

CITY OF CHARLESTON

CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 9

Leah A. Whatley: NO RESPONSES

1.) One of Charleston Moves' top priorities is our Ashley River Crossing — Bridge Package proposal, for which the City of Charleston, the City of North Charleston and Charleston County would commit to work together on a plan, along with other relevant agencies, to make the North Bridge, the Ashley River Bridge, the James Island Connector and the Wappoo Cut Bridge safe for all modes of transportation. If elected, how will you support Charleston Moves' Bridge Package proposal?

Brett Barry: I support providing a safe pathway for cyclists to move across the Ashley River. I do not, however, support closing any vehicular traffic lanes to do so. Given limited city funds, my immediate budget priority is to secure funding for streetscape improvements(burying powerline, etc.) and for drainage projects. Once funding is secured to make meaningful progress on those priorities, which benefit all residents of West Ashley, then funding consideration can be given for biking improvements. Of course, if there is an opportunity during budget negotiations for a grand bargain, whereby meaningful funding for streetscape and drainage projects as well as funding for biking improvements is possible, then I certainly could support such an opportunity.

Lastly, I think consideration needs to be given to how potential increased bike traffic will effect roads such as Calhoun street. We must be sure planning is done in a way that does not impede vehicular traffic flow. Not only is this important to me but ultimately, it will be vital to securing the political and public support necessary to accommodate infrastructure projects for cyclists. These two modes of transportation must not be put in conflict with one another.

Albert Peter Shahid, Jr. (I): Yes. I have supported and will continue to support the efforts to make the public roadways safe for all modes of transportation for all residents.

2.) Do you support adding a multi-use path to the Limehouse Bridge between Johns Island and West Ashley, connecting to the West Ashley Greenway?

Barry: I am not opposed to it but again, the city has limited funds and will not be able to build numerous bridges in the near future. A narrower focus on building one crossing in the near-term is more realistic.

Shahid (I): Yes. This would be consistent with my response to the above question.

3.) Please list your priority transportation projects and which modes each serve.

Barry: I support the completion of I-526 for the purposes of safety and relieving the strain of vehicular traffic congestion. Due to poor planning and zoning decisions made in the past related to development, this project is now a necessity.

Ultimately, since many of our roadways cannot be widened, the city needs to make appropriate zoning decisions so we do not continue to increase congestion with over-building of large apartment complexes. While this is not a transportation project, it is an important piece of the transportation equation.

The Bikeway and Greenway are excellent recreational assets that connect our area and could use improvements particularly in regards to safety. This is something that is unique to West Ashley and should be showcased.

Shahid (I): I support the West Ashley Greenway and Bikeway Renovation project which was endorsed by the West Ashley Revitalization Commission, the proposed bike path over the Ashley River at both the Highway 17 and Northbridge, and an increase in pedestrian and bike path paths throughout the region.

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

Barry: I believe that government policy should reflect the will and desires of the residents and that our transportation system should accommodate public demand.

Shahid (I): I support projects which provide alternate options for all modes of safe transportation.

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

Barry: My goal is the efficient movement of people in accordance with the desires of the residents. Our roadways are overloaded already and yet zoning decisions continue to support more large-scale apartment development which only adds to the problem. We need to get a handle on growth so we can allow time to adequately address transportation issues. The city has been putting the cart before the horse for too long and it is simply unsustainable.

Shahid (I): I support the concepts outlined in the Complete Streets policy and design approach. My record since being elected to City Council in 2015 is consistent with supporting those principles and I will continue to advocate for them.

6.) 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?

Barry: As previously stated, my immediate budget priorities include securing funds for streetscape (ex. burying powerlines) and drainage projects in West Ashley. Once meaningful funding is secured for those projects then we can look at biking infrastructure unless a grand bargain presents itself during budget negotiations where all these needs can be addressed. In regard to SCDOT, it would depend on the project.

Shahid (I): Yes.