

# *Kansas City Coalition for Walking and Bicycling*

## **2007 Candidate Questionnaire**

February 5, 2007

Dear candidate,

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this questionnaire on pedestrian and bicycle transportation issues in Kansas City, Missouri. These issues are vital to our city's future and touch a wide range of areas like transportation, safety, economic development, quality of life, economic competitiveness, recreation, environmental stewardship, and job access. They also fall under recommendations made in various publications like the FOCUS plan, Citistates report, Sasaki plan for Downtown, and others.

Kansas City's peers around the country have recognized that creating an environment conducive to walking and bicycling has many benefits, including an improved quality of life, increased urban vitality, improved air-quality and enhanced economic development. Unfortunately Kansas City is falling behind most big cities, many small cities, and even many of our suburban neighbors. Our level of walking and bicycling is less than half the national average.

Kansas City desperately needs an integrated transportation system that includes walking and bicycling as key components along side public transportation, carpooling, and the private automobile. We can achieve this, but only with leadership from the top, a coordinated effort throughout all parts of city government, and cooperation with our regional and state partners.

All candidates for Mayor and City Council are asked to complete the enclosed survey and return it by **Friday, February 16**. Responses will be distributed to the members of our organizations and posted online for public access.

**Questions or additional information? Contact:**

Eric Rogers at [eric@kcbike.info](mailto:eric@kcbike.info) or 816-304-9533

Laurie Chipman at [chipdsn1@swbell.net](mailto:chipdsn1@swbell.net) or 816-753-3164

The *Kansas City Coalition for Walking and Bicycling* includes many organizations a total membership of over 2,000 Kansas City, Missouri residents. Our member organizations include:

- Kansas City Bicycle Club
- Northland Trails and Greenways
- Kansas City Track Club
- Missouri Bicycle Federation

For more information please visit <http://kcbike.info/election2007>.

Sincerely,

The Kansas City Coalition for Bicycling and Walking

Answer questions on a separate page or in an email message and number your answers appropriately. Return completed questionnaire to Eric Rogers at [eric@kcbike.info](mailto:eric@kcbike.info) or mail to 3522 Bell Street, Kansas City, MO 64111 by **Monday February 19**.

1. Bicycling and walking account for less than 4% of all trips made in Kansas City. This is less than half the national average.

**Question:** How would you increase this rate up to the national average?

2. Since 2002 Kansas City has had a Council-approved plan called BikeKC to create a network of on-street bikeways throughout all parts of the city. To date very little of that plan has been implemented, due to funding and organizational problems.

**Question:** How would you work to implement the existing plan?

3. Since 2003 Kansas City has had a Council-approved walkability plan, which identified several neighborhoods with deficient or non-existent sidewalk networks.

**Question:** How would you bring sidewalks to all neighborhoods in Kansas City?

4. City policy treats sidewalks as the property of the home or business owner. Anyone who wants to, however, can use the sidewalks in front of a home or business.

**Question:** do you think the city should consider the sidewalk to be a public asset—part of the thoroughfare—or the personal property of the property owner?

5. Kansas City's bicycle and pedestrian programs are haphazard and dispersed through many departments, leaving us with no coherent policy and no mechanism to oversee the policy that does exist.

**Question:** How would you create an integrated transportation system that includes bicycles and pedestrians?

6. The city currently relies CMAQ and Transportation Enhancements for most of its bike/ped funding. This forces us to compete with all of our suburban neighbors for funding.

**Question:** Would you support the budgeting of city money for bicycle/pedestrian facilities, and if so how would you accomplish it?