

Candidate Questionnaire: People-centered Streets

Basic Information

If you would like to review a PDF of the entire questionnaire, you may find it here:

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/livablestreetsalliance/pages/1689/attachments/original/1503520202/Candidate_Questionnaire_Boston_-_People-centered_streets.pdf?1503520202

Candidate name (first and last) *

Stephen Passacantilli

Office that the candidate is seeking (include district number if applicable) *

Boston City Council District 1

Name of person completing the questionnaire (first and last) *

Haley Renda

Name and EIN of the committee (if applicable)

Friends of Stephen Passacantilli

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About You

1. Do you personally walk to destinations in your community? If yes, how often do you do so?

Yes

No

Comments

I grew up in the North End -- the neighborhood where I live to this day. Before taking a leave of absence for my campaign, I worked at City Hall. I walked to work most days and I walk my daughter to school. Growing up in this community taught me to prioritize walking as my primary mode of transportation.

2. Do you personally travel by/ use public transit to get around? If yes, which trains and buses do you routinely use?

Yes

No

Comments

Campaigning across Charlestown, East Boston, and the North End, I frequently use public transit to travel from neighborhood to neighborhood. I usually walk from the North End to Charlestown and take the Blue Line from the North End/Downtown to East Boston. If I'm traveling from East Boston directly to Charlestown, I will often take the Blue Line to the Orange Line.

3. Do you personally bike in your community or commute by bike to other communities? If no, would you be willing to give it a try periodically, e.g. once or twice per month?

Yes

No

Comments

Walking is my primary mode of transit, but I would certainly be open to biking periodically.

Policy proposals

Please articulate concrete and feasible policy and budgetary proposals to advance the following goals. If you would like to submit supporting materials, please submit them on page 6 at the end of the questionnaire or email your proposals to info@visionzerocoalition.org.

Note that there is a glossary available at www.visionzerocoalition.org/glossary_for_2017_candidate_questionnaire

*indicates a definition available in the glossary

1. How will you work to establish 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?

I support the Fair Share Amendment that would raise and direct necessary funds toward investments in public transit and education. I will use my role on the City Council to ensure that the City of Boston is investing wisely in transportation infrastructure that alleviates traffic congestion and prioritizes safe passage for residents. I supported the speed limit reduction embraced by Mayor Walsh and the City Council, and I believe that the City should be looking to innovative and effective technologies that will make our streets safer for all residents.

2. How will you improve the reach, frequency, and quality of public transit in Boston?

I would like to see the introduction of a connector between the Red and Blue MBTA Lines and between North and South Station, as well as expanded Silver Line service. I also think that an inner harbor ferry service would serve the city well, improving inter-neighborhood connectivity, reducing commute times, and growing our local, neighborhood economies.

3. How will you ensure fast-tracked implementation of a city-wide network of off-street paths and protected bike lanes* on major thoroughfares and connecting streets that are comfortable for people of all ages and abilities?

Increasing safe and accessible bicycle lanes/paths will be a priority if elected. As City Councilor, I will work closely with the Boston Transportation Department, cycling advocacy organizations, and other supportive elected officials to ensure that bicycle infrastructure is built quickly and done the right way the first time.

4. How will you increase access to biking in every neighborhood equally? What do you see as the major obstacles to encouraging ridership, and how will you address them?

I will work to expand bike lanes throughout and between neighborhoods. One problem is that East Boston is not connected to the rest of the city by bikeable routes. An inner harbor ferry might alleviate this problem, assuming passengers can bring their bikes aboard. Appropriate bicycle infrastructure (bike paths, cycle tracks, bicycle storage facilities at public transit hubs, etc.) is critical to encouraging the increased use of cycling as a primary mode of transit.

5. How will you increase funding for biking infrastructure?

One of the greatest responsibilities of the City Council is to oversee the City of Boston's budget process. Through this annual process, I will be a vocal advocate for investments in biking infrastructure and connectivity. As previously mentioned, I will also work with biking advocates, other supportive elected officials, and community stakeholders to make Boston more cycle-able.

Yes/no questions

Note that explanations for your responses are not required, but provide useful context and are strongly encouraged.

*indicates a definition available in the glossary (available here:

http://www.visionzerocoalition.org/glossary_for_2017_candidate_questionnaire)

1. Do you support the adoption of Vision Zero* and funding for its rapid implementation? Vision Zero is an approach which aims to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2030 and has been adopted by several communities, including Boston and Cambridge. *

Yes

No

Please explain your choice

As a pedestrian commuter and parent of two school-age children, one of my main priorities is ensuring that our streets are safe. Boston is a walking city, and it's our responsibility to make sure it becomes even safer for walkers and cyclists.

2. Do you support lowering design speeds* through traffic calming measures* on downtown and neighborhood streets as a means of enhancing the safety of people walking, using mobility assistive devices, biking, and driving? This may involve the expansion and enhancement of programs like Neighborhood Slow Streets* (Boston) and Neighborways* (Somerville). *

Yes

No

Please explain your choice

Traffic calming measures will make our streets safer for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers alike.

3. One key strategy that has been proven to effectively reduce speeding, improve safety, and remove racial bias in traffic enforcement in other states and countries is automated enforcement (i.e. speed cameras and red light cameras). Do you support state legislation that authorizes the use of automated enforcement in Massachusetts, per the July 2017 recommendation of the National Transportation Safety Board*? *

Yes

No

Please explain your choice

No. Our communities are made safer when police officers are out on the streets and in our communities.

4. Do you support redesigning space on the street in order to improve safety for people biking by creating protected bike lanes? *

Yes

No

Please explain your choice

Protected bike lanes on major transit corridors will make our streets safer and encourage more non-motor vehicle transit. Just as important as creating these protected bike lanes is ensuring that there is a comprehensive plan to allow cyclists to freely move from community to community on protected lanes.

5. Do you support the increased use of curb extensions* to improve safety and visibility at intersections, even if it requires the removal of one to two parking spaces? *

Yes

No

Please explain your choice

Curb extensions make it much safer for pedestrians to cross the street and can be valuable tools in improving the safety of our streets.

6. Do you support implementation of all of the Better Bike Corridors* and other bike projects in the Go Boston 2030 Plan, and commit to making sure all short-term projects are planned and implemented within three years, and long-term projects are implemented by or before 2030? *

Yes

No

Please explain your choice

7. Will you address age-friendly walking in your community -- an issue raised by many seniors as critical to their ability to "age in community"? If yes, how? *

Yes

No

Please explain your choice

The North End and Charlestown are already highly walkable communities, and I'd like to see them remain that way. Through investments in East Boston's parks and open spaces, we have seen important improvements in walkability, but there is still much work to be done to connect public transit with walkable corridors.

8. Boston has many traffic signals that do not work well for pedestrians. Will you work to make signal timing safer, easier, and more convenient for people walking and using mobility assistive devices at all paces? *

Yes

No

Please explain your choice

I think this is great opportunity to introduce a "smart traffic signal" pilot program. I believe that smart traffic signals that can read road conditions and adjust accordingly will do wonders in making intersections safer for pedestrians and improving traffic flow.

9. Do you support the restriction of on-street parking during rush hour on major thoroughfares in order to provide lanes for the exclusive use of buses? *

Yes

No

Please explain your choice

Most roadways and intersections in District 1 that could use bus-only lanes are already "no parking zones" for cars during rush hour or generally. It is important to develop creative solutions to give buses priority passage through some of our most congested areas.

10. Do you support the creation of a staff position within the Transportation Department solely devoted to managing transit in the City of Boston? *

Yes

No

Please explain your choice

Boston has a sufficiently high population density that merits someone dedicated to managing transit. Navigating traffic congestion is one of the greatest quality of life challenges facing Bostonians, and the City must dedicate adequate resources to make Boston more navigable.

11. Do you support exploring new ways of raising revenue to provide the City of Boston with more tools to improve conditions for people walking, using mobility assistive devices, and biking (e.g. congestion pricing)? If yes, please give examples that interest you. *

Yes

No

Please explain your choice

I look forward to being a vocal advocate for increased transit funding in the City of Boston's budget. I will work with the Administration and stakeholders to evaluate different approaches to increasing that budget.

12. Do you support charging an annual fee for residential parking permits? *

Yes

No

Please explain your choice

I would support charging a fee after the second car per household, but I worry that an automatic fee on every car would put an undue burden on seniors and those living on fixed incomes.

13. Do you support the rollout of dynamic parking meter pricing* (i.e. increasing meter rates during periods of increased demand) in business districts to free up on-street parking and reduce cars “cruising” for open spaces? *

Yes

No

Please explain your choice

I am open to dynamic parking meter pricing in Boston's largest business and commercial districts (Downtown, Back Bay, LMA). I would work with residents, small business owners, and community stakeholders to determine if this program would be beneficial in our neighborhoods.

14. Will you help the community of Charlestown work with the City to develop a consensus design for Rutherford Ave and Sullivan Square that balances the community’s desire for walkability, connectivity, open space and resiliency with vehicular traffic? (See context in the glossary under 'Rutherford Ave.')

Yes

No

Please explain your choice

As past president of my local neighborhood council, I understand why it is so important for residents to have significant influence in decisions that will alter or impact their neighborhood. As City Councilor, I will always strongly advocate for residents to have a loud and influential voice in any major decision impacting one's community.

Supporting materials

If you would like to submit supporting materials, please include them in the answer field below or email them to info@visionzerocoalition.org

This form was created inside of LivableStreets Alliance.

Google Forms