



**Name:** Nicole Wells

**Ward:** Ward 10

**Do you agree with the goals outlined in the active transportation vision?**

Yes

**What components of the vision would you make a priority and how would you implement them?**

*While all of the elements of the vision are significant, I would prioritize numbers 1,2,4, and 5. I am especially concerned with making our roads safe for all road users.*

*I would implement the aforementioned elements by shifting the existing paradigm regarding the perception that motor vehicles unofficially have the right of way. To facilitate this shift, the first step is to create awareness and a sense of urgency. This involves justifying the need for the change. The next step is to reinforce the culture shift by implementing legislation that connects consequences with behavior. And the last step is to remind the public of the benefits of equally sharing the road with non-motor vehicle users.*

**Bicycling/walking and safe bike/pedestrian infrastructure enhances quality of life and addresses issues such as affordability, equity, access, health, and the safety of our streets. In your view, what can the City of Cleveland and you as a member of city council do to actively encourage more people to bike and walk?**

*Highlighting the (health) benefits of biking and walking to our destinations. As councilwoman, leading by example would be a requirement. If leadership takes on the role*

**About 25 percent of Cleveland households have no access to an automobile, and are dependent on affordable transportation like biking and walking in addition to transit. Have you ever been transit-dependent or car-free? How do you understand the experiences of residents who don't have the option to drive, particularly children, seniors, and people with a disability? Please describe your vision for non-motorized transportation.**

*I have been car-free, and because of that experience can empathize with those who do not have access to motor vehicles. My vision includes non-motorized transportation being considered the norm, particularly for shorter distances. I would draft policies that assist in removing the stigma from non-motorized transportation.*

**We are at the point now where increasing on-street infrastructure like bike lanes will require some difficult decisions, which will not please everyone. A classic example is the struggle between installing bike lanes, sometimes at the expense of on-street parking. Give us some insight into your decision making process and how you plan to balance the opinions of residents who may be at odds.**

*This question relates back to the required culture shift discussed earlier. Once the benefits are highlighted and shown to outweigh the disadvantages in terms of egalitarianism, resistance to the culture shift will naturally decrease.*

**The UHBikes Bike Share program, launched in 2016, is a low-cost transportation solution for trips that are too far to walk, yet too short to take transit or drive. Have you used this service and what are your thoughts? What ideas do you have to help increase the accessibility of bike share, especially in lower income communities?**

*No, I have not participated in the UHBike Share program because I lead a very active lifestyle and I prefer walking a couple of miles to reach my destination. I think the Bike Share program is a great example of innovation! For lower income communities, the cost of deposits must be lowered as well as the cost to participate in the program. Safety is a chief concern in low-income areas especially for those who are on a bike or on foot.*

**People bike when it's safe, comfortable, and connects to the places they need to go. Cleveland's bike infrastructure, while it's come a long way, is still disjointed. In your opinion, what steps do we need to take to close these gaps?**

*Prioritize safety. After knocking doors for months now, I am convinced that people in low-income areas would like to participate in a bike share program, but are concerned with their safety while riding a bike. Ensuring safety is the first step in this initiative.*

**Do you have a biking or walking related story you'd like to tell? Tell us your favorite bike ride or walk through the community?**

*I spent almost two months in the Glenville area knocking doors and talking with the residents. One of the most interesting evenings that I spent in Glenville was the evening that one of the residents and I walked to the Glenville Community Garden. The garden was created because the Glenville area lacks a bona fide supermarket. It's a food desert. The commitment of the people in the area to improve the neighborhood, be independent, and approach this problem that current leadership has failed to adequately address was awesome!*

**Are you aware of the Midway Protected Bike Lane plan recently completed by the Cleveland City Planning Commission? Are you supportive of the plan?**

*Yes, I am both aware and familiar with the plan, and I fully support it.*

**Would you as an elected official hold those making decisions about street design, engineering and construction engineering, accountable for the way they design roadways for all road users?**

*Of course. Their cooperation will be needed in implementing my vision.*

**Bike Cleveland supports Vision Zero, the principle that transportation should focus on safety of all road users (cyclists, pedestrians and motorists) as a foundation, and that the only acceptable number of deaths on the road is zero. 2015 was a very dangerous year for Ohio cyclists, with more deaths than in the last 40 years. Do you agree with Vision Zero and prioritizing safety over speed? How would you implement Vision Zero as an elected official?**

*Absolutely! I discussed this in a prior question. I would begin with a culture shift and use policy to help to reinforce and then maintain the culture shift. The policies that I would support as Councilwoman would effectively connect behavior with consequences.*

**Why do you think people who care about street safety and/or bicycling and walking issues should vote for you?**

*They should support me because we share similar views, and because I am fully committed to championing and prioritizing our interests.*