

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/1503520440/Candidate_Questionnaire_Cambridge_-_People-centered_streets.pdf?1503520440

Candidate name (first and last) *

Josh Burgin

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

Cambridge City Council

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

Josh Burgin

Name and EIN of the committee (if applicable)

Committee to Elect Josh Burgin

Campaign email address *

josh.burgin@outlook.com

Campaign address

PO Box 390478, Cambridge, MA, 02139

Campaign phone number

6174538445

Campaign website

joshburgin.com

Campaign Twitter

NA

Campaign Facebook

www.facebook.com/burginjosh/

About You

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

Yes

No

Comments

Our family owns a car so my wife can get to work in Danvers. I walk, use transit and rideshare for the majority of my personal and professional transportation needs. Fitbit reports 50-60 miles walking each week.

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

Yes, Bus 64, 77, 70, 70a, 1, the red 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

I previously owned a bike that was stolen and I have not replaced it yet. We have young children and intentionally live within walking distance to school. If we could add Hubway at the WholeFoods at River and Putnam I would definitely ride to work.

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?

The primary function of the City Council is to make budget determination and set priorities. The council is also able to work MBTA, the state of Massachusetts, and Federal Government to coordinate activities, to lobby for grants and other funding to promote safety, and accessibility.

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

I will prioritize attention and both advance and support public transportation initiatives.

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?

By continuing to push the city manager and staff to fulfill the council's existing policy.

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?

The obstacles I see are related to safety. While there are some high profile bike lane roll-outs in the past few months, some neighborhoods, mine for instance, have some bike lanes that only barely qualify. The bike lane along River has potholes and a seam where different pours of asphalt come together. Bike riders routinely must split the difference between the seam and the white line. While a major construction project may not be possible at this time, working to even the surface and or to paint the surface would help make it more user friendly increasing access.

5. How will you increase funding for biking infrastructure?

Through budget prioritization

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

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

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

In other states automated cameras have been used more for revenue generation than public safety (examples can be found in Tampa Florida). Municipal government have intentionally changed light cycles (shortening yellow times) creating risk in order to increase revenues that are shared with the for-profit technology vendor.

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

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 negatively impact snow plowing. I support universal signage for crosswalks, and in some cases lighted signage.

6. Do you support full implementation of the City's Bike Plan in all current and future road reconstruction projects, including but not limited to the five year street and sidewalk plan? *

Yes

No

Please explain your choice

7. Do you support the creation of the joint biking-pedestrian Grand Junction Path and Somerville Community Path through mandates, resolutions or zoning ordinances targeted at adjacent property owners? *

Yes

No

Please explain your choice

8. 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

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

I could be persuaded to support this idea, but from what I've seen in Cambridge the city does not have the space for dedicated rush hour BART lanes. I'd like to see the feasibility study and what it would cost to implement.

10. Do you support exploring new ways of raising revenue to provide the City of Cambridge 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

Grants, and private sector donations. I will not support increased taxes at this time.

11. Do you support raising the annual fee for residential parking permits? *

Yes

No

Please explain your choice

12. 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

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