

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?

Chaz Flowers	
Pam Murray	
Sean Parker	<p>I chose to spend most of my 20s in Nashville car-free. I'm deeply aware of the challenges faced by cyclists and pedestrians in our city and will work to build infrastructure and policy to improve conditions. The best way to encourage walking and biking is to invest in safe, effective infrastructure.</p> <p>It certainly doesn't hurt to have elected officials who are transportation cyclists and pedestrians themselves!</p>

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

Chaz Flowers	
Pam Murray	
Sean Parker	<p>I fully embrace Vision Zero. There are near-term and relatively inexpensive actions we should take toward that vision. We need to improve lighting at many of our intersections -- Trinity and Ellington for example has sidewalks/crosswalks but poor visibility at night. We need to add/improve sidewalks along Gallatin and Dickerson and eliminate head-in parking. Gallatin needs more mid-block pedestrian crossings. Where appropriate, speed limits should be lowered and traffic-calming infrastructure installed. Pedestrian collisions below 30 MPH have much lower chance of causing severe injury or death.</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?

Chaz Flowers	
Pam Murray	
Sean Parker	If a good proposal has majority support from the community I will support it. It's critical to engage, educate, and gather feedback from stakeholders -- for and against -- in such a situation.

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?

Chaz Flowers	
Pam Murray	
Sean Parker	<p>We can encourage companies to allow employees to work remotely, we can incentivize carpooling, we can encourage a 4 day work week of some sort. These will help reduce single-occupancy trips.</p> <p>The best approach is to get people downtown and elsewhere without a car. We should encourage bike commuters by expanding low-stress infrastructure.</p> <p>Expanding public transit would reduce car trips.</p>

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?

Chaz Flowers	
Pam Murray	
Sean Parker	<p>Nashville pays far more for sidewalks per linear foot than comparable cities. It's not entirely clear why. One thing I'd look closely at is how we get the work done. Currently Public Works has a single staffer overseeing all sidewalk work in Nashville so nearly every aspect of every project has to go through outside firms. This is expensive and cumbersome and I think we need to take a hard look at the process.</p> <p>Council members who prioritize sidewalks get them in their districts. They're a priority for me and for so many people I've spoken with in District 5.</p>

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

Chaz Flowers	
Pam Murray	
Sean Parker	Referendum to raise sales tax, business tax hotel/motel tax, and/or wheel tax, Increasing property taxes and using those funds for transportation, Bonds

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

Chaz Flowers	
Pam Murray	
Sean Parker	Other: modernize and expand managed parking in Nashville but don't privatize it. Why share the revenue when our city needs all we can get?

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?

Chaz Flowers	
Pam Murray	
Sean Parker	<p>I'm a big fan of the traffic calming program. My only complaint is that we need more of it. I have much more faith in physical traffic calming infrastructure than lower speed limit signs. As cyclists say "signs and paint don't keep you safe."</p> <p>Calming infrastructure could make sense for many kinds of neighborhood streets. Common cut-through streets like Delmas or Dozier in East Hill would be worth a look. Public Works has taken a data-driven approach to prioritizing applications from neighborhoods. This makes sense but the number of applications that didn't make the cut shows that people want more resources put into traffic calming.</p>

