

## Kat Bike

### Introduction

- ❖ Please briefly describe yourself and why you are running for Knox County Board of Education.
  - *My 3 biggest priorities are student supports, funding, and school security. Making sure students are fully supported in the classroom and that the system is easily navigated by parents and caregivers is important to me. Funding is always an issue as each year we are asked to do more and more with less. School security means that our students feel happy and that the priority can be teaching and learning in the (outdoor) classroom.*

### Use of Active Transportation

- ❖ How often do you walk for transportation?
  - *Occasionally*
- ❖ How often do you walk for recreation?
  - *Very frequently*
- ❖ How often do you ride a bicycle for transportation?
  - *Occasionally*
- ❖ How often do you ride a bicycle for recreation?
  - *Very frequently*
- ❖ How often do you take public transportation?
  - *Somewhat frequently*

### Active Transportation Infrastructure

- ❖ Please indicate your support for the following:
  - Sidewalks
    - *Strongly favor*
  - Please explain the reasoning behind your response.
    - *Having safe sidewalks is VERY important to me both for enjoyment and access to schools. People need safe places to walk that are accessible!*
  - Unprotected bike lanes (bike lanes without any physical barriers providing separation from the lane of vehicular traffic)
    - *Somewhat oppose*
  - Please explain the reasoning behind your response.
    - *I strongly prefer protected bike lanes my only choosing "somewhat" is that I know that some places with slower traffic and wider might have less of a priority rather than more dangerous areas.*

- Protected bike lanes (bike lanes with physical barriers providing separation from the lane of vehicular traffic)
  - *Strongly favor*
- Please explain the reasoning behind your response.
  - *Absolutely especially where funding allows. I'm a commuter when I'm not taking my kids to places and I've had MANY friends who's been hit by cars while riding a bike.*
- Greenways
  - *Strongly favor*
- Please explain the reasoning behind your response.
  - *Love a greenway, they are beautiful and it's a space where people can use it for commuting, exercise, and/or fun! I use the greenway for part of my commute and when I do I'm in a better mood when I get to work!*
- Traffic calming (improvements in non-motorist safety, mobility, and comfort typically achieved by reducing vehicle speeds or volumes on a single street or a street network)
  - *Strongly favor*
- Please explain the reasoning behind your response.
  - *I'm all in favor of traffic calming! I love that my neighborhood has new speed humps! I'm also interested in various forms of traffic calming: curbs, painted designs, lights, etc.*
- ❖ Please describe your vision for active transportation infrastructure around schools in Knox County, and how you would use your position as a member of the Knox County Board of Education to achieve that vision.
  - *I think much of it is when we are building new schools, looking at parental responsibility zones, and also working with principals for pickup and dropoff lines. Other ways that I would advocate is building relationships with city council and county commission to make sure safe routes are prioritized.*

### **Safe Routes to School**

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a program aimed at making walking and biking to school safer for students. Most often this is in the form of a Walking School Bus (WSB), where school staff and other adult volunteers accompany children walking to or from school, resulting in healthier students and a safer environment. Walking School Bus programming helps reduce traffic and air pollution surrounding schools due to a decrease in the amount of cars idling, increases regular physical activity for students, leads to better academic performance, and can reduce student absences and tardiness.

A Walking School Bus is beneficial to everyone in the school environment, but especially serves students and families living in the Parental Responsibility Zone (PRZ).

- ❖ Please rank your priorities for active transportation around Knox County Schools.
  - Complete sidewalk networks
    - *Essential*
  - Complete bike facilities networks
    - *Essential*
  - Safe vehicular traffic speeds on roadways
    - *Essential*
  - Programming to support walking/biking to school
    - *Essential*
- ❖ Please indicate your support for Safe Routes to School and Walking School Bus programming.
  - *Strongly favor*
- ❖ What are your biggest concerns regarding student safety when walking and/or biking to school?
  - *Drivers not paying attention.*

### **Miscellaneous**

- ❖ Please share your thoughts on Parental Responsibility Zones (PRZs) and their impact on transportation opportunities for Knox County Schools students and families.
  - *I understand the PRZ but if given the opportunity, I'd love to shrink it. Some PRZs don't allow for walking and biking to school.*
- ❖ Please share your thoughts on how walking and biking contribute to student physical and mental health and well-being.
  - *Breathing fresh air and moving your body before getting to work can help with focus and stress.*
- ❖ In respect to active transportation around Knox County Schools, what do you think the Board of Education has done well?
  - *I'm not sure the board of education has taken action on this but I hope to eventually prioritize this and have a few presentations so that KCS can be proud to have safe routes to school that every kid can have a little fun on the way to school.*
- ❖ In respect to active transportation around Knox County Schools, what do you think the Board of Education could do better?

- *I'd love for the board to take a look at all of the PRZs and understand the routes that some student walk and how safe they are. I suppose I'd love for more to show up at the Walks with Elected Officials.*
- ❖ Is there anything else you would like to share related to active transportation, safety, and/or infrastructure?
  - *I wish I had more time to expand on all of this but happy to chat anytime!*