

**2015 Houston City Elections  
Transportation Issues Questionnaire  
Citizens' Transportation Coalition**

Return to in MS Word format to [chair@ctchouston.org](mailto:chair@ctchouston.org); by 25 Sept 2015; Answer at least one question per Topic Group  
DEXTER R. HANDY, Chair, Citizens' Transportation Coalition, phone: 832-724-8753 [email: chair@ctchouston.org](mailto:chair@ctchouston.org)



**Citizens' Transportation Coalition**

PO BOX 66532, HOUSTON TX 77266-6532

Candidate name: Carroll G. Robinson

Position sought: City Controller

List briefly what you consider to be the top 3 (or 4) obligations for your position or needs of your district (if applicable)

1. Protect the Taxpayers' Money
2. Modernize City Government to make it more cost effective and efficient
3. Fix the City Budget and Pay Down the Unfunded Pension Liability and General Fund Debts
4. Make The Controller's Office The Solution Center of City Government

**Topic A: Complete Streets Policy**

The Houston Complete Streets Coalition notes that "Streets are a vital part of livable, attractive communities. Everyone, regardless of age, ability, income, race, or ethnicity, ought to have safe, comfortable, and convenient access to community destinations and public places—whether walking, driving, bicycling, or taking public transportation. But too many of our streets are designed only for speeding cars or, worse, creeping traffic jams." Furthermore, the city policy currently does not adequately address safety.

**1.Question:** Please explain how you will support the City of Houston's goal to make the Complete Streets concepts a reality city wide, and particularly, in your specific district's neighborhoods.

**As City Controller, I will support restructuring the Drainage Fee to allow it to support fixing sidewalks and paying for Bonds so that more projects can be completed better and faster so that all neighborhoods get better streets, sidewalks and drainage sooner rather than the twenty years currently projected.**

**2.Question:** How would you achieve the following safety features in Houston's Complete Street & Plan Zero policies?

a. Complete, Safe, and Maintained Sidewalk Networks?

**We need more public education and enforcement. I would also work with the business community and truckers to schedule deliveries outside of rush hour so we reduce the number of 18-wheelers on local streets and highways during rush hours. I also support barrier separated bicycle lanes like those in**

**2015 Houston City Elections  
Transportation Issues Questionnaire  
Citizens' Transportation Coalition**

Return to in MS Word format to [chair@ctchouston.org](mailto:chair@ctchouston.org); by 25 Sept 2015; Answer at least one question per Topic Group  
DEXTER R. HANDY, Chair, Citizens' Transportation Coalition, phone: 832-724-8753 [email:chair@ctchouston.org](mailto:chair@ctchouston.org)

**Washington, DC. The City also needs to strictly enforce speeding laws and the prohibition against 18-wheelers parking in neighborhoods.**

b. Bike Plan Implementation?

**I plan to hire a government affairs staffer with transportation expertise to help secure more state, federal and H-GAC funding to help timely implement the City's Bike Plan.**

c. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) federal compliance?

**ADA compliance must be a priority. As Controller, I will audit City facilities and construction projects for ADA compliance.**

d. Lower Speed Limits and/or Speed Calming Features?

**I will work to help identify funding to pay for more enforcement and Speed Calming Features. Increased revenue from Legalizing Casino Gaming in Houston or creation of a Citywide Public Safety District could help with this effort.**

e. Reduction in Traffic Deaths?

**I will audit various sources of data to help identify the streets/neighborhoods that need changes to help reduce traffic deaths and implement best practice solutions. I will work with the Texas Transportation Institute and Transportation Center at Texas Southern University to help monitor and develop solutions on an on-going basis.**

**3.Question:** How will you pursue the Complete Streets & Transportation Plans to ensure a connected equitable safe multimodal system?

**As Controller, I will build a 3D GIS Database of all city, county, TXDOT, METRO, H-GAC and private sector and school districts infrastructure and construction plans to monitor and better coordinate such efforts so funding can be better utilized and projects completed on time and on or under budget.**

**4.Question:** Under what circumstances should a developer or utility be granted a variance from sidewalk construction and/or maintenance?

**They should only be granted a waiver if the neighborhood does not want sidewalks and it will not be a public safety problem.**

**5.Question:** Instead of allowing utility poles in the middle of a sidewalk, what other solution would you support to resolve this situation?—e.g. have sidewalk go around; have utility site pole to the side of the sidewalk; use of greenspace; underground utility; city regulations for pole placements, etc.

**Utility poles should never be allowed in the middle of sidewalks. Whenever and wherever possible, power lines should be buried. Routing sidewalks around utility poles is acceptable and a policy on poles should**

**2015 Houston City Elections  
Transportation Issues Questionnaire  
Citizens' Transportation Coalition**

Return to in MS Word format to [chair@ctchouston.org](mailto:chair@ctchouston.org); by 25 Sept 2015; Answer at least one question per Topic Group  
DEXTER R. HANDY, Chair, Citizens' Transportation Coalition, phone: 832-724-8753 [email: chair@ctchouston.org](mailto:chair@ctchouston.org)

---

**be developed. Do you have specific recommendations? What are the best practices in this area? Let me know.**

**2015 Houston City Elections  
Transportation Issues Questionnaire  
Citizens' Transportation Coalition**

Return to in MS Word format to [chair@ctchouston.org](mailto:chair@ctchouston.org); by 25 Sept 2015; Answer at least one question per Topic Group  
DEXTER R. HANDY, Chair, Citizens' Transportation Coalition, phone: 832-724-8753 [email:chair@ctchouston.org](mailto:chair@ctchouston.org)

Preferences for mobility and reducing traffic congestion are rapidly changing.

The April 2015 Kinder Houston Area Study for reducing traffic congestion

([https://kinder.rice.edu/uploadedFiles/Urban\\_Research\\_Center/News/2015%20Kinder%20Institute%20HAS\\_PDF\\_4by3-1.pdf](https://kinder.rice.edu/uploadedFiles/Urban_Research_Center/News/2015%20Kinder%20Institute%20HAS_PDF_4by3-1.pdf))

lists the top 3 transportation modes as

- Roadways: 26% in 2015 (down from 33% in 2009)
- Urbanism: 27%
- Transit: 43%

**6. Question:** Focusing on urbanism and transit, how will you propose to upgrade infrastructure to facilitate citizens' increased preferences for urbanism and transit as noted in the Kinder/Klineberg study?

**I support extending Light Rail to Hobby in the most cost effective manner possible. I support a dedicated bus lane from downtown to Bush Intercontinental Airport. The current light rail system needs an East/West connection. We should start with a light rail line from the Eastwood Transit Center to the Main Street Light Rail Station.**

**The City also needs to better support Transit Oriented Development along with maintaining affordable workforce housing inside Loop 610 and Beltway 8.**

**Finally, to make the City more walkable, we need more and wider sidewalks.**

**Topic B: Traffic Congestion, Streets, Parking, Signalization, Mobility Studies**

Traffic can flow more efficiently if signals are properly synchronized and can reset when they go out. This lessens the time spent in vehicles, reduces the space needed for cars queuing at intersections, and reduces fuel waste and air pollution. Science and modeling have improved since signal syncing was last a major initiative.

Poor signalization is especially a problem on major arterials and freeway access roads around commercial activity centers.

**7. Question:** Please explain your support (or non-support) for some form of rail, either commuter or light rail, to reduce traffic congestion on major arteries.

**I support Light Rail, BRT, commuter rail and high speed rail and securing private sector and sovereign wealth funds to help expand and build more rail in Houston.**

**8. Question:** What efforts should the city, in cooperation with other agencies, do to make computer controlled intelligent traffic light synchronization?

**The City should use the "smart" city expertise of IBM and GE in a managed competition to synchronize city lights and implement other smart city initiatives. The City should then work with other local cities, the county and H-GAC to expand these efforts regionally.**

**9. Question:** Which measures will you encourage to minimize traffic congestion?

- a. Promotion of smaller vehicles Yes

**2015 Houston City Elections  
Transportation Issues Questionnaire  
Citizens' Transportation Coalition**

Return to in MS Word format to [chair@ctchouston.org](mailto:chair@ctchouston.org); by 25 Sept 2015; Answer at least one question per Topic Group  
DEXTER R. HANDY, Chair, Citizens' Transportation Coalition, phone: 832-724-8753 [email: chair@ctchouston.org](mailto:chair@ctchouston.org)

- b. Improved Mass Transit Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- c. More vehicle lane miles No \_\_\_\_\_
- d. More bicycle use Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Increased gas tax No \_\_\_\_\_

**Topic C: Competing Vehicular Passenger Cars-Jitneys, Ride Share, and Others**

**10. Question:** Please express your views on ride share and jitney programs in Houston as substitutes for single passenger vehicles.

**I support rideshare and the City should work to secure federal funding for jitney services as an “in-fill” to Metro’s new bus route system.**

**Topic D: Bike Trails and Bayou Greenway Initiatives**

Bayou Greenways is an approximately \$480 million project that will be tackled by many public and private stakeholders in several phases over ten to fifteen years.

When complete, the greater Houston area will have added 4,000 acres of new and equitably distributed green spaces that can also serve the function of flood control and storm water quality enhancement.

We will have also completed 300 miles of continuous all-weather hike and bike trails that will meander through those greenways — an amenity unparalleled in the nation.

(Source: <http://www.bayougreenways.org/bayou-greenway-initiative>)

**11. Question:** Please describe your position on integrating people, walking, hike, and bike pathways into our public transit system (i.e., Metro, Park & Ride, Transit Center, & Neighborhood connectivity).

**We need to make Houston a more walkable city and that requires planning to coordinate Transit Oriented Development, Public Transit, bicycle lanes and our greenway system. We need a Google Earth based 3D GIS database so we can see where we are and what we need to do and will have when all our current major projects are completed.**

**Topic E: Multi-modal Transit Alternatives (Bus, HOV/HOT, Light Rail, Bikes, Ride Share, Jitney, Park & Ride, Walking)**

One in five adult Texans cannot or does not drive.

Houston METRO comprehensively redesigned the city's transit system with implementation, and rolled out the new system in August 2015.

Hard choices were made about reducing expensive service to very small numbers of people, where ridership was low despite bus service being the only choice for transportation in these poor/minority communities.

**2015 Houston City Elections  
Transportation Issues Questionnaire  
Citizens' Transportation Coalition**

Return to in MS Word format to [chair@ctchouston.org](mailto:chair@ctchouston.org); by 25 Sept 2015; Answer at least one question per Topic Group  
DEXTER R. HANDY, Chair, Citizens' Transportation Coalition, phone: 832-724-8753 [email:chair@ctchouston.org](mailto:chair@ctchouston.org)

The plan devotes 80% of Metro's resources to maximizing ridership, which all of these frequent lines do, and only 20% to providing access to people living in poor/low ridership areas of the city.

**12. Question:** Please express your views on the need for more transit for the Houston region to serve the one in five adults (plus children) that do not drive.

**The City needs to help ensure more services are available in poor and low income neighborhoods so people have access to them within walking distance. More transit alone is not the optimum solution.**

**Topic F: Passenger Rail – High Speed Rail & Commuter Rail**

**13. Question:** What is your position on developing high-quality rail connections for passengers between Houston and other major Texas cities?

**I support this effort. I did so when I served as Chairman of the City's Transportation, Technology and Infrastructure Committee. I was a leader of TEX-21 and its early efforts to revive high speed rail in Texas and was a founder of the forerunner of the Texas High Speed Rail Corporation with former County Judge Robert Echols and former Port Commission Chairman Jim Edmonds.**

**14. Question:** How will you as a city official work with constituents to abate the impacts of commuter or High Speed Rail on neighborhoods?

**High Speed Rail between Houston and Dallas should stop at the Northwest Transit Center.**

**I would like to utilize the expertise of CTC to help in this area.**

**Topic G: Shipping - Freight Rail, Heavy Truck Traffic, Port Authority**

**15. Question:** How should the city and other governmental authorities, such as the Gulf Coast Freight Rail District, cooperate with the state legislature to enact statutes that preserve and allow for expansion of freight rail corridors?

**They should work to preserve all existing rail right of way and even those that used to have rail but have had the tracks pulled up. The City should also work with the Freight Rail District to identify potential future rail routes and start securing that right of way now.**

**Topic H: Public Infrastructure Ordinances and Policy**

**16. Question:** Should it be a protocol for the design manuals established by Public Works & Engineering (eg Chapter 9 Storm water Design) to be incorporated by reference into ordinances and integrated with other design standards to survive political administration turnovers?

**This should be part of the process of restructuring the Drainage Fee to put it back on the ballot in light of the Texas Supreme Court recent ruling that the 2010 Drainage Fee election was not proper.**

**2015 Houston City Elections  
Transportation Issues Questionnaire  
Citizens' Transportation Coalition**

Return to in MS Word format to [chair@ctchouston.org](mailto:chair@ctchouston.org); by 25 Sept 2015; Answer at least one question per Topic Group  
DEXTER R. HANDY, Chair, Citizens' Transportation Coalition, phone: 832-724-8753 [email:chair@ctchouston.org](mailto:chair@ctchouston.org)

---

**17. Question:** Does the city have an independent obligation to oversee compliance with planning requirements in order to avoid complaint driven enforcement (i.e., brought up from below by affected citizens who have the money and time to protest)?

**Yes they do. That requires a database of plans and ongoing oversight of the implementation of the approved plans.**

**18. Question:** Do you support designating seats for representatives who are active in neighborhood organizations such as the SuperNeighborhood Alliance instead of having a significant number of planning commission seats filled by professionals in the building, real estate, and construction industry?

**The Planning Commission should have qualified members who are active in their neighborhood civic club or superneighborhood council.**

**19. Question:** The Planning Commission and/or City Engineer can grant variances to almost any City Building/Construction Ordinance. How will you reduce the number of variances granted?

**City ordinances should be changed to require Planning Commission or City Council Review of such variance request and a database of such variances maintained by PW&E.**

**20. Question:** How should the city handle the increased infrastructure demands and other cumulative impacts of Chapter 42?

**ReBuild Houston needs to be fixed and better focused on improving infrastructure in light of demand. I support developing a 3D GIS database for this reason. It will help us “see” where we need to go with infrastructure investments.**

**2015 Houston City Elections  
Transportation Issues Questionnaire  
Citizens' Transportation Coalition**

Return to in MS Word format to [chair@ctchouston.org](mailto:chair@ctchouston.org); by 25 Sept 2015; Answer at least one question per Topic Group  
DEXTER R. HANDY, Chair, Citizens' Transportation Coalition, phone: 832-724-8753 [email: chair@ctchouston.org](mailto:chair@ctchouston.org)

Here is an overview of the CTC transportation topics and questions.

Question #	Category	Questions for Candidates
<b>Topic A: Complete Streets Policy</b>		
1	Complete Streets Policy	Please explain how you will support the City of Houston's goal to make the Complete Streets concepts a reality city wide, and particularly, in your specific district's neighborhoods.
2	Complete Streets Policy	How would you achieve these safety features in Houston's Complete Street & Plan Zero policies?
		2a Complete, Safe, and Maintained Sidewalk Networks?
		2b Bike Plan Implementation?
		2c Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) federal compliance?
		2d Lower Speed Limits and/or Speed Calming Features?
		2e Reduction in Traffic Deaths?
3	Complete Streets Policy	How will you pursue the Complete Streets & Transportation Plans to ensure a connected equitable safe multimodal system?
4	Complete Streets Policy	Under what circumstances should a developer or utility be granted a variance from sidewalk construction and/or maintenance?
5	Complete Streets Policy	Instead of allowing utility poles in the middle of a sidewalk, what other solution would you support to resolve this situation?—e.g. have sidewalk go around; have utility site pole to the side of the sidewalk; use of greenspace; underground utility; city regulations for pole placements, etc.
6	Traffic Congestion, Streets, Parking, Signalization, Mobility Studies	Focusing on urbanism and transit, how will you propose to upgrade infrastructure to facilitate citizens' increased preferences for urbanism and transit as noted in the Kinder/Klineberg study?
<b>Topic B: Traffic Congestion, Streets, Parking</b>		
7	Traffic Congestion, Streets, Parking, Signalization, Mobility Studies	Please explain your support (or non-support) for some form of rail, either commuter or light rail, to reduce traffic congestion on major arteries.
8	Traffic Congestion, Streets, Parking, Signalization, Mobility Studies	What efforts should the city, in cooperation with other agencies, do to make computer controlled intelligent traffic light synchronization?
9	Traffic Congestion, Streets, Parking, Signalization, Mobility Studies	Which measures will you encourage to minimize traffic congestion?
		9a · Promotion of smaller vehicles
		9b · Improved Mass Transit

**2015 Houston City Elections  
Transportation Issues Questionnaire  
Citizens' Transportation Coalition**

Return to in MS Word format to [chair@ctchouston.org](mailto:chair@ctchouston.org); by 25 Sept 2015; Answer at least one question per Topic Group  
DEXTER R. HANDY, Chair, Citizens' Transportation Coalition, phone: 832-724-8753 [email: chair@ctchouston.org](mailto:chair@ctchouston.org)

		9c · More vehicle lane miles
		9d · More bicycle use
		9e · Increased gas tax
<b>Topic C: Competing Vehicular Passenger Cars - Jitneys, Ride Share, and Others</b>		
10	Competing vehicular passenger cars-Jitneys, Ride Share, & others	Please express your views on ride share and jitney programs in Houston as substitutes for single passenger vehicles.
<b>Topic D: Bike Trails and Bayou Greenway Initiatives</b>		
11	Bike Trails and Bayou Greenway Initiatives	Please describe your position on integrating people, walking, hike, and bike pathways into our public transit system (i.e., Metro, Park & Ride, Transit Center, & Neighborhood connectivity).
<b>Topic E: Multi-modal Transit Alternatives (bus, HOV/HOT, Light Rail, Bikes, Ride Share, Jitney, Park &amp; Ride, Walking)</b>		
12	Multi-modal Transit Alternatives (bus, HOV/HOT, light rail, bikes, ride share, jitney, park and ride, walking)	Please express your views on the need for more transit for the Houston region to serve the one in five adults (plus children) that do not drive.
<b>Topic F: Passenger Rail – High Speed Rail &amp; Commuter Rail</b>		
13	Passenger rail - HSR, commuter rail	What is your position on developing high-quality rail connections for passengers between Houston and other major Texas cities?
14	Passenger rail - HSR, commuter rail	How will you as a city official work with constituents to abate the impacts of commuter or High Speed Rail on neighborhoods?
<b>Topic G: Shipping, Freight Rail, Heavy Truck Traffic, Port Authority</b>		
15	Shipping - freight rail, heavy truck traffic, Port Authority	How should the city and other governmental authorities, such as the Gulf Coast Freight Rail District, cooperate to enact statutes that preserve and allows for expansion of freight rail corridors?
<b>Topic H: Public Infrastructure Ordinances and Policy</b>		
16	Public Infrastructure Ordinances and Policy	Should it be a protocol for the design manuals established by Public Works & Engineering (eg Chapter 9 Stormwater Design) to be incorporated by reference into ordinances and integrated with other design standards to survive political administration turnovers?
17	Public Infrastructure Ordinances and Policy	Does the city have an independent obligation to oversee compliance with planning requirements in order to avoid complaint driven enforcement (i.e., brought up from below by affected citizens who have the money and time to protest)?

**2015 Houston City Elections  
Transportation Issues Questionnaire  
Citizens' Transportation Coalition**

Return to in MS Word format to [chair@ctchouston.org](mailto:chair@ctchouston.org); by 25 Sept 2015; Answer at least one question per Topic Group  
DEXTER R. HANDY, Chair, Citizens' Transportation Coalition, phone: 832-724-8753 [email: chair@ctchouston.org](mailto:chair@ctchouston.org)

18	Public Infrastructure Ordinances and Policy	Do you support designating seats for representatives who are active in neighborhood organizations such as the Super Neighborhood Alliance instead of having a significant number of planning commission seats filled by professionals in the building, real estate, and construction industry?
19	Public Infrastructure Ordinances and Policy	The Planning Commission and/or City Engineer can grant variances to almost any City Building/Construction Ordinance. How will you reduce the number of variances granted?
20	Public Infrastructure Ordinances and Policy	How should the city handle the increased infrastructure demands and other cumulative impacts of Chapter 42?