



City Council 6th District-at-Large - Kansas

Stacey Johnson-Cosby 6th District at Large candidate

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 want our city to be well rounded in our transportation options. Since it is how people move around our city, it's important to me because I will be planning for more housing options, especially adding more affordable housing units. Not everyone can afford to, or chooses to drive cars. We need diverse options. Walking, scooters, busses, shared riding services and streetcars are a great start. We will need to make sure people can get where they can live and work where they want to. Robust transportation options remove the barrier across all socio-economic groups across our city. People can live and work where they choose.

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?

We need to have dedicated (staff) people focused on existing and new transportation options. While there are many different organizations that focus on specific modes of transportation (streetcar, biking, etc), and organizations that encompass some, I would love a specific person at city hall to be responsible for being a clearing house from the city's perspective and sharing information citywide. I know that Joe Blankenship and others are engaged, but I'd like to centralize it and make sure my council office is connected.

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?

As a 30+ year real estate agent, housing is extremely important to me. Let's make it attractive for builders-developers to want to create a community through their housing projects. I think that it starts with the city council cleaning up and streamlining current ordinances that hinder development. I'd like to present an opportunity to thoroughly

discuss options through my Housing Summit, that I will host during my first 100 days in office. I am going to assemble all housing industry experts (builders, developers, investors, renters, homeowners and transportation experts – all things housing related. We will identify the problem in the room together, then come up with a plan, then implement it. I will then report my progress to the community at the end of my first 100 days. I want to be held accountable so that people can have trust in our city government.

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 I mentioned earlier, I would make it a personal goal to make sure transportation is incorporated into our active housing plans. I am action oriented and like movement. I have been tracking Joe as he worked on the plan. My practice is and has always been to work with industry experts. And to actually listen to them. This would be no different. I want to be & stay engaged in our local transportation industry.

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?** Again, I would consult with you, the industry experts to ask your advice on how to best position ourselves as a city. I promise at this point to continue my advocacy. I know and trust the work of David (Johnson), Robbie (Makinen), Joe and your advocacy in meetings, Michael. I know that you will keep me posted on the best role that the city can play in this regional community and plans.

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 the Vice Chair of PIAC, I had the exact same concern. As a matter of fact, I saw a draft copy of the ordinance that had the projects going from the city manager directly to the city council. I scheduled a meeting to discuss this and the lack of transparency with us, the taxpaying citizen. I was successful (and proud of the fact) that it was changed to include PIAC in the process. My goal was that there would be chance for the public to hear, and be able to testify about the projects being proposed. Part two. After the first round of projects were posted, I had a question about how those projects were chosen. After a series of meetings that I initiated, the process is different now. Again, I'm proud of my actions as a private citizen. Now, each of the council districts have the opportunity to use their in-district dollars (approximately \$4million) to get projects shovel ready. So, the control goes back to the councilmembers in the district.

Transparency is very important to me as a citizen. I know that it will be important, but I will finish my work with any authority that I will have as a result before the city council.

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

The streetcar. The community in south Kansas City where I live is overwhelmingly in favor of it. I invested hours of my time advocating for an extension south where we have several major employers (Cerner, Burns & McDonnell, Honeywell, etc).

I am a committed transportation advocate, and that stands once I'm elected. Thank you for your consideration.

Stacey Johnson-Cosby