



December 19, 2016

Memorandum

To: 4th Ward Special Election Aldermanic Candidates

From: Ron Burke, Executive Director, Active Transportation Alliance

Re: Candidate and Voter Education Questionnaire

The Active Transportation Alliance is a non-profit organization working in Metropolitan Chicago to promote better biking, walking and transit. On behalf of our more than 7,000 members and tens of thousands of supporters, we encourage you to complete the following questionnaire. In order to educate voters, we will share your answers via our web site.

Please answer the questions below and email or fax your responses to the following address by January 27th.

Kyle Whitehead
Active Transportation Alliance
kyle@activetrans.org
312 427 4907 fax

If you have any questions, please contact Government Relations Director Kyle Whitehead at 312-216-0473, or kyle@activetrans.org. Thank you.

2017 Active Trans Chicago 4th Ward Aldermanic Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Gerald Scott McCarthy

Ward: 4

1. We live in an era when more Chicagoans from the ages of 8 to 80 are choosing to walk, bike and ride public transit. How do you incorporate walking, biking and public transit into your everyday life? **Do you, or a family member, routinely walk, bicycle or use transit for any of the trips listed below? If so, please circle or bold.**

Walk:	Go to work	Bring child to school	Errands	Recreation	Other
Bike:	Go to work	Bring child to school	Errands	Recreation	Other
Transit:	Go to work	Bring child to school	Errands	Recreation	Other

Comments:

I work from home predominantly and do not have young children in my care to take to school. I bank, shop, take my dry cleaning, care for my car, go to the movies primarily in the Kenwood and Hyde Park communities. I frequently have the opportunity to walk and bike when engaging in those activities.

2. The #4 Cottage Grove bus route is one of the most popular routes in the city (7 million riders annually) but service is inconsistent due to congestion and a lack of investment in modern equipment. **Do you support upgrading service on the #4 with improvements like faster boarding, traffic signal priority and dedicated lanes?**

Comments:

YES. I am in favor of proposals that have been evaluated, well-researched, developed with community input and includes measurable outcomes and periodic evaluations.

3. Many South Lakefront communities lack access to rapid transit, with Metra Electric trains running only once per hour outside of the morning and evening rush. **Do you support upgrading service on Metra Electric to every 10-15 minutes and integrating fares and schedules with CTA buses?**

- Yes
- No

Comments:

YES. Increasing the options for south lakefront communities is a priority. However, in addition to increasing the intervals at which the trains run, I would encourage developing a plan that balances the desires of commuters and the community and addresses public safety concerns associated with trains running during off-peak hours.

4. The new 35th street bike and pedestrian bridge is a great boost to lakefront access but it's still difficult for many people biking and walking to safely travel to the bridge. **Do you support expanding the city's network of protected bike lanes and enhanced crossings to fill in gaps in the 4th ward and provide safe access to all parts of the city?**

- Yes
- No

Comments:

YES. In talking with the residents in the area nearest the bridge, I have often heard this concern voiced. At the same time, I have heard residents in communities with expanded bike lanes complain of the increased car congestion on the street and especially at stop lights and major intersections that have resulted. I support the expansion of bike lanes where it makes sense to do so, if it is part of an overall comprehensive plan, does not destroy our green spaces, does not increase traffic congestion, and holistically promotes connecting our neighborhoods and its residents with one another.

5. The city is developing a Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries within 10 years, yet in 2014 more than 150 were killed and nearly 24,000 people were injured in traffic crashes in the City of Chicago. **Do you support establishing a funding source in the city's annual budget dedicated to traffic safety improvements, prioritizing projects on the city's highest crash corridors?**

- Yes
- No

Comments:

YES. Vision Zero is a laudable plan that brings increased awareness and resources to address the fatalities suffered in our city streets as a result of traffic accidents. I would consider establishing a line item in the city budget that discourages raising property taxes, and encourages innovative alternative revenue streams as a source of funding. Finally, the plan's success is largely dependent on community support and input, fiscally responsible, transparent, and periodically evaluated.