

2015 Houston City Elections
Transportation Issues Questionnaire
Citizens' Transportation Coalition

Return to in MS Word format to 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



Citizens' Transportation Coalition

PO BOX 66532, HOUSTON TX 77266-6532

Candidate name: Moe Rivera

Position sought: At Large Position # 2

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

1. Balanced budget
2. improved infrastructure, streets, bridges, sidewalks
3. Pension issue resolved
4. Security

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.

1. improve sidewalks and streets addressed At Home
2. Emphasize bicycle HoV safety.
3. Report offenders to ~~by~~ special Hot Line or shared Hotline

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?

- # 1. Address worst streets & sidewalks and continue to support the Rebuild Houston program.
- # 2. Educate HoV bicycle safety & Report auto offenders and enforce.

b. Bike Plan Implementation?

- Educate from city and other political forums get police involved.

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

Comply & report offenders.

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

Educate, coordinate with citizenship to report offenders to 411 Hotline or specific Hotline budget permitting.

e. Reduction in Traffic Deaths?

Lower speeds, educate, educate.

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

Support a program that educates, supports the Houston Rebuild program and work in conjunction with HPD & Metro.

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

Developers should be held responsible to restore any sidewalks to their original form. Report offenders and remove from authorized COIT contract list.

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.

1. Under ground utility; use COIT regulations
2. Have sidewalk go around.

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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)

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?

- 1) Educate for usage of Mass transportation
 2) work with Metro & propose budget for Rail one mile per year at a minimum.
 3) safety for cyclist and incentives

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 but realistically with expense associated with least 1 or 2 miles budgeted for each FY year it costs 100 million to actually design, purchase and construct 1 mile.

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

Promote with TWE, Tex dot and Agencies and support with factual data.

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

- a. Promotion of smaller vehicles Hybrid vehicles promotion/incentives
- b. Improved Mass Transit promotion Park & ride, free ride for 1 week
- c. More vehicle lane miles
- d. More bicycle use promote bicycle usage & safety.
- e. Increased gas tax

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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

Promote ride share metro programs it takes
CARS off the streets and saves fuel.

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).

I support a coordinate effort with media
involved with commercial art HTV.

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.

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.

Must increase access to poor/low ridership it must be

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be non inclusive of the less fortunate.

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 but at \$100 ~~per~~ a mile economically challenging.

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

Emphasize on convenience, safety and efficiency.

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?

Encourage ^{Portion of} funds to go preserve expansion of freight rail.

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? ^{LDL (Long distance Learning)}

Yes manuals are mentors, CD's also & use of Inter allows for Politicos to be educated.

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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 must know the consequences of poor planning and compliance for this & future generations.

18. Question: 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?

Support Neighborhood reps since they will look out for the welfare of local citizens + neighbors.

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?

Expose PWE of variances and why in case its for self interest groups vs the citizenship.

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

Continue to instill Rebuild Houston and worst first a promise is a promise and Political inclines should not override its citizenship needs.