

**CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS**  
**COUNCIL AT-LARGE: 4 SEATS OPEN**

**Scott Pierce:** NO RESPONSES

**1.) If elected, how would you address safe biking and walking options on the Isle of Palms Connector?**

**Katrina Limbach:** As an avid runner myself and a family full of new little bikers, I believe offering safe bike paths on and to our island is incredibly important. The Connector is one of the most beautiful paths to walk or to bike and I utilize it often. I think that enforcing speeding laws and penalizing texting while driving will help keep our bridge path safer. Also, creating the additional sidewalk from Palm to the Connector will make for a safer transition.

**Kevin M. Popson:** As we all know the IOP connector is controlled by SCDOT, so any thoughts, ideas would need their approval. This leads me to answer your last 2 questions first. Yes, I would lobby SCDOT for spending to improve infrastructure. The connector has walking/biking lanes on both directions and they seem to be working well. I always see walkers/bikers using the lanes and not aware of any issues. I would reach out to SCDOT to repaint lines and add signage, directions and stamp symbols on the bike lanes..

**Phillip Pounds:** As growth continues on our island, it becomes harder to use valuable space for these types of options which is why we need a long term plan to thoughtfully put a strategy in place and not always try to retrofit something or make do. I would strongly support additional biking/walking paths on our island which will take coordinated planning with Mt. Pleasant specifically for the IOP Connector.

**Rusty Streetman:** I think addressing safe biking/walking/running issues on the Isle of Palms Connector comes down to the educational aspect, and assuring biking and walking laws are adhered to by pedestrians and cyclists. The walking/biking areas have sufficient room to accommodate both bikers and walkers. There possibly could be a rule put in place that instructs walkers/runners to stay to the right, and cyclists to the left.

**Jimmy Ward (I):** Isle of Palms City Council (which I am currently a member) recently approved using transportation tax revenues to improve the bike and pedestrian paths at the foot of the connector to address safety concerns. These improvements should be completed this winter. I will continue to advocate for additional improvements to SCDOT, which has jurisdiction over the bridge.

**2.) Please explain your thoughts on the principle of induced demand.**

**Limbach:** Induced demand is reasonable, especially in metropolis areas with the public transportation options. Because we do not have a solid public transportation infrastructure, I think that ID is less of an issue because we have no other options, whether we are discouraged by traffic or not. That said, on the weekends during the summer, the IOP Connector gets very congested and getting on and off the island can be very difficult. Offering a shuttle or another form of public transportation would be a great way to lessen the affects of leisure traffic.

**Popson:** I don't believe the "principal of induced demand" pertains to our roads on IOP. Many, if not most of the roads, would be difficult to widen. Wild Dunes is a private community with private roads. Palm Blvd of course could be widened, however I believe would be a challenge, especially with our parking issues, trees and utilities.

**Pounds:** This is a chicken and egg discussion. When areas grow quickly for a prolonged period like ours, it is hard for city planners to keep up with traffic demands - particular when there are so many municipalities to coordinate. Our area is further hampered by having to build bridges no matter which direction you expand. With proper planning, I think there can be a better balance between managing traffic growth versus creating additional traffic issues by building effective alternative routes. Also, a well thought out regional transportation plan is critical to making sure all methods of transportation are dealing with the core issue and creating viable alternatives for residents.

**Streetman:** I believe induced demand can result in more traffic on the roadways due to roadway expansion, but I also believe we need to have additional, alternate routes for traffic in the Charleston area to accommodate the rapidly growing population in the area. As we build and widen roads/streets, it would be wise to make adjustments to accommodate cyclists, walkers and runners wherever possible.

**Ward (I):** I have read several articles about induced demand recently. It seems the success of "if you build it they will come" is debatable concerning automobiles, depending on which study one reads. I intend on researching the issue a great deal more. However, I do think increasing pedestrian and bike paths leads to more usage. So, I think these are assets I would encourage more investment towards.

### **3.) What are your personal transportation values and how you would lead on transportation issues if elected?**

**Limbach:** I believe in offering low-cost public transportation, paid parking and safe pathways for recreational transportation. I would lead in sustainability and platforms that encourage residents and visitors to safe, clean and dependable roads and pathways.

**Popson:** I value everyone's right to use the roads with their preference of transportation and support public transportation. However I do worry about bikers on Palm and Ocean Blvd. I would hope they would take other routes just to be safe.

**Pounds:** I am an active walker and biker around our island and also on Sullivan's Island. It is very important to me to have safe places to walk and bike. On weekends, if we can't walk, bike or use a golf cart, we more often than not don't go!

**Streetman:** I typically walk about 40 miles per week for exercise, and I once was a marathon runner logging 60 miles, or more per week. I also enjoy bike riding, but only on the beach and neighborhood streets. I fully support encouraging everyone to stay active and walk, run, or cycle if possible, and my beliefs in this area would definitely influence my thinking on local Island issues related to this.

**Ward (I):** I drive my car as little as possible, instead I use my golf cart whenever practical. I encourage more people to ride bikes, especially day visitors, to help reduce traffic and parking problems. The city

provides bike racks, public restrooms and a water fountain in our front beach commercial district. I encourage visitors to use these facilities and to patronize our businesses. I would like to see safe bike lanes installed on Palm Blvd from 21st Avenue to 57th Avenue.

**4.) If elected, would you support a greater annual funding allocation from your municipality for bike, pedestrian and public transit infrastructure? And, will you lobby SCDOT to increase their spending on bike, pedestrian and public transit infrastructure as well?**

**Limbach:** Creating and maintaining a safe bike and walk path is one of my personal goals. Currently, it is not safe to bike or run on the existing path on Waterway Blvd or Palm Blvd due to damage, bumps, cracks and a general neglect to the path. With a community full of active residential families and renting visitors, it is paramount that we provide safe recreational paths, especially on Palm Blvd and Waterway Blvd. On any given week during peak season, there are hundreds of bikes out for rent on the island. It is, also, important, to make sure that the community is educated on current regulations about not just sharing the road, but more importantly, sharing the law.

**Popson:** I would support monies for transportation infrastructure projects if it doesn't negatively affect our budget. It would also have to be a plan that made sense and was safe. Once again, these are SCDOT roads, so I would rather them pay the bill.

**Pounds:** Yes! As our metro area continues to grow, we must think broader than just our corner of the world and consider how what we do locally might effect the larger population.

**Streetman:** I would definitely lobby SCDOT to increase their spending on the infrastructure , but I would not be inclined to support greater municipal funding .

**Ward (I):** We (Isle of Palms City Council) currently allocate funds for bike, pedestrian and public transit projects. Our funds are not unlimited but I support spending money on these projects subject to availability. Of course, I will request additional funding from SCDOT for these infrastructure needs in the future.