



Name: Basheer Jones

Ward: Ward 7

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?

The component that moves me the most is help develop the Vision Zero Policy. The number of fatalities are only increasing and we must do something about it. I will work with the community and policy makers to make this a reality.

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?

I'm a active biker and walker and one of the things I want to create during the spring and summer is a weekly bike ride through the community. Encourage everyone to ride. I also want to give bikes to the children during the holidays.

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 grew up in what some would consider extreme poverty. I know how it feels not to have reliable transportation. Whether it's safe streets to ride your bikes or walk it's all imperative for people to live productive lives

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.

I will listen to both sides and together we will find the best solution.

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?

I haven't used it because I have my own bike but I've seen it. It doesn't seem like it's something residents would be comfortable to use.

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?

This needs to become a part of the conversation in the inner city. We are not talking about this in our community because we're trying to survive. We are fighting for meaningful jobs, safety, access to healthcare and safer communities. For those who are fighting for bikers to have equal access to the street it is my hopes that they also fight for us to have equal access to the American Dream.

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 enjoy riding around the Ward and remembering the same streets that I used to walk. I enjoy riding down memory lane and seeing how far I've come.

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

I'm not aware

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?

I would.

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?

I agree! You would have an advocate under my administration.

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

I'm sure they are the same people who believe in healthy communities and clearly that is something that we're suffering with currently. It's time to go in a different direction in every way.