

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?

Kathleen Murphy (incumbent)

Over the past Council term, I have supported increased funding for walking and biking projects in my district and will continue to. I co-sponsored the "Sidewalk Bill" and frequently speak at the BZA against sidewalk variances. We must continue to focus on walking and biking as alternatives to driving cars. We must continue to implement traffic calming measures and improve walking and biking infrastructure to make this a safe option to getting around town--and for health and enjoyment. If we have safe ways to walk and bike around, then more people will choose to do so.

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

Kathleen Murphy (incumbent)

We must continue to fund sidewalks and other street infrastructure so pedestrians are not taking their lives in their hands to cross the street. We also need to educate our neighbors to use the crosswalks where they exist. I see people running across Charlotte Ave. frequently mid-block when it would be much safer to just walk to the end of the block and use the crosswalk. I would love to have more ideas on how to encourage people to use the crosswalks!

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?

Kathleen Murphy (incumbent)

In my term in Council, I've only had opposition to a bike project one time that I can remember. I worked with Metro staff to find a compromise to relieve the neighbors concerns. As Nashville continues to grow, we will all have to make compromises on transportation issues but safety should never

be compromised. Every time I've met with Metro Staff for projects in my district I've been supportive of the projects but have pushed them to develop projects across my district and not just on grid-streets. There are very few sidewalks between West End and Woodmont in my district. I pushed for sidewalks on Bowling Ave. but we need more safe bike options in that part of my district that all level of bike riders can enjoy for recreation and 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?

Kathleen Murphy (incumbent)

We need to be incentivizing the new companies and any company that received an Economic Development Package or deal agrees to implement ride share or mass transit programs for their employees. Of course, reducing single occupancy vehicle trips allows urban core access for everyone not just new employees and visitors.

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?

Kathleen Murphy (incumbent)

We must continue to fund the sidewalk program. But we need to evaluate how to implement the program without the consultant fees and contracting out work that metro employees can do. It's ridiculous how long it takes to get sidewalk projects going. Council members and neighbors can assist by taking a more active role in getting easement paperwork and other requirements signed and turned back in faster. It is embarrassing that the 37th Ave. sidewalk project in my district was funded before my term began and has completely stalled. The other 2 projects in my district are stalled as well. Its not acceptable and we must find another way.

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

Kathleen Murphy (incumbent)

I am open to all options allowed by State law and the Metro Charter.

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

Kathleen Murphy (incumbent)

I am open to all options allowed by State law and the Metro Charter. We must get creative.

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?

Kathleen Murphy (incumbent)

My approach to traffic calming has been to turn in requests as I receive them. A comprehensive look at the neighborhoods would be great but I haven't found Public Works to continuously track the neighborhoods where they have implemented traffic calming and update calming measures as needed. It seems to be complaint driven and it should be more proactive.