

# 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?

**Tori Goddard**

First, to increase the number of residents walking and biking, I will look to provide incentives to businesses that encourage employees to seek alternative modes of transportation, such as biking to work. Second, we must also improve the biking infrastructure to provide a safe experience for those biking to work. I will work to provide more dedicated bike lanes for these individuals.

**Mary Carolyn Roberts (incumbent)**

As a Council Member I've helped to implement new infrastructure projects in District 20 to make it easier to walk and bike. I worked with stakeholders to implement a redesign of 51st Avenue with two-way cycle track bike lanes. The new design makes 51st Avenue a complete street for not only driving, but walking and biking as well. I've also supported increased funding for sidewalks throughout Nashville. I've implemented new crosswalks in Charlotte Park and expanded the Urban Zoning Overlay to include 7,500 homes in District 20. These homes will now have access to sidewalks without reliance on special project funding. I look forward to promoting more projects for walking and biking in District 20 and across Nashville.

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

**Tori Goddard**

To reduce pedestrian fatalities and severe injuries, I will utilize traffic calming and high pedestrian areas. I will also work to increase the number of crosswalks that light up, especially in areas which are statistically the most dangerous.

**Mary Carolyn Roberts (incumbent)**

I support the Vision Zero effort to eliminate traffic fatalities in Nashville. As a Council Member, I've worked on new street safety improvements. In District 20, I worked to implement new crosswalks and stop signs for Charlotte Park and a four-way stop at the entrance to Beacon Square. We must also improve

bus shelters and benches with lighting upgrades. Many of these upgraded bus stops can be seen in District 20 on Charlotte Pike. These upgraded bus stops improve safety for riders, and I look forward to exploring additional measures.

**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?**

**Tori Goddard**

As a member of Metro Council, it is important to make sure that everyone has their voice heard, so I would meet with the minority in opposition to the plan to get their input and potentially reach a compromise. If after the conversation, the opposition is not swayed, I will still move to enact the plan. At the end of the day, I will govern how I think is best for Nashville and my District, especially when the majority agrees with my position.

**Mary Carolyn Roberts (incumbent)**

As a Council Member, I have worked to enact WalkNBike and build additional separated low-stress bikeways in Nashville. For example, a redesign of 51st Avenue in District 20 included new two-way cycle track bike lanes. If a vocal minority opposes new bikeways, they should be given the same opportunity to participate in the planning process as anyone else. However, a vocal minority should never have the ability to veto improvements to transit and safety in Nashville. Input from all members of the community, not only the most vocal, is key to the planning process for bikeways and other improvements.

**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?**

**Tori Goddard**

I believe this issue plays into having a intentional transit plan. Without such a plan, we will continue to have traffic issues as we experience rapid growth. Starting Day 1, I will work to develop a transit plan which utilizes rideshares, carpooling, express buses, and an expansion of Music City Star.

**Mary Carolyn Roberts (incumbent)**

To achieve fewer single-occupancy vehicle trips in Nashville, we must encourage other modes of transportation for daily commutes. Firstly, bus improvements including rapid service on additional pikes could increase ridership. In District 20, rapid service along Charlotte Pike is already an alternative to a single-occupancy drive into downtown.

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?

**Tori Goddard**

I fully support the expansion of sidewalks in Nashville. I will meet with Public Works to come up with a sound, consistent sidewalk plan for all of Nashville. I believe we should build sidewalks for existing streets, but we must also have a plan so that new developments do not create the same problems we are trying to fix now.

**Mary Carolyn Roberts (incumbent)**

As a Council Member, I've worked to expand sidewalks in District 20 and in Nashville. Because we can't rely on special project funding alone, I expanded the Urban Zoning Overlay to include 7,500 homes in District 20. These homes will get the sidewalks they need without reliance on special project funding.

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

**Tori Goddard**

**Mary Carolyn Roberts (incumbent)**

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

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

**Tori Goddard**

Raising taxes is not something I will take lightly, as affordability is already a struggle for many in Nashville. However, we do need a dedicated source of funding for transportation. I will explore all of our options to ensure that we fund transportation without

<p><b>Mary Carolyn Roberts (incumbent)</b></p>	<p>overburdening our neighbors.</p> <p>I would support a new referendum to secure dedicated funding for transit. In District 20, many people would be excited to use new transit options that dedicated funding could provide. However, other Nashvillians say they would not use new transit options and are concerned about the cost and the debt associated with dedicated funding and bonds. Direct referendums allow the people to speak on this important issue, and I would support the people's right to vote on the matter again. However as to higher taxes, as a Council Member, I voted against a property tax increase last year. There are a number of middle-class and low-income citizens in Nashville that simply cannot afford to pay higher taxes at this time.</p>
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<p><b>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?</b></p>	
<p><b>Tori Goddard</b></p>	<p>I believe that speed-management can help reduce dangers for non-drivers in residential areas. I am especially supportive of physical traffic calming measures in our neighborhoods, which are more effective than lowering speed limits. Speed-management should be a priority in neighborhoods which experience the most injuries and fatalities, as well as streets which cut through neighborhoods.</p>
<p><b>Mary Carolyn Roberts (incumbent)</b></p>	<p>I support the Metro Traffic Calming Program because it is bringing lower speeds and safety improvements for pedestrians and bikers to various parts of Nashville. As a Council Member, I've implemented lower speed limits and other traffic calming measures to slow cars down. In District 20, I placed a solar-powered flashing warning beacon on Knob Road to slow down vehicles. This beacon warns speeding vehicles and is a good alternative to physical traffic calming like speed humps.</p>