

# 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?

**Colby Sledge (incumbent)**

I have promoted pairing infrastructure projects with increased walk/bike access, including the protected bike lanes and increased crosswalks on 10th Ave S. and the upcoming mid-block pedestrian crossings and protected bike lanes on 12th Ave S.

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

**Colby Sledge (incumbent)**

I have pressed our departments to create more protected mid-block crossings and to calm major corridors through tree-planting, lane-width reduction and protected bike lanes.

### 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?

**Colby Sledge (incumbent)**

I have experienced said scenario and have built consensus through listening to diverse and varied constituencies to ensure all are provided with the infrastructure that best serves their lived experiences. As a result, projects have moved forward.

### 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?

**Colby Sledge (incumbent)**

Increased multimodal promotion through protected bike lanes; increased employer agreements with public transit and rideshare providers; and most importantly, better and more accessible transit.

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?

Colby Sledge (incumbent)	We should create a community sidewalks investment fund that allows communities to fill sidewalk gaps through grants. Metro MUST focus on Tier 1 centers and underdeveloped networks instead of continuing the same old "every district gets one sidewalk a year" distribution effort that pretends every district has the same sidewalk needs.
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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

Colby Sledge (incumbent)	Increasing property taxes and using those funds for transportation, Bonds
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6. b. Please explain your response to the options above.

Colby Sledge (incumbent)	Major investment must happen now.
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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?

Colby Sledge (incumbent)	Yes. Speed management should occur immediately on all non-corridor streets in the urban core, with public input needed to develop strategies for major corridors and suburban streets.
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