

CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL

DISTRICT 6

Darryl Ray Griffin: NO RESPONSES

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

Melissa Couture: *I am a big supporter of changing zoning regulations to allow more integration in areas. Right now everyone has to drive from the residential area to the business area at the same time twice a day which causes traffic issues.*

Kylon Middleton: *My personal transportation values include safe ways for citizens to travel across our community. As a member of Charleston County Council, I would provide "Strong, Moral Leadership" to ensure equity and access to transit opportunities. Whether citizens opt to walk, bike, or use public transit, they should be able to safely move about our community.*

2.) Are there specific bicycle, pedestrian and/or public transit projects in your district that are priorities for you? If yes, please tell us about them and how you would lead to address them.

Couture: *I do not know of any but am willing to listen to residents about what they would like to see in the future.*

Middleton: *I am a cyclist (not professional but recreational), and I walk most mornings for miles in my neighborhood. Of course, I drive from one part of the region to another. I support the addition of Lowcountry Low Line and the Ashley River Pedestrian Bridge. By having safer paths to walk, citizens, especially children, will have safer pathways to school, work, and parks. As a cyclist, I would enjoy riding from West Ashley to the peninsula without fear of being hit by a car in traffic. In my own neighborhood, there are sidewalks and walking trails. I would be an advocate and champion for the same in every neighborhood, where feasible. As a member of Council, I would be a strong advocate by being a voice for mobility because it provides opportunities and access for citizens if afforded options.*

3.) If elected, would you support greater annual funding allocations from the county for bike, pedestrian and public transit infrastructure? And, would you

lobby the South Carolina Department of Transportation to increase the agency's spending on bike, pedestrian and public transit infrastructure?

Couture: *I am unsure on this. I would have to see how monies already spent were used and if we are using the funds wisely. If so and there is room in the budget I am not against allocating more funds. The same goes for money received from the DOT currently.*

Middleton: *Yes, I would support greater annual funding allocations from the county for bike, pedestrian and public transit infrastructure. As a member of County Council, I am unsure as to the legality of me "lobbying" SCDOT, but I am willing to go and lend voice on this issue and to ask the agency to increase spending on bike, pedestrian and public transit infrastructure.*

4.) Charleston Moves is intensely focused on addressing the multiple Ashley River crossings, to make them safe and connected for people on bikes and foot. So far, the Ashley River Bike & Pedestrian Bridge is funded and should go out for a design-build contract bid in 2021; the North Bridge Bike/Ped Study is funded, with a design alternatives analysis to begin in late 2020; the James Island Connector retrofits have been assessed, but no action has been taken to move forward; and the Wappoo Cut Bridge (as an alternative to the Connector and a linkage to the Ashley River Bridge) has yet to be examined. How would you support advancing the North Bridge, James Island Connector and Wappoo Cut Bridge crossings?

Couture: *I would support the completion of projects in the works. I'm not exactly sure what county council's role is in that.*

Middleton: *I would support advancing the North Bridge, James Island Connector, and Wappoo Cut Bridge crossing by adding voice to the movement of these projects from inaction to action and from funding to following through with requests for bids for contracts. In short, the Council needs leadership on this issues, and I would provide voice to build consensus to move these projects forward. I would also work with Charleston Moves to mobilize citizens who support these issues to be present at Council when these issues are on the agenda, so the Council sees the overwhelming support and sees their constituents who support moving these projects forward. I would work to build capacity among citizens, so we can have progress.*

5.) What is your vision for Lowcountry Rapid Transit? Would you support zoning changes to encourage transit-oriented development and a robust network of bicycle and pedestrian paths connecting to the system's stations?

Couture: *I do support zoning changes. We need to allow higher density and minimal use segregation, especially around transit hubs. This will create affordable, walkable, mixed use neighborhoods.*

Middleton: *My vision is for the region to have a Lowcountry Rapid Transit system where people are able to move about the region freely and have better access and opportunities through transit options. It is my belief that LRT creates additional opportunities for synergies around other transit-oriented development, to include a robust network of bicycle and pedestrian paths connecting to the system's stations. I think the LRT and the review of zoning designations are part of the paradigm for providing equitable opportunities and better access to everything in the region for citizens. We need to move the LRT forward to lower our carbon emissions and reduce traffic congestion.*

6.) Do you agree with the following statement (feel free to explain why or why not)?: All transportation projects (related to roads, streets, bridges and/or commercial development) should include access for multiple modes of transportation.

Couture: *I do agree. It just makes sense. Not everyone has or wants a car.*

Middleton: *I agree with this statement.*