsPAC is a political action committee registered with the New York State and New York City Board of Elections. This questionnaire seeks to elicit your views on the important issues facing New York City's streets. Your answers will help inform StreetsPAC endorsement and donation policy in the 2013 election.

All responses should be considered public, although StreetsPAC may at its discretion choose to disclose some, all or none of your responses. Responses may be shortened for publication. StreetsPAC may also disclose which candidates do not respond to this questionnaire. If you refer in your response to a position paper or your Web site, please specify the exact text you are referencing. By responding to this questionnaire, you give your agreement to the foregoing uses of your responses.

The StreetsPAC Advisory Board may ask to interview candidates submitting questionnaire responses.

Please submit questionnaire responses by May 24 via e-mail to: info@StreetsPAC.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide us with the following information:

Candidate Name: Craig Caruana

Campaign Manager: Not yet hired

Press Secretary: Not yet hired

Name and EIN/TID of Committee: Craig Caruana 2013

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POLICY PROPOSALS

In a separate document, please articulate concrete and feasible policy and budgetary proposals to advance the following goals:

Safe Streets

Ensuring safe streets will be an important part of my term as a City Councilmember. In many ways, my district is several small towns surrounded by a big city. The City Councilmember has to be vigilant in making sure the police enforce traffic laws, especially around schools and in residential neighborhoods.

I understand bike lanes have become a major issue for the City. It is also a very divisive one. I believe bike lanes should be created, as long as it does not involve removing parking spaces and there is community input before a decision to create bike lanes is made. Bike lanes are supposed to integrate the City. It is important that while being created they don't inadvertently divide us.

YES/NO QUESTIONS

1. Do you believe speeding cars are a public safety problem in your district/borough?
Yes
2. Would you support enhancing penalties for aggressive, distracted and reckless driving under the New York City Administrative Code in order to deter such behavior? **Yes**
3. Has the New York Police done enough to enforce the traffic laws?
Cops in my district do enforce traffic laws. However, they are understaffed and overworked. As a result, there is only so much they can do to enforce traffic laws.
4. Do you support expanding Bus Rapid Transit with dedicated bus lanes in your district/borough? **Yes, along the border of my district on Woodhaven Blv, Bus Rapid Transit could be very useful.**

5. Should New York City government be providing economic support for ferry service as an extension of the public transit network? **This is not an issue that has ever been raised in any of our community boards, local civics, etc.**
6. Do you support continued expansion of the on-grid bike lane network in all five boroughs? **It depends upon the neighborhood in my district. Some neighborhoods are more open to bike lanes than others. On this issue I would reach out to the community boards and local citizens about their desires on this issue.**
7. Do you approve of the way that the NYC Department of Transportation is working to manage traffic? Y / N **This is too general to answer on a Yes/No basis.**
8. Do you approve of the process the NYC Department of Transportation and the Community Boards use to determine locations for bike-share facilities? **Yes**
9. Do you support channeling buses and trucks to perimeter highways in order to reduce their presence on residential streets? **Yes. This was/is a major issue in the neighborhood of Maspeth, part of the 30th district. We need constant vigilance since police are reluctant to enforce truck laws on streets. The City Councilmember and community activists have to stay on top of this issue and make sure delivery trucks do not come down/deliver on roads they are forbidden on. It causes accidents, clogs up the roads and reduces quality of life for the residents of the neighborhood.**
10. Do you support closing New York City's parks to cars? Y / N – **It depends on the park.**
11. Do you support pedestrianization of street space to encourage tourism? **NO. In theory this sounds great, but I think this policy has gone too far under Bloomberg. Plus, this is very convenient for residents of Manhattan and tourists, but my constituents are the people driving through Manhattan for business. It increases traffic, makes their job more difficult and reduces their overall quality of life.**
12. Should the city make non-sensitive data concerning street use, street conditions and traffic crash investigations available in a timely, digital format to the public? **Yes**
13. If elected, will you give your support to candidates for Council Speaker and/or Community Board who openly support safe, complete and livable streets? **Yes**

PRIORITIES

1. Rank the following measures that local government can take to discourage unnecessary motor vehicle trips to the most transit-rich and high-traffic areas of the city (1 = most important, 5 = least important):
 - A. ____ Remove financial incentives for “toll shopping” by equalizing or balancing tolls at different bridge and tunnel crossings
 - B. ____ Use a system of dynamic pricing for access to the most congested areas
 - C. ____ Give buses and vehicles-for-hire priority over private cars on city streets
 - D. ____ Give delivery vehicles priority on city streets over private cars
 - E. 1 Restrict commercial deliveries to late night and early morning hours, and ban the largest trucks from residential neighborhoods absent compliance with special permit and insurance requirements

Please state what other such measures you think are appropriate reduce unnecessary motor vehicle trips to the most transit-rich and high-traffic areas of the city: **I think these recommendations are too Manhattan-centric, with the exception of “E”. They would have little impact in my district. As I previously mentioned, enforcing truck bans and regulations on delivery would be an important part of my job as a City Councilmember.**

2. Rank the following measures that local government can take to obtain community input concerning changes in the regulation or configuration of a street:
 - A. 2 Holding a "Town Hall" or open forum for affected community members
 - B. 4 Conducting a face-to-face canvass of residents and businesses on the affected street
 - C. 5 Conducting an online poll of neighborhood residents regarding the change

D. __1__ Involving the community board and considering any resolutions it may pass on the subject

E. __3__ Responding to complaints that arise after changes have been implemented

Please state what other such measures you think are appropriate in obtaining community input concerning such changes:

3. Rank the traffic violations upon which NYPD resources should be focused (1 = most important, 5 = least important):

A. __3__ Operating motor vehicles in excess of the speed limit

B. __5__ Double parking, standing, and blocking of loading zones or bicycle lanes

C. __2__ Traffic violations by cyclists

D. __1__ Traffic violations by vehicles weighing more than 5 tons

E. __4__ Failure to yield to pedestrians

Please state which other traffic-related enforcement activities you believe deserves greater resources from the NYPD:

The most important traffic-related enforcement activities should be focused on school zones, especially at dismissal time.

Thank you for completing the StreetsPAC 2013 Candidate Questionnaire.

We look forward to working with you to make our city a better place to live!