

1. Please share your vision for the future of transportation mobility in KCMO and how walking/biking/public transit would be important strategies to achieving that vision.

I envision a safe and efficient multi-modal metropolitan Kansas City. Transportation should be diverse with affordable options that are green and environmentally friendly as possible in their functioning, and affordable as to be a collaborative tool to assist with not only transporting residents to places of opportunity but as a tool for economic upward mobility due to its affordability and cost-effectiveness.

Strategies would include maintaining continuity of messaging, momentum, and progress beyond the studies by working with city departments and city staff (i.e Joe Blankenship), PIAC representatives, and community leaders to identify effective approaches to implementation. Leveraging activities to make transportation multi-modal as capacity building opportunities to teach and train new skills for transferable employment opportunities. Leveraging capital improvements and upgrades in creating/maintaining multi-modal transportation for events, expos, and competitions.

2. The arrival of scooters has shown now more than ever that there are many diverse and growing demands on limited public space for pedestrians, cyclists, and cars. How do you think the city should balance all of these needs to ensure safety and accessibility for everyone using public space?

Transportation services can't be just a business opportunity for companies with no consideration for overall area planning. The city has a responsibility to ensure safety to a reasonable extent which can be provided by utilizing buffered lanes, protected intersections, and efficient/collaborative shared use lanes. Visible signage and smart city planning can be tools to assist in balancing needs in using public space.

3. Affordable housing and multimodal transportation are inextricably tied to one another. For many households, transportation is just as expensive, if not more, than housing. How should the City Council work to ensure an abundance of both without hindering one issue to make progress on the other?

The city should work with transportation entities and districts (if applicable) and seek strategic partnerships with the civic and business community that benefit from their markets being accessible via public transportation (some entities provide free bus passes for students), there could be the formation of strategic transportation taxing districts where transient volume is high, and partnering with local, state, or federal programs that could be approached as models or a partners of implementation.

4. KCMO recently updated its Bike Plan. It is both an ambitious and practical plan to connect the city, while supporting the City's goals for mobility, health, housing, equity, economic development, and sustainability. Residents are frustrated that previous plans have sat on the shelf due to lack of funding and prioritization, and the City has struggled to deliver funded projects. How would you align City budgets, policies, staff, and procedures to ensure the new bike plan hits the ground running with tangible, rapid results?

As mentioned earlier, strategies would include maintaining continuity of messaging, momentum, and progress beyond the studies by working with city departments and city staff (i.e Joe Blankenship and others), PIAC representatives, and community leaders to identify effective approaches to implementation. Leveraging activities to make transportation multi-modal as capacity building opportunities to teach and train new skills for transferable employment opportunities. Leveraging capital improvements and upgrades in creating/maintaining multi-modal transportation for events, expos, and competitions. By having actionable items that are measurable, these activities will culminate in the implementation of a project. By leveraging multiple sources of funding through shared programming the project becomes more affordable.

5. Active transportation is increasingly important across the KC metro area and around the country to support goals for connectivity, public health, economic development, equity, quality of life, and climate protection. As the economic and cultural hub of our region, KCMO is key to all of these goals. How would you use the City's position to provide regional leadership on transportation and mobility for the entire metro area?

The city can leverage its stance on Ordinance # 170484 in its support for the Paris climate agreement and highlight strategic points of implementation that can be leveraged for future support. For example, within that ordinance there's a notion to move to a more electric and air friendly fleet of public buses. Within my district there are several unused and abandoned commercial/retail sites (strip mall in capacity) that can be converted into a cell plant and small-scale manufacturing for batteries and cells, as well as other components of the fleet. This creates opportunities for implementation in action, workforce development and job creation, and small-scale manufacturing and partnerships for commerce through supplier of fleet or parts relationships. Another component of that ordinance is to provide approaches to reduce emissions to certain rates at certain levels and that can be accomplished by leveraging green spaces that designate certain modes of transportation, and by partnering with other city departments to connect parks and trails with green structures (green walls that capture pollutants).

6. Since the passage of the GO Bond, Kansas City has worked to address the backlog of requests to fix broken sidewalks. However, the City has had issues with regards to transparency of this process and ensuring funds are used where they are needed most, especially on the East Side. If elected, how will you work to ensure greater transparency and a process that pushes more dollars into these underserved communities?

As a candidate from an East Side district, I will be very diligent and direct about intentions and results in addressing transparency issues. I will hold auxiliary officials accountable (i.e City Manager, Dept Heads) in ensuring equity in the application process and award process. We will facilitate clear and effective dialogue with community members so information flows two ways and is mutually beneficial.

7. With regards to multimodal transportation, what is one project you would like to see completed in your district?

Edward Bell
5th District In-District City Council Candidate
2019 KCMO Candidate Questionnaire BikeWalkKC

In my district there is Swope Park, the Zoo, Starlight Theater, nature centers, dog parks, soccer and baseball fields, and trails and bike lanes. I would like to see these amenities have more connectivity to residents in the urban core and to improve the connectivity of neighborhoods to these amenities through efficient multi-modal transportation options.