



**GARY**

**WHITE**

*for* **MAYOR**

**What plan or project is at the top of your list for improving traffic congestion?**

It is my belief that people will choose the most convenient transportation option for them based on their own circumstances. Today, the most convenient option available for most people is to drive their own vehicles. So, let's consider this to be the root cause of the problem. The biggest issue is that most people do not live where they work. For example, 83% of the residents of West Ashley don't work in West Ashley. So, every morning 83% of the most heavily populated areas in the City of Charleston get in their cars and drive somewhere else to work. So, what if half of those people didn't have to get on the road and leave West Ashley every day. That would greatly reduce the number of vehicle trips on I-526 or other major connection points every day. Under my administration, I will create an Economic Development Department that will be tasked with supporting the creation of job centers across the City. The goal, as they recruit new companies to come to Charleston, they will encourage those employers to locate their businesses in areas across the City where their employees can live and work in the same area.

**Various forms of mass transit are currently under consideration from Bus Rapid Transit to Light Rail. Do you feel improvements to and expansions of mass transit are important in Charleston? If so, what are your short-term and long-term solutions to lessen the number of cars on the road, and to shorten your constituents' commute?**

Bus Rapid Transit is a good step forward however it is still far into the future. Based on the last estimates the service won't be able until 2025. We can't wait that long for relief. We must take other steps to begin improving traffic in our region now. It is my belief that people will choose the most convenient transportation option for them based on their own circumstances. Today, the most convenient option available for most people is to drive their own vehicles. So, let's consider this to be the root cause of the problem. The biggest issue is that most people do not live where they work. 85% of the residents of West Ashley don't work in West Ashley. So, every morning 85% of the most heavily populated area in the City of Charleston get in their cars and drive somewhere else to work. So, what if half of those people didn't have to get on the road and leave West Ashley every day. That would greatly reduce the number of vehicle trips on I-526 or other major connection points every day. Under my administration, I will create an Economic Development Department that will be tasked with supporting the creation of job centers across the City. The goal, as they recruit new companies to come to Charleston, will be to encourage those employers to locate their businesses in areas across the City where their employees can live and work in the same area effectively reducing our daily commuter traffic.

**Traffic, transportation, and pedestrian safety are common citywide issues. A recent study says that over 85% of West Ashley residents drive elsewhere to get to their places of employment. Main traffic corridors isolate many neighborhoods and traversing them is a daily challenge. How would your administration tackle the issues of congestion and connectivity in order to create a healthier community?**

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**We are gathered today in a school that should have more opportunities to be approached by walking or biking to school. But this is not the case. In addition, we have the beautiful West Ashley Greenway and West Ashley Bikeway, but these attractions lack any sort of safe bicycle/pedestrian connection to nearby areas. Sidewalks are now installed in newer neighborhoods, but many older ones still lack them. What are your views on creating and enhancing these connections? What is your perspective on the current Master Plan for the West Ashley Greenway/Bikeway? Do you support a safe bicycle/pedestrian connection across the Ashley River into Downtown?**

As a resident of Daniel Island I know first-hand the benefits of living in a community that has an infrastructure that supports walkable and bikable communities. Of course, Daniel Island is a planned community that was designed and built with all its components working cohesively. Much of our city was developed over many years and not master-planned. During my tenure on City Council, I have supported the City's efforts to provide infrastructure improvements that create a more walkable and bikable community, including initiatives such as the Low Line and improvements to the West Ashley Bikeway and Greenway. As

**Traffic**

Question and Answers

Mayor, I will continue to support those initiatives as well as find new opportunities to connect our communities across the city so citizens are given the opportunity to have choices on how they move throughout our city.