

William Cooper

Introduction

- ❖ Please briefly describe yourself and why you are running for Knox County Commission.
 - *To bring responsible leadership to the county. Leadership, that actually does the bidding of the people who elected them. To make a better future for all the county and for my beautiful, six year old daughter that i'm raising here*

Use of Active Transportation

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

Allocation of Resources for Active Transportation

- ❖ How do you feel about the current allocation of County resources to pedestrian infrastructure?
 - *Needs to be greatly increased*
- ❖ Please explain the reasoning behind your response.
 - *Well, just look at the road, everyone talks about it. What exactly are they doing with our tax dollars? If the roads are so beat up some of them need to be widened, it may be a few more bike lanes.*
- ❖ How do you feel about the current allocation of County resources to bicycle infrastructure?
 - *Needs to be somewhat increased*
- ❖ Please explain the reasoning behind your response.
 - *Well, to be honest, it's not the first priority. But if we can get these other projects going far as the roads, it only makes sense to add bike lanes where, and when we can.*
- ❖ Please describe what your active transportation priorities would be as a member of the Knox County Commission.

- *I would be in a big advocate of getting drivers Ed back in the schools for everyone. And before we do almost anything , we have to improve the road infrastructure. Has the county grows?It's not gonna improve itself unless we put it in the work*

Active Transportation Safety

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), which provides comprehensive transportation planning to Knox County, recently published the Regional Roadway Safety Action Plan, making the commitment to reduce fatalities by 66% by 2045. A critical aspect of this work is improving safety for vulnerable road users, as cyclists and pedestrians are 25 times more likely to be killed in a traffic crash compared to a motorist.

- ❖ As a member of the Knox County Commission, what would your priorities be regarding safety for all roadway users, especially vulnerable roadway users such as cyclists and pedestrians?
 - *Well , again , definitely , driver's ed in the schools. There's too many drivers on the road that are getting their license and just don't know the simple basic Rules of the road. We see people getting hit bicycles, not being safe If people don't know who has the right of way or the basic rules of the road*
- ❖ What opportunities do you see for Knox County to pursue the goal of reducing roadway deaths and serious injuries?
 - *Well, as the county grows, you'll see more tax dollars come in. I'm looking forward to being able to go over the numbers and see what the situation is for myself. But we see the counting growing and more people , more businesses just means more tax dollars.*

Active Transportation Infrastructure

- ❖ Please indicate your support for the following:
 - Sidewalks
 - *Strongly favor*
 - Please explain the reasoning behind your response.
 - *It's probably the one thing i'm asked about. And there's a lot of talk and projects being floated around to widen some of the roads. If we spin the money doing that, we'll be able to add in sidewalks and maybe even bike lanes.*
 - Unprotected bike lanes (bike lanes without any physical barriers providing separation from the lane of vehicular traffic)
 - *Somewhat favor*

- Please explain the reasoning behind your response.
 - *Most cities have them , and I definitely don't have a problem. If you could ride a bicycle to where you're going , it's better for your health , the environment and everyone.*
- Protected bike lanes (bike lanes with physical barriers providing separation from the lane of vehicular traffic)
 - *Neutral*
- Please explain the reasoning behind your response.
 - *That's a little bit more difficult to do and expensive. To be honest at something , I would have to look into.*
- Greenways
 - *Strongly favor*
- Please explain the reasoning behind your response.
 - *They are good for the environment , good for the people.*
- 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)
 - *Somewhat favor*
- Please explain the reasoning behind your response.
 - *Again , education is the key , but far as speed limits , it depends on the areas. It's definitely something to look at*
- ❖ Please describe your vision for active transportation infrastructure in Knox County, and how you would use your position as a member of the Knox County Commission to achieve that vision.
 - *I am about supporting all kinds of public transportation. KAT going more places in the county, bike lanes. I'm willing to look at anything that's positive for the community and the environment*

Miscellaneous

- ❖ In respect to active transportation in Knox County, what do you think the County has done well?
 - *Well , a lot of things have been tried and some things have worked , but I can't pinpoint one thing that's working great. They're definitely room for improvement and almost every area.*
- ❖ In respect to active transportation in Knox County, what do you think the County could do better?
 - *Public transportation be more available and going more places and improving the roads.*

❖ Is there anything else you would like to share related to active transportation, safety, and/or infrastructure?

➤ *Again , I cannot emphasize enough about having driver's education back in the schools for everyone. Too many people in the road don't know the basic rules. And the infrastructure there are a lot of projects I can get behind , but we have to start with at least making the roads drivable.*