

Transportation Issues

Transportation is a regional issue and must be approached with our regional neighbors. Biscuit Run is a prime example where development in the County primarily affects City roads in the southern part of the community. We must be certain that infrastructure is in place before developments are built. Most large scale development will occur on the south side of the City, and the infrastructure is not ready. Land use planning and transportation must be better integrated between Charlottesville and Albemarle and the other counties in our region.

With Albemarle County committed to building its portion of the Meadowcreek Parkway, the City must continue to be diligent in its efforts to protect the natural environment on our borders.

The City must intensify its work with Albemarle County and the University of Virginia to provide improved, integrated transit services. The establishment of a Transportation District would encourage greater collaboration and more innovation.

We need to improve and expand our bus system. Some sections the City receive no service at all. Shorter headways, on-time service and better route connections need to be made.

Every street in Charlottesville should have sidewalk on at least one side of the street if we are to be a pedestrian-friendly city.

Bike lanes should be connected, expanded, and made safe. Although most citizens will never use bicycles as basic transportation, it is a goal of mine to increase biking and other alternative forms of transportation.

Traffic issues plague every neighborhood, especially Avon Street, Fry's Spring, Park Street and Park Street Extended, Locust Ave., and Cherry Ave. The City must continue to seek innovative solutions to protect our neighborhoods from being overrun.

McIntire Park is a valuable resource in great need of renovation, especially the portion east of the railroad tracks. I support the efforts of City Council and staff to develop plans for renovating this area to make McIntire Park the crown jewel of our park system.



Traffic calming has not been implemented uniformly throughout the City – for some reason we can't hold on to transportation planners long enough to get the job done. Neighborhoods are frustrated with the slow pace of improvements.

Carpooling and park-and-ride lots are minimal. I strongly support their establishment. Further, it is my goal to collaborate with our larger businesses and the University to set up vanpools to reduce the number of cars on our streets.

I am interested in your ideas- what can we achieve together now, in 3 years, 5 years or 10 years? Let's get started on specific plans for a 21st century transportation system including identification of funding sources, public education, implementation schedules, and designated staff who can be held accountable for outcomes. We have no time to lose in developing a comprehensive transportation plan that is usable for all our citizens- commuters, seniors, youth, businesses, tourists, pedestrians, bicyclists and everyone that I have missed. A plan that is multi-modal, innovative, open to new technologies, and able to be implemented quickly at a cost our citizens can afford. Is this a big challenge? You bet, but I believe that this community has talented, intelligent, creative people who can make it happen. Please join me in this critical work.

In the short run, if the Parkway is constructed, let's make very certain that the 250 Interchange is sensitively designed to be safe for pedestrians, bicyclists, public and private vehicles, and includes protection for Schenck's Branch. Let's ensure that there is environmentally restorative landscaping in the eastern portion of McIntire Park, and that wildlife habitat is made more diverse. Then let's use this corridor primarily as an opportunity for expanding our multi-modal transportation options, HOV use during peak periods, car and van pools, and clean bus links to points north, east and into the City.

Again, I welcome your feedback and creative proposals for addressing our transportation needs.