

BPAC Questionnaire Response from Frank Fannon

1. Please describe your walking and biking experience in Alexandria.

Over the past 35 years I have lived in three distinctly different neighborhoods in Alexandria. Living on Linden St in Rosemont for 10 years I would drive most places but a very convenient walk to the King St or Braddock Road Metro and the restaurants on upper King St.

I lived at one of the busiest intersections in Alexandria at Duke and Henry Streets for 13 years and it was a walkers paradise. A easy walk to King Street Metro or to the waterfront and two blocks to the 1100 block King St. I have never felt unsafe walking around Alexandria and I've never been close to being involved in pedestrian and vehicle accident. I am cautious and look both ways and also never assume that a car will stop for a crosswalk.

I own a bike but rarely ever ride it due to my lifestyle. I stay very busy and am going different places and often having to transport many things so I am a car first person. Living in College Park/Clover neighborhood for the past 11 years every day starts with a ride in the car.

2. Do you feel safe when walking around Alexandria?

I think we have pretty good safety standards currently for the bikes and pedestrians.

a. What three measures do you think should be taken to improve pedestrian / bike safety?

The main mood of transportation in Alexandria is still the car and as our city continues to grow we need to make sure that we keep traffic flowing. Over the past year or two I've noticed many intersections that have needless no turn on red signs, and that continues to slow up vehicular traffic.

3. If speed cameras with automated ticketing are allowed, do you support speed cameras on streets such as Duke St., Seminary Rd., etc. (beyond school zones)?

I am not a fan of speed cameras with automatic tickets. I think this is a way for the city to generate extra revenue and removes human judgment from the situation. Going a few miles over the speed limit and receiving a speed camera ticket can be a huge financial burden especially for some of our lower income residents. If a speeding ticket is to be given it should be given by a police officer.

4. If you are elected, how will you champion investments in walking and biking infrastructure in Alexandria to improve safety and encourage active transportation?

The bike lines have been a very controversial project in Alexandria. We are a mixture of an urban and a suburban culture and it important that these decisions do not have a negative impacts on our homeowners that have valuable and often necessary street parking. I drive down Seminary Road and upper King St numerous times every week and rarely see bikes on the road.

5. How much do you see the lack of a complete connected bike network as a barrier to more biking? How can we better connect the network?

I'm glad we have shared roadways for cars and bicycles but I think the bike lanes have been to divisive to our community and quite often are unnecessary.

6. The City is planning a Complete Streets project on Braddock Rd which requires trade offs between parking and capacity for drivers and safety for people walking and biking. If approved by the Traffic & Parking Board, there is a significant likelihood it will be appealed to the City Council. What are your views on this project?

Most Alexandrian's are concerned for safety and I think the area between West Street and Mount Vernon Ave. needs to be improved. I would not support removing the parking spaces and putting in bike lanes between Mount Vernon Ave and Russell Road. The local churches and the homeowners need the parking spaces and there has been limited documented history of serious safety concerns for bikes with the status quo.