

BIKE
WALK 
2015 KCMO CITY COUNCIL
CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
John Fierro
4th District

Many of the city's adopted and draft area plans place significant emphasis on increasing walkability. What is your idea of a more walkable KCMO? Why do you feel it is important to have a more walkable KCMO, council district?

As our city planners look to make the urban core more livable, I want them to design with human use in mind which means walkability. The reported benefits of walking are not new; it's common knowledge that we benefit physically when we are active and it's a free activity.

Do you believe that active transportation should be part of a larger strategy to increase mobility in Kansas City? Why or why not?

Absolutely. Just as our existing motorized transportation networks connect destinations via an interconnected system of roadways that enable people to get from A to B, we should have active transportation networks that allow people to do the same thing by walking and bicycling. I envision a Kansas City that has a system of trails, quiet neighborhood streets, bike lanes and cycle tracks that connect our homes with our work, school, shopping, entertainment and other destinations. I want a safe and convenient way to get where I'm going without being forced to drive a car.

Do you believe that investing in walking and biking infrastructure is a way to create more equitable transportation options? Why or why not?

Yes. I support making significant investments in walking and bicycling infrastructure and education. I think we should identify Federal Transportation dollars as well as private resources for mixed-use trails, sidewalks, bike sharing, and bicycle lanes. If we want to create a cultural shift in travel behavior, we need to invest in outreach, education and marketing. Outreach and educational programming should be culturally competent and in the native language to reach residents, providing them information and teaching them the skills needed to help increase walking and bicycling activities .

KCMO currently has a Livable Streets resolution that acknowledges the benefits of active transportation investment but has no path toward implementation. What steps would you take to improve this policy? What do you feel a Livable Streets policy should accomplish?

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First of all, I am a supporter for implementation of the Livable Streets resolution. I would ask the Mayor and fellow City Councilmembers to support the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to explore strategies towards full implementation of this initiative.

While President of the Parks Board, I've been a supporter of increased bike lanes. I think a Livable Streets policy should ensure that more Kansas City streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages.

City Council recently adopted a "Road Diet" resolution that evaluated of all of the city's multi-lane streets to pilot one or more lane reductions. This is a proven method by which cities can significantly increase safety for all road users and make room for bike lanes at minimal cost above routine street resurfacing – Would you support expanding this program? What steps would you take in making this part of KCMO transportation policy?

Yes, I would support expanding this program.

What would be your next step in implementing and/or improving the city's existing bike plan?

First, have the new City Council review, amend and endorse the existing bike plan. Then thru an ad hoc committee effort identify resources for implementation of identified strategies.