

# WALK BIKE QUESTIONNAIRE

## 2019 NASHVILLE METRO COUNCIL CANDIDATES



In preparation for the 2019 Metropolitan General Elections, Walk Bike Nashville distributed a Walking and Biking Candidate Questionnaire to Metro Council candidates. This questionnaire is intended to help educate the public about the positions and ideas of

each of the candidates. Walk Bike Nashville is a 501c3 non-profit, and as such we do not endorse or support any candidate.

These are the answers as we received them, unedited, from the candidates.

### 1. What would you do as a council member to promote walking and biking in Nashville?

Mike Cortese

Robert Swope (incumbent)

I have supported the current increased sidewalk legislation to improve connectivity and convenience throughout our community. And will continue to do so. My voting record should speak for itself over the past 4 years.

### 2. What will you do as a Council Member to reduce pedestrian fatalities and severe injuries in your district and all of Nashville?

Mike Cortese

Robert Swope (incumbent)

Remove human drivers from motorized vehicles. My entire thoughts on transit and the environment are published in a white paper entitled Intelligent Transit. You can find my full plan at [www.IntelligentTransit.org](http://www.IntelligentTransit.org)

### 3. What will you do as a council member to enact WalkNBike and expand low-stress bikeways? If a plan for new bikelanes came across your desk that you had the authority to approve and you thought it was the right thing to do, Metro staff agreed, but a vocal minority were strongly opposed, how would you move forward?

Mike Cortese

Robert Swope (incumbent)

I refer back to my Intelligent Transit white paper. By reducing the number of vehicles that are human driven on all roadways, one increases the available land for use as walk/bikeways, parks, green space etc etc. As my voting record indicates, I DO push for cleaner energy creation and distribution, much smarter traffic flow design on highways, major connectors, and surface streets, and support increased usage for non motorized means of transportation.

### 4. How can Metro Nashville reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips into downtown

in order to ensure that new employees, Nashvillians, and visitors continue to have access to Nashville's urban core?

Mike Cortese

Robert Swope (incumbent)

My plan for Intelligent Transit encompasses a 10 county regional area. Anything less is not feasible. In taking single person vehicles off the surface streets of downtown, one DOES create substantial space for non motorized vehicles.

5. The WalkNBike Plan states that only 19% of Nashville's streets have sidewalks. How can Metro expand our sidewalk network? As a council member, what would you do to support this?

Mike Cortese

Robert Swope (incumbent)

In places where it makes sense, I am all for increasing the size and connectability of our sidewalk network.

6. Transportation remains severely underfunded in Nashville and lacks a dedicated, consistent funding source. Which of the follow options would you support? Please explain.

A. Referendum to raise sales tax, business tax hotel/motel tax, and/or wheel tax

B. Increasing property taxes and using those funds for transportation

C. Bonds

D. Other \_\_\_\_\_

E. None of the above

Mike Cortese

Robert Swope (incumbent)

None of the Above

6. b. Please explain your response to the options above.

Mike Cortese

Robert Swope (incumbent)

I define quite clearly in Intelligent Transit that transportation in the future should be a combined effort of public and personal transit. These are not mutually exclusive activities. Further, if private industry, state and federal dollars were EFFICIENTLY combined, the need to raise taxes, or impose a tax dedicated for transit to a local municipality would cease to exist.

7. What are your thoughts about the Metro Traffic Calming Program? Should speed-management (either lowering speed limits or adding physical traffic calming) be used to slow car speeds? If so on what type of streets?

Mike Cortese

Robert Swope (incumbent)

We (Council) are currently in the process of lowering ALL residential street speed limits to 25mph. I am completely supportive of the Traffic Calming efforts within Public Works... And speak to that department ALMOST DAILY about how to make these efforts more robust.