

Plano City Council Elections – 2015

(PBA) Plano Bicycle Association / BikeDFW Questionnaire

Since 2011, the Plano Bicycle Association (PBA) and BikeDFW have sent a questionnaire to the Plano City Council candidates. Much progress has been made and more people ride bicycles in Plano than ever before.

- In addition to recreational / fitness riders, more people ride for transportation to their jobs, to the grocery store, to entertainment and dining, parks, and everywhere else.
- Plano Parks and Recreation states that multi-use trails are consistently the top desire of Plano citizens in their surveys.
- The On Street Bicycle Route System has helped more people who ride bikes ride more comfortably and safely around Plano to more places.
- Our Police Department has been helpful in accommodating bicycling, and most important, the Plano Staff and City Council have been very supportive.
- Cities that have higher percentages of people riding bicycles see reduction of traffic congestion, improved traffic safety, not to mention the environmental and public health benefits.

Below are some questions that will help us get to know your views as they relate to bicycling and quality of life in Plano. We would appreciate your written responses by April 24, 2015

Neither PBA nor BikeDFW will endorse a particular candidate. We will publish the Questionnaire responses on the PBA (www.planobicycle.org) and BikeDFW (www.bikedfw.org) websites and will encourage people who ride bikes to vote and support the city and its endeavors.

Reply of Rick Grady

1. Have you ridden a bicycle on Plano roads and trails? **Yes**
 - a. Have you ridden on the new On Street Signed Bicycle system? **Yes**
 - b. If not, have you seen it on the streets and on the City maps? **Yes**
 - c. Please share your opinions on the system and any suggestions for improvement / changes. **The On-Street Signed Bicycle System is a good step, but much more needs to be done over time to keep motorists more alert and protect bicycle riders. Where practical, as street improvements are made, lanes should be widened and surface markings should be incorporated to make the streets more bicycle and motorist friendly.**
2. Plano has had a Bicycle Transportation Plan in its Comprehensive Plan for decades. The Plano Tomorrow Plan will be up for adoption soon, and has a revised section on bicycling (see below). Will you support the bicycling sections of the Plano Tomorrow Plan and funding for its implementation through bonds and the general fund budget, and properly fund maintenance for existing facilities? **I was part of the team that drafted the bicycle section of the Plano Tomorrow Plan. Working with citizen input, I envision the development of new transportation systems across this city, rather than just automobiles. Bicycles are a part of this vision. As general funds are used to rebuild our road and pedestrian systems, we need to improve our bicycle portions of those systems, including widening sidewalks and incorporating biking off but parallel to the streets.**
3. Will you support initiatives that are in line with Plano's stated mission of promoting bicycling, walking and use of alternative transportation for everyday trips, creating safer streets, making businesses and public buildings more accessible for bicycles, and encouraging a healthier lifestyle? **Yes, as I helped design those mission statements.**
4. Plano has a Park and Trail System Plan in place, which includes connecting to our surrounding cities. Will you support continued implementation of the Trail Plan by pushing for completing all existing trails in the Plan, connecting our trail system to our neighboring cities, and maintaining the existing trails, as well as planning and building new trails to allow more of the citizens of Plano to access the system? **Yes, because I helped construct those objectives in the Plano Tomorrow Plan.**
5. There are education programs such as Safe Routes to Schools and other courses available. What would you do to encourage more kids to walk or bike to school? **Yes**
 - a. Would you support bringing bicycle education into City Departments and Schools? **Yes, although we must get those educational messages to the citizens and not disrupt current school curriculum. I would also support pushing multi-media messages through those organizations to the citizens.**

6. Plano currently is in the Honorable Mention category in the League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Community program. Will you support taking action to get Plano to Bronze or Silver status in the next 3 years? Yes. We do know that many of our streets will need significant changes within the next three to five years and, fortunately, Plano city's management set aside funds for road repairs so these types of repairs are self-funded rather than requiring bond issuance. During this reconstruction I am in favor of creating improvements that designate bicycle areas. In so doing we may well achieve a higher level as we incorporate public safety and educational programs through city departments and encourage them through our school system.

7. How can PBA, BikeDFW and the bicycle community can contribute to making Plano a more livable city? Nearly all bicyclists belong to other organizations. They are employed by local companies. They attend local schools. They participate at local events. The city cannot do it all. We have to rely on partners, such as your organizations, to promote education and change through the local businesses and schools. As new businesses build, encourage designers to widen sidewalks for both pedestrians and bicycles. Encourage business owners that healthy employees are more productive employees and to incorporate fitness and shower facilities into their designs. Encourage the schools and their safety officers to promote bicycle safety classes and place multi-media elements on their websites.

Reply of Tom Harrison

1. Have you ridden a bicycle on Plano roads and trails? Have you ridden on the new On Street Signed Bicycle system? If not, have you seen it on the streets and on the City maps? Please share your opinions on the system and any suggestions for improvement / changes.

I am of the age that I no longer ride bicycles so I have nothing to offer from a cyclist's perspective. I do, however share the road with cyclists and support bike routes and trails that increase safety for riders and minimize automobile congestion.

2. Plano has had a Bicycle Transportation Plan in its Comprehensive Plan for decades. The Plano Tomorrow Plan will be up for adoption soon, and has a revised section on bicycling (see below). Will you support the bicycling sections of the Plano Tomorrow Plan and funding for its implementation through bonds and the general fund budget, and properly fund maintenance for existing facilities?

Based on your attached "revised section" of the Plano Tomorrow Plan, 3 of the 5 sections are "pending" and 2 are not even completed. Plano Tomorrow is being challenged and I would need to see the finished documentation before I could determine my support. I have no problem with supporting cyclist's right to utilize City streets. On bike paths the Parks and Recreation should study these plans and make recommendations to the City Council for consideration.

3. Will you support initiatives that are in line with Plano's stated mission of promoting bicycling, walking and use of alternative transportation for everyday trips, creating safer streets, making businesses and public buildings more accessible for bicycles, and encouraging a healthier lifestyle?

When I see the final recommendation, I will discuss it with the citizens of Plano to get their input on what they is most appropriate for the City. In the current Plano Tomorrow Plan there is no coordination of issues and needs much work to be discussed with taxpayers. I believe that safer streets with accessibility for bicycles and encouraging healthier lifestyles are important for the community and should be encouraged.

4. Plano has a Park and Trail System Plan in place, which includes connecting to our surrounding cities. Will you support continued implementation of the Trail Plan by pushing for completing all existing trails in the Plan, connecting our trail system to our neighboring cities, and maintaining the existing trails, as well as planning and building new trails to allow more of the citizens of Plano to access the system?

I would encourage building and maintaining bikes trails once we have identified the current usage and get a realistic forecast of future use based on verifiable numbers from the Parks and Recreation Board. There are many projects that are under consideration that need to be prioritized for the Council.

5. There are education programs such as Safe Routes to Schools and other courses available. What would you do to encourage more kids to walk or bike to school? Would you support bringing bicycle education into City Departments and Schools?

As an association, I believe the PBA should develop a plan, recommend to the Parks and Recreation Board for approval and support our Plano Police that such a program is made available for schools and other organizations to educate on "Safe Biking".

6. Plano currently is in the Honorable Mention category in the League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Community program. Will you support taking action to get Plano to Bronze or Silver status in the next 3 years?

I would need more information to fully understand the program. This is an issue of particular interest to cyclists and should be brought to the City Council by the Planning commission as a partnership program with the PBA funding the development and implementation.

7. How can PBA, BikeDFW and the bicycle community can contribute to making Plano a more livable city?

Plano is currently a very livable City that is recognized throughout the United States as a City of Excellence. To maintain this recognition we need to partner with other organizations to develop and fund programs that address single issue programs that these organizations wish to implement within our City.

Partnerships with the City is a great idea and should get National attention for your Association

Tom Harrison
For City Council Place 7
Tom4plano.com

Reply of Mike Mansfield

1. Have you ridden a bicycle on Plano roads and trails?

No, but I'm familiar with the system because of my work as a commissioner on the Plano Planning and Zoning Board and contributor to the Plano Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan for the past 15 months.

Have you ridden on the new On Street Signed Bicycle system?

No, but I know it points out "backroad" ways to get around the city and notifies drivers that there may be riders on all streets that are part of the system.

If not, have you seen it on the streets and on the City maps? Please share your opinions on the system and any suggestions for improvement / changes.

The signs are really made for cyclists riding at 10-15 MPH, they could be larger to make them more readable/noticeable by drivers of motor vehicles.

2. Plano has had a Bicycle Transportation Plan in its Comprehensive Plan for decades. The Plano Tomorrow Plan will be up for adoption soon, and has a revised section on bicycling (see below). Will you support the bicycling sections of the Plano Tomorrow Plan and funding for its implementation through bonds and the general fund budget, and properly fund maintenance for existing facilities?

Yes since my finger prints are all over the plan; it is one of the better ways to commute short distances for employees, particularly in the high tech sector.

3. Will you support initiatives that are in line with Plano's stated mission of promoting bicycling, walking and use of alternative transportation for everyday trips, creating safer streets, making businesses and public buildings more accessible for bicycles, and encouraging a healthier lifestyle?

Yes

4. Plano has a Park and Trail System Plan in place, which includes connecting to our surrounding cities. Will you support continued implementation of the Trail Plan by pushing for completing all existing trails in the Plan, connecting our trail system to our neighboring cities, and maintaining the existing trails, as well as planning and building new trails to allow more of the citizens of Plano to access the system?

Yes. The interconnection of Plano to other cities and the completion of “loops” in the trail plan is an excellent way to motivate exercise, recreation and transportation by bicycle.

5. There are education programs such as Safe Routes to Schools and other courses available. What would you do to encourage more kids to walk or bike to school?

Promote this to the students and...parents as a way to reduce cars idling at schools to pick up students. This along with continuing education of drivers to “Share the road”

Would you support bringing bicycle education into City Departments and Schools?

Yes.

6. Plano currently is in the Honorable Mention category in the League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Community program. Will you support taking action to get Plano to Bronze or Silver status in the next 3 years?

Yes, with the help of citizen groups taking an active part in participating in promoting cycling in Plano. This should be a grassroots, up from the people program for the city. The council can support it, in response to the call from citizens to pursue the program and effort by the citizens to participate in the program.

7. How can PBA, BikeDFW and the bicycle community can contribute to making Plano a more livable city?

The bicycle community can proactively meet with business to provide things like training and support to workers who commute, provide bike parking, promote bike friendly events. The Plano City council can work with the local cyclists to define ways to promote cycling for health, transportation and recreation.

Reply of Jim McGee

1. Have you ridden a bicycle on Plano roads and trails? Have you ridden on the new On Street Signed Bicycle system? If not, have you seen it on the streets and on the City maps? Please share your opinions on the system and any suggestions for improvement / changes.

Yes, I have. We have classic Schwinn bikes made for the “kids in us” older generation I think it is awesome but I always worry about rider safety. The good news is that I haven’t heard of any significant issues or concerns.

2. Plano has had a Bicycle Transportation Plan in its Comprehensive Plan for decades. The Plano Tomorrow Plan will be up for adoption soon, and has a revised section on bicycling (see below). Will you support the bicycling sections of the Plano Tomorrow Plan and funding for its implementation through bonds and the general fund budget, and properly fund maintenance for existing facilities?

Yes, of course. I think it is an important part of our livability goals.

3. Will you support initiatives that are in line with Plano’s stated mission of promoting bicycling, walking and use of alternative transportation for everyday trips, creating safer streets, making businesses and public buildings more accessible for bicycles, and encouraging a healthier lifestyle?

Yes! I just need to be more regular in my own healthy plan!

4. Plano has a Park and Trail System Plan in place, which includes connecting to our surrounding cities. Will you support continued implementation of the Trail Plan by pushing for completing all existing trails in the Plan, connecting our trail system to our neighboring cities, and maintaining the existing trails, as well as planning and building new trails to allow more of the citizens of Plano to access the system?

Yes

5. There are education programs such as Safe Routes to Schools and other courses available. What would you do to encourage more kids to walk or bike to school? Would you support bringing bicycle education into City Departments and Schools?

Yes, I think education is a key component. The main issue, I think, is parents concerns for their children. I see several children on bikes everyday when it is nice and I am happy for the kids and the parents who have embraced this effort. Overly protective parents are certainly right in being concerned but sometimes kids need a little independence.

6. Plano currently is in the Honorable Mention category in the League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Community program. Will you support taking action to get Plano to Bronze or Silver status in the next 3 years?

I am proud of Plano for being leaders in several aspects of life compared to other cities. We are a City of Excellence and have a history of high rating for a myriad areas. We should always strive to be #1. Maybe settle for 2nd occasionally.

7. How can PBA, BikeDFW and the bicycle community can contribute to making Plano a more livable city?

Be involved in city boards and commissions that deal with issues that affect your stakeholders. Let the City know your concerns and ideas. Stay engaged with the members of Planning and Zoning, Parks and Rec and of course, City Council. Maybe request a presentation to the City Council during the open meeting section to report on progress, programs or concerns. Constant information sharing is always good.

Thanks, for everything you all do.

Jim McGee

Candidate for Place 7

jim@jimmcgee.com

Reply of Angela Miner

1. Have you ridden a bicycle on Plano roads and trails? *Yes.* Have you ridden on the new On Street Signed Bicycle system?

Yes.

If not, have you seen it on the streets and on the City maps? Please share your opinions on the system and any suggestions for improvement / changes.

I am not a constant regular rider and therefore may not know what everyone who is a true regular rider wants or likes. For my casual use I find it a nice system to rely on. If others have concerns or input regarding this they can contact me and let me know how I can help.

2. Plano has had a Bicycle Transportation Plan in its Comprehensive Plan for decades. The Plano Tomorrow Plan will be up for adoption soon, and has a revised section on bicycling (see below). Will you support the bicycling sections of the Plano Tomorrow Plan and funding for its implementation through bonds and the general fund budget, and properly fund maintenance for existing facilities?

Yes.

3. Will you support initiatives that are in line with Plano's stated mission of promoting bicycling, walking and use of alternative transportation for everyday trips, creating safer streets, making businesses and public buildings more accessible for bicycles, and encouraging a healthier lifestyle?

Yes.

4. Plano has a Park and Trail System Plan in place, which includes connecting to our surrounding cities. Will you support continued implementation of the Trail Plan by pushing for completing all existing trails in the Plan, connecting our trail system to our neighboring cities, and maintaining the existing trails, as well as planning and building new trails to allow more of the citizens of Plano to access the system?

Yes.

5. There are education programs such as Safe Routes to Schools and other courses available. What would you do to encourage more kids to walk or bike to

school? Would you support bringing bicycle education into City Departments and Schools?

Yes I would support the programs. I would work with staff as well as members of the cycling community to ensure public input is gathered and figured into the desires of the cycling community. Public input is always needed to ensure desires are known for future planning and public encouragement to cycling and cycling safety.

6. Plano currently is in the Honorable Mention category in the League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Community program. Will you support taking action to get Plano to Bronze or Silver status in the next 3 years?

Yes, but I need to know more about this and what I can do to help.

7. How can PBA, BikeDFW and the bicycle community contribute to making Plano a more livable city?

By working with city council and appropriate city staff and providing timely input to items of interest to the cycling community.