



**I BIKE, I RIDE TRANSIT, I WALK, I VOTE.**

## **CLEVELAND CANDIDATES AND MOBILITY**



**Candidate Name:** Shalira Taylor

**Office Seeking:** Ward 12

**Q1. Bicycling/walking and bike/pedestrian infrastructure enhances quality of life and addresses issues such as affordability, equity, access, health, and the safety of our streets. What can the City of Cleveland and you as an elected official do to actively encourage more people to bike and walk?**

**A1.** Safety is number 1. I would also like to see edible bike/ walking trails.

**Q2. People bike and walk when it's safe, comfortable, and connects to the places they need to go. Cleveland's bike infrastructure is still disjointed. In your opinion, where are the most urgent gaps in our bike network and what steps do we need to take to close these gaps?**

**A2.** The inter city, connecting east to west and to our shopping areas.

**Q3. Cities across the country are installing protected bike lanes, bike lanes with physical separation between bike and automobile traffic, to encourage more people to ride and make roadways safer for all users. Do you support the installation of protected bike lanes on Cleveland's streets? Please explain why.**

**A3.** Yes, safety first.

**Q4. People take public transit when it's frequent, fast, reliable, safe, clean, and comfortable. The NextGen bus system redesign goes a long way to improving on this, but there is still much to be done. In your opinion, what steps do we need to take to close these gaps?**

**A4.** Making sure we have access to information in different languages and improving and promoting an app for RTA information and resources.

**Q5. Public transportation riders want a safe and comfortable place to wait for their bus or train and easy access to get there. Yet, often a bus stop is little more than a sign and pole stuck in the middle of a treelawn. How would you work to improve bus shelters and train stations and the sidewalks and pathways to get there?**

**A5.** I will make sure that our residents have a safe environment to wait for the bus, with a place to sit and heat for the winter time. Along with ensuring we have enough salt for the snow on the grounds near the bus stops.

**Q6.** About 25 percent of Cleveland households have no access to an automobile, and are dependent on public transportation/biking/walking. Peer cities are advancing multimodal transportation to improve safety, access to jobs, community health, the environment, and attract population. Have you ever been transit-dependent or car-free? What's your vision for public transportation and increased active transportation in Cleveland, how will you advance it, and how will you keep it functional year around?

**A6.** Yes, i remember when my

Mother didn't have a car and we had to catch 2 buses to get me to school. When I was a young adult and lived on my own, I didn't have a car and I was cut off from resources like grocery stores and laundromats. I take the train to the airport often as well.

**Q7.** Fare revenue makes up about 10% of all funding for GCRTA while the agency spends \$1.8 million on police fare enforcement. Meanwhile, agencies like LA Metro and Kansas City are exploring free fares and other systems such as in Pittsburgh have introduced low-income fare discount programs. How much would you personally pay to ride public transit to work? How fast would you expect the trip to be door-to-door?

**A7.** I would like it if it was free. Anything more than \$5.00 round trip I may be able to call a Uber. So we have to keep the GCRTA cheap for our residences to ride and stay competitive with other transportation options. I think people traveling to take their children to school (CMSD) should ride free and kids going to (CMSD) school should ride free. \$1.8 million should be used to give back to the community that can't afford instead of punishing them.

**Q8.** Vision Zero is the principle that transportation should focus on safety of all road users (cyclists, pedestrians, transit users, and motorists) as a foundation, and that the only acceptable number of deaths on the road is zero. The City of Cleveland is in the process of creating a Vision Zero Action Plan and committing to eliminating all serious injury and fatal crashes in the City. Do you see Vision Zero as a priority and how will you advance it?

**A8.** Safety is always at the top of my list and I will help to advance affective safety plans for our community to the best of my ability as a city Council person.

**Q9.** The HealthLine, as originally planned and operated, used what's called a "proof-of-payment" fare collection system, which GCRTA enforced with armed police until the practice was declared unconstitutional in 2017. In response, CPT has called for the creation of a transit ambassador program consisting of unarmed, non-deputized civilians to conduct fare enforcement but also to serve as

**another set of eyes on the ground and a smiling face to help guide riders, similar to the Downtown Cleveland Alliance Ambassadors. Do you support the creation of a transit ambassador program as CPT has proposed?**

**A9.** Yes

**Q10. Fare evasion is currently a 4th degree criminal misdemeanor, punishable up to 30 days in jail and up to \$250 fine while parking tickets are treated as civil offenses, not criminal offenses, with a small fee and no jail time. Do you support decriminalizing fare evasion?**

**A10.** Yes

**Q11. There was a racial reckoning in 2020. How do you envision working toward safe streets for biking, walking and public transportation users while also reducing the dependence on armed officers to enforce traffic laws?**

**A11.** Part of my platform is to allocate more money to the Cleveland police department for hire more police. That is the only way we will have safer streets.

**Q12. Do you oppose or support a property tax levy in Cuyahoga County to raise additional funding for GCRTA?**

**A12.** Oppose

**Q13. Do you oppose or support a sales tax levy in Cuyahoga County to raise additional funding for GCRTA?**

**A13.** Support

**Q14. What should GCRTA's top priority be with any additional funding secured?**

**A14.** Fast, safe and reliable services. Improving and promoting cell phone app and updating communication and resources in to the cities top languages.

**Q15. Suburban sprawl has been a major theme in greater Cleveland's decades of decline, and as the population spreads out, maintaining transit service becomes less efficient. How will you proactively integrate land use policies into your transportation agenda?**

**A15.**

**Q16. The current GCRTA board president and city of Cleveland appointee, Rev. Charles Lucas, is a regular paratransit rider and the newest member of the board and Cuyahoga County appointee, Roberta Duarte, is a regular bus rider. CPT believes it is important that these voices are represented on the board of trustees and would like to see more riders appointed to the board. The city of Cleveland has the largest share (4) of appointments to the 10-member board. Will you commit to appointing more riders to the GCRTA board?**

**A16.** Yes, I believe that is a great way to understand what our riders really want and need.

**Q17. People care about street safety and bicycling, transit and walking issues. Why should these voters vote for you?**

**A17.** You should vote for me, because I will stand up for our community and fight for funding to help us.