

Seema Singh - District Three

Introduction

Please briefly describe yourself and why you are running for Knoxville City Council.

Four years ago, I was a political newcomer and an immigrant whose name was usually mispronounced when introduced at candidate forums. The conventional wisdom was that I would not win this City Council seat.

The rest is history: I am now running for my second term as Knoxville's 3rd District City Councilwoman.

4 years ago I ran for City Council out of a fierce anger at the state of national politics and pervasive injustice.

I have quickly learned that anger can be a motivator to work hard, but it is not the most effective tool for long term policy change.

One of the most valuable lessons I have learned is that, to move from the status quo to new and better policy that serves us all, requires an ability to listen, to compromise and to work well with others.

I have those abilities. I believe they have served all of us well in my first term.

Use of Active Transportation

How often do you walk for transportation or recreation?

Very frequently

How often do you ride a bicycle for transportation or recreation?

Somewhat infrequently

Allocation of Resources for Active Transportation

How do you feel about the allocation of resources to pedestrian infrastructure?

Needs to be greatly increased

Please explain the reasoning behind your response.

Knoxville is one of the most pedestrian-unfriendly cities I have ever lived in. This needs to change for health, safety, and environmental reasons.

How do you feel about the allocation of resources to bicycle infrastructure?

Needs to be somewhat increased

Please explain the reasoning behind your response.

We need to maintain the momentum that began with the creation of the Urban Wilderness and the annual national bike race competitions (Sorry can't remember the formal name of the competition) that we have been hosting.

Please describe what your active transportation priorities would be as a member of the Knoxville City Council.

Sidewalks would be my first priority

Vision Zero and Active Transportation Safety

[According to the Knoxville Regional Transportation Organization, it is 11x more likely for a pedestrian or bicyclist to be killed in a traffic crash compared to a motorist. Vision Zero](#) establishes the goal of reducing the number of traffic fatalities and serious injuries down to zero, and provides a framework for accomplishing this while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.

How likely are you to support Mayor Kincannon in passing a Vision Zero Knoxville resolution, which would convene a working group to develop and implement a Vision Zero Knoxville Action Plan?

Very likely

Please explain the reasoning behind your response.

The data you provide on pedestrian and bicyclist safety speaks for itself. Thank you.

Please describe what your priorities would be as a member of the Knoxville City Council regarding safety for all roadway users, especially vulnerable roadway users such as cyclists and pedestrians.

More sidewalks and bike lanes and signage making motorists more aware of pedestrians and bikers.

Active Transportation Infrastructure

Please rank your infrastructure priorities. (1 - Low Priority, 10 - High Priority)

- Vehicle Roadways - 4
- Greenways - 9
- Sidewalks - 9
- Bike Lanes - 8

Please describe your vision for active transportation infrastructure in Knoxville, and how you would use your position on the Knoxville City Council to achieve that vision.

Since this has not previously been a top focus of mine I feel uninformed and I would like to hear your best ideas on this issue.

Miscellaneous

In respect to active transportation in Knoxville, what do you think the City has done well and what do you think needs to be done better?

POSITIVE: Urban Wilderness and other greenways NEGATIVE: Forcing pedestrians onto unsafe roads due to not prioritizing funding for more sidewalks.

Is there anything else you would like to share related to active transportation, safety, and/or infrastructure?

Thank you for continuing your advocacy on this very important issue.