

Candidate questions - CABA Mayoral Forum, October 8, 2009

1. When was the last time you rode a bike? Where did you ride and how far was that ride? If you haven't ridden a bike recently, share a memory of a time when you did. Do you plan to ride more in the future?
 2. The next question is about the adoption of the new City Master Bike Plan. We know that you, Mr. Lassiter, voted against the Plan, and you, Mr. Foxx voted for the Plan. The question is: Why did you vote the way you did? And regardless of how you voted then, do you support the Plan now?
 3. Other cities around the world are closing multiple streets on weekends throughout the summer to allow auto-free moving festivals that allow only human powered transportation. Can you foresee and do you support a day when certain streets in Charlotte would be closed to automobiles on a regular basis or possibly permanently? Please explain.
 4. The Bicycle Parking Ordinance requires bicycle parking only for new development projects. But that's not enough. To be successful, to really encourage people to use a bike rather than a car, showers and lockers (at a minimum) should also be required. Do you support an ordinance requiring these amenities for cyclists in new development? Please explain. A couple of examples of development with these facilities include the Bank of America uptown "green" tower currently under construction, and the "green" DOT building in uptown Seattle). Charlotte Bicycle Master Plan page 38 Policy Strategy 6.3.
 5. Between 2001 and 2006 there were 600 crashes involving bicycles in Charlotte and 11 deaths. The city council recently approved 1.4 million to hire 50 new police officers. As mayor would you be willing to find the money to ensure all officers are trained on the rights and responsibilities of cyclists? Would you also support training of police officers to help diminish accidents and deaths not only in crash situations but in everyday traffic situations involving motorists and cyclists? Why or why not?
 6. Charlotte's current annual bike budget is \$500,000. The proposed 2010 transportation bond sets an annual budget to double that to 1 million. Would you support that increase in the budget and also doubling that to 2 million in the next bond issue. That's the number that is consistent with the 2032 Transportation Action Plan. As fast as Charlotte is projected to grow, would you also support an increase in Bike Dept. staff when feasible? Please explain.
 7. The mission statement of the master bike plan says Charlotte will be the premier bicycling city in the United States. As mayor will you support the expansion of bike week to Bicycle Safety Awareness month as a step toward achieving the mission statement? Why or why not?
 8. What % of your daily trips are by means other than car? Mayors of other large cities have set standards by using other forms of transportation to commute to work. Are you willing to become a standard bearer for the city of Charlotte in the use of multi-modal transportation, rather than just the automobile, in your daily commute to work? In other words, would you be willing to join the ranks of mayors in other forward thinking cities and become a role model for using multi-modal transportation? Please explain.
 9. A number of states have passed "Complete the Streets" laws which, among other things, require that roads are designed and built to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists, not just automobiles. The equivalent of "Complete the Streets" in Charlotte is the Urban Street Design Guidelines passed by City Council a couple of years ago. To implement the USDG requires revision of some building codes and subdivision ordinances to make sure that pedestrians and cyclists aren't left out in new or re-constructed roads that the City builds. Do you support these code and ordinance revisions? Why or why not?
 10. There are only a few schools in CMS that allow kids to walk or ride a bike. Not like it was in the old days ! We know some coordination is happening now, but as Mayor would you promote creation of a group with representatives from CMS, the County (including the SRTS Coordinator), and CDOT to work together on a continuing basis to make sure Charlotte/Mecklenburg builds a successful Safe Routes to School Program? Why or why not?
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