



2015 Walk Bike Nashville Vice-Mayoral/Council Candidate Questionnaire

Erica Gilmore, Candidate for At Large

Name of Candidate: Erica Gilmore

Office Sought (Vice-Mayor, Metro-Council): Council at Large

District (if applicable):

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1. If (re)elected what would you do to promote walking and biking in Nashville and ensure all Nashvillians, regardless of who they are and where they are trying to go, have access to real transportation options? Yes, I support a variety of transportation options for the citizens of Nashville.
2. The [Strategic Plan for Sidewalks and Bikeways](#), which prioritizes where to build new sidewalks and bikeways, was last updated in 2008- before Nashville began experiencing explosive growth. The plan was slated to be updated every 5 years, and thus is due for an update. What should our priorities for walking and biking be in the next version? How would you go about updating the plan? Increasing the connectivity of bike lanes and making sure that those lanes are safe as possible for cyclist. Additionally, making sure that more communities are connected through sidewalks to increase walkability and health outcomes.
3. In 2014, 18 pedestrians were killed, and many more injured, on the roads of Davidson County. Nashville is currently ranked the 15th most dangerous city in America for pedestrians, according to [Dangerous by Design](#) (Smart Growth America). [Vision Zero](#) is an international effort dedicated to the belief that even one preventable pedestrian injury or death is too many. Streets should be engineered to protect all road users – especially pedestrians, who are most exposed to dangerous conditions on the road. How can we apply Vision Zero policies in Nashville? Was unable to access the website. What can we do as a city to increase safety for all road-users in Nashville? We can use the recommendations that were provided by the study that suggested improved signage and updated grates would make the road safer for all users.



4. Where do you think Metro should construct sidewalks first? Metro should follow the Sidewalks Priority list. How should Metro prioritize sidewalk projects? Evaluation of needs by data collected of pedestrian accidents and other important factors that can improve walkability and connectivity in areas that are highly populated with people within a certain geographic area.
5. As part of the [Nashville Next](#) process, the Planning Department has collected public input to create a long-term transportation plan called [Access Nashville 2040](#). The plan recognizes that our citizens do not desire, nor can our city afford, expensive new roads. Rather than pursue costly widening projects that provide a temporary solution to congestion and a permanent maintenance burden, we must operate our existing street network more efficiently by expanding access to multimodal transportation. Do you support this conclusion? Yes What would you do to ensure Nashvillians can use walking and biking as real transportation options, and not just forms of recreation? Follow the recommendations and community input that was gathered by Nashvillenext.
6. Studies consistently show that the greater the population density in a given neighborhood, the more walkable that neighborhood will be (e.g. walking to grocery store, work, transit). What are your thoughts about density in Nashville and how it relates to transportation challenges? I live in the urban core and the more walkable neighborhoods are the more it improves the quality of life for the residents by making the neighborhoods more lively with the foot traffic, and improving the quality of life because the residents are not so auto dependent for their needs in the community when they are close to grocery stores, and their places of work.
7. There is clear support in the Nashville community for spending more money on sidewalks, but the source of funding is always the major question. Do you think the city should spend more, less or the same amount on sidewalks and bikeways? The city should spend more on sidewalks and bikeways. If more, what policies or initiatives would you propose to increase funding for sidewalks and other pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure projects? I would need to reflect on this more to create ways to increase funding aside from the opportunities that the city already has with development for complete streets and requiring new developments to increase sidewalk width or place sidewalks where they currently do not exists if there is a new development. If less, what would you opt to not fund and why?
8. While our sidewalk, greenway and bikeway networks are expanding, there are still many gaps in connectivity that rule out biking and walking as real



transportation options for many Nashvillians who would otherwise be interested in biking or walking to work, school, the grocery store or to community events. What initiatives or policies would you propose to bridge the gaps that separate walkable and bikeable areas from adjacent communities? I would look to the documents that have already been established and the communication that has been gathered from organizations such as yourself and TransitNow and other organizations that has been studying this issue for a long time.

9. Everyone wants to be able to get across the city quickly, yet roads designed to carry cars as quickly as possible are usually the most dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists. Do you support adding traffic calming approaches (example: [bulb outs](#); [road diets](#); [slow zones](#)) along Nashville's major pikes and arteries? Yes I do suppose these measures. When are these projects appropriate? When they have been properly evaluated and received proper vetting and input.
10. Nashville is currently a Bronze [Bicycle Friendly Community](#), as determined by the [League of American Bicyclists](#). What would you do to move us towards becoming a Silver Bicycle Friendly community? I would work with Walk Bike Nashville to see how we can become a Silver Bicycle community.
11. Are there any specific bicycle or pedestrian infrastructure projects or initiatives that you would work to complete during your term? Yes, I would work to make sure that there is more connectivity in areas that are considered very high risk for pedestrians throughout the city of Nashville as identified in the various planning documents that the city and citizens have prepared.