

Response to Cycling Questionnaire October 14, 2006

Which ward will you be running for? **Ward 43**

1. Are you familiar with the Toronto Bike Plan and will you support its implementation of as one means of reducing car dependence as outlined in Toronto's Official Plan?

Yes

2. The Bike Plan calls for 1001 km of bike paths to be created by 2010. How will you support this effort if you are elected for city council?

Mostly by being pro-active in terms of creating paths in my own ward.

3. Would you support requests to amend bylaws to exempt bicycles from traffic calming turn restrictions and entry restrictions on streets in your ward?

Yes, people choose to cycle because it is often the fastest way to get between two points. If we force riders to take silly routes we are going to push them back into their cars.

4. On a scale from 1 to 10, could you rate the importance of creating a safe environment for bikers to you and your campaign?

8

5. Do you support improved integration between Cycling and The Transit system by such measures as: Bike carrying racks on TTC Buses, and, building secure bike parking facilities at TTC stations?

Yes, convenience creating measures like these are especially important to making cycling people's primary mode of transport. Additionally, these are musts options in Scarborough where the distance traveled can be too great for cycling only.

6. Do you support an expanded city-funded bicycle safety program for adults and children?

Fear is a primary reason many people do not cycle, so absolutely, I support an expanded city-funded bicycle safety program for adults and children alike. The current culture of cars versus bikes needs to end. I would also support more emphasis on safety around bicycles, driver training courses and testing.

7. Would you support dedicating more resources to promote bicycle commuting by employees of private and public sector employers, including City of Toronto staff?

Yes

8. Would you support expanded two-way bike lanes on one way streets in your ward?

Yes

9. Would you be in favour of turning tighter two-way roads into one way roads with bike lanes?

Yes, on a case by case basis.

10. Would you support the removal of automobile parking to make room for bike lanes in your ward?

If there was alternate parking nearby then yes, although, this solution is not a priority for me because it cannot be taken far enough to be the silver bullet.

11. Would you support initiatives to promote Toronto as a Bicycle Tourism destination?

Only, if we first improve our bike friendly-ness and we aren't there yet.

12. How often do you use a bicycle and under what circumstances?

I personally cannot ride a bicycle due to my disability but am an avid user of public transit.

13. Do you feel that Toronto is currently a bicycle friendly city?

Not really since there are too few lanes and poor cooperation between road users.

14. Can you name 3 things that you would do to promote cycling in your ward?

- Educating and encouraging the startup of Bicycle User Groups (one e.g. Bike Movement at University of Toronto at Scarborough)
- Equipment swaps
- Better bike parking and security around hubs like TTC stations, libraries, malls

15. Do you support more severe punishment to drivers who recklessly endanger the lives of cyclists either through making right turns into them or by opening their doors into bike lanes?

No, this is not the way to improve safety and just feeds the animosity between drivers and cyclists; instead, better education of road users is the answer.

16. (Incumbents) What have you done in the last term to support biking in your ward?

n/a

17. (Non-Incumbents) How would you rate the performance of the incumbent in supporting biking in their ward through the last term?

Although the culture is not very bike-friendly in this Ward, seeing the voting record of the incumbent it is clear that he supported biking.

18. Do you have any other cycling related comments or information you would like to share?

Thank you for your time and again, good luck!