

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?

<p>Freddie O'Connell (incumbent)</p>	<p>I proposed complete streets legislation that should've been a companion to the Barry administration's executive order. They declined to accept it as a companion piece, but I plan to introduce it next term. I decided to postpone it for WalknBike, Don't Block My Walk (which I co-sponsored), and the sidewalks bill (which I co-sponsored). I am currently supporting a number of bikeways projects in District 19 and plan to support more. I co-sponsored the resolution requesting a reduction of background speeds in Nashville and now hope to accelerate implementation. I attempted to amend the Capital Spending Plan a few years ago to ensure that the bikeways portion of WalknBike was fully funded but was strongly discouraged by Metro Finance. Generally, I plan to continue seeking to implement WalknBike and the relevant pieces of the Downtown Multimodal Mobility Corridor. I have also added several important items to the Capital Improvements Budget focused on walking and biking.</p>
<p>Joshua Parant</p>	

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

<p>Freddie O'Connell (incumbent)</p>	<p>I believe in Vision Zero and hope to focus on it as a policy across the next term. I plan to have Walk/Bike Nashville's Impossible Crossings as the focus of a Public Works Committee meeting this term. Generally, I will pursue complete streets policies and advocate for their thorough implementation.</p>
<p>Joshua Parant</p>	

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?

Freddie O'Connell (incumbent)

I'm literally right now in the process of trying to ensure timely implementation of the Downtown Bikeways demonstration project portion of WalknBike but am facing resistance from Metro department heads, who would prefer to delay implementation.

If it's actually my authority, I'm going to seek to implement low-stress bikeways as indicated by WalknBike.

Joshua Parant

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?

Freddie O'Connell (incumbent)

We need a more effective Transportation Demand Management program, which could be modeled on Seattle's Commute Seattle program.

Joshua Parant

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?

Freddie O'Connell (incumbent)

I have already supported a sidewalks bill intended to make the lie fee more meaningful and generate more MCSP compliant streetscapes throughout Nashville.

I am also participating in a long-running project of the Public Works Committee to review and improve our sidewalk delivery process. I hope to maintain and increase our sidewalk funding over time as this delivery process is improved.

Joshua Parant

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

Freddie O'Connell (incumbent)

Referendum to raise sales tax, business tax hotel/motel tax, and/or wheel tax, Increasing property taxes and using those funds for transportation, Bonds

Joshua Parant

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

Freddie O'Connell (incumbent)

Despite its flaws, I supported Let's Move Nashville and still think we need to leverage the IMPROVE Act--including the wheel tax--to build a frequent transit network with some high-capacity prototype routes.

Joshua Parant

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?

Freddie O'Connell (incumbent)

I generally support the new occasional enrollment approach, and I support community-driven traffic calming. I think broadly that a speed limit reduction will help, and I support the Walking District as a pilot program.

Joshua Parant