

2013 Pittsburgh Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Paula J. Richardson

1. What role do you think Mayors play in making cities safe, accessible and friendly to biking and walking? Being an Advocate for street safety, working on the fixing of potholes and advocating for bike and walking trails and lanes where bikes can safely ride along with motorists.
2. It is important that everyone has access to safe streets for biking and walking. What will you do as Mayor to ensure that everyone who lives in the City is within a half mile of interconnected bicycle facilities that can take them from where they live to work, to shop, and to green space without fearing for their safety? There are many gaps in the pedestrian network as well. How will you address this as Mayor? To make the gaps in the pedestrian network safer, placing speed bumps and signs regarding safety and alerting motorists regarding biking trails and pedestrian walkways. And holding
3. Last month, a new bike sharing program was announced that will add 500 bikes in 2014, similar to programs in other US cities. Do you support bike share in Pittsburgh? The City has been allocated about \$2M in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for start up costs through the federal Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ) program. Yes. Bike share is a wonderful idea. It promotes a healthier, cleaner environment.
4. Pittsburgh was chosen to host the 2014 Pro Walk/Pro Bike Conference, which is expected to draw 1,000 biking and walking planners, engineers, government officials, and advocates from around the country, the largest gathering of it's kind. Their focus is on biking and walking as means of getting around with less focus on recreation. What type of projects would you like in place to "show off" Pittsburgh? Will you direct your staff to attend the conference to further their professional development? Yes.
5. PennDOT has set a goal of 5-10% of trips in Pittsburgh's CBD, and 5% of all trips less than 3 miles be made by bicycle. The City's draft primary mode share goals out of MOVEPGH are similar - 4% bicycling and 16% walking by 2020. Do you endorse these goals? What will you do as Mayor to realize or surpass these goals? This goal is located in the City of Pittsburgh Bicycle Plan. Yes, but we must endeavor to make Pittsburgh a more attractive city where one wants to ride and walk more. This is by making neighborhoods more safe with a connection between community and people.
6. In 2010, the League of American Bicyclists acknowledged Pittsburgh as a "Bronze" Bicycle Friendly Community. What directive will you give to your directors in order for Pittsburgh to move from Bronze to Silver and beyond? More info at www.bikeleague.org/programs/bicyclefriendlyamerica/communities. All streets in the City of Pittsburgh have to become more safe and attractive to become more safe and attractive to bicyclists. Better data and surveys have to be done on all communities to know how and where to put bike trails, lanes and pedestrian walkways.
7. Very poor data exists in the City regarding crashes that involve pedestrians and bicyclists. The numbers are generally underrepresented, and don't allow City staff to plan accordingly for improvements. What opportunities do you see to better use data to make our streets safer for everyone? Improvements in data regarding crashes, how and when they occur and where would give better insight and focus on how to develop plans and systems to diminish them.
8. Leading cities for bicycling are implementing innovative bicycle infrastructure (a.k.a. cycle tracks, green lanes, intersection enhancements, bicycle boulevards, etc.) to encourage people who

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are "interested but concerned" to ride a bike. During your administration, will you implement these types of innovative bicycle facilities to attract even more Pittsburghers to ride bicycles? A number of recent plans have emerged in Pittsburgh that promote these types of bikeways including Oakland 2025, Allegheny River Green Blvd, Downtown Retail Strategy, and we expect MOVEPGH will as well. NACTO.org's Urban Bikeway Design Guide also gives guidance on this.

Yes. This also ~~promotes~~ promotes not only a greener Pittsburgh, but a healthier one - a move towards helping people to focus on neighborhood good health.

9. Our University district in Oakland is perceived to be the most dangerous areas to ride a bike, yet contains some of the largest numbers of people who ride them. What ideas do you have to make Oakland safe and attractive for bicycling, and what will you do to implement your ideas?

First, community involvement is key in helping to make Oakland safe and attractive for bicycling, along with a cooperative effort with the police to help enforce penalties to ensure safety.

10. In just about every neighborhood throughout the city, one of the top concerns is drivers driving too fast, aggressively, and not yielding to pedestrians. What is your plan to calm traffic and make our neighborhoods safer and more comfortable in which to walk and bike? For example, on Penn Ave, Liberty Ave, Fifth Ave, Forbes Ave, Baum Blvd, as well as on more residential neighborhood streets.

The imposition of stricter speeding limits and laws to promote calmer traffic.

11. Last summer, Penn Ave saw two fatal bicycle crashes involving unlicensed or suspended drivers. In May of 2012, our intern was nearly killed by a man driving with a suspended license for previous DUIs. There are too many hit-and-run stories against bicyclists and pedestrians to even recount. What actions would you take to keep people from driving who have no business being behind the wheel of a car?

Not only would that person have their license suspended or revoked, but would have to take a series of classes to have their license reinstated.

12. What specifically would you like to announce or accomplish in your first 100 days as Mayor to address street safety, biking, and walking issues?

I would first focus on those areas, such as the ones I've mentioned, regarding street safety, biking and walking, to implement plans for these roads to be safer during high traffic by using and pedestrian friendly, making these streets as children walk to school.

13. When you appoint a new chief of police what direction or directive will you give them regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety?

I would have the police chief survey those neighborhoods that have issues, serious issues, regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety.

14. What specific policy recommendations will you implement as mayor to bring the number of pedestrian and bike fatalities to zero over your four years?

A clear direction has to be made regarding pedestrian ~~and~~ walkways and for bicyclists. We have to look at neighborhoods that need not only their streets fixed, but have active community involvement to help ensure that pedestrian and bike fatalities come to an end.

15. Open Streets are enormously popular events in nearly 80 cities and communities throughout the U.S. Open Streets temporarily restrict motor vehicle traffic on one or more streets so that people can use them for physical activity—walking, biking, running, playing, or dancing. As mayor will you work with us and community stakeholders to make Open Streets Pittsburgh a reality? More info at <http://openstreetsproject.org/>.

Yes. It would really give people the opportunity to experience the city and also have these events in people's own communities, to help educate, and help people to use the streets for walking, cycling, running.

16. What specific steps will you take as Mayor to implement the bike portion of the Allegheny River Green Boulevard plan recently conducted by the URA with \$1.5M of funding from federal sources? For more information please visit <http://www.greenboulevardpgh.com>. We can also send you the official executive summary and information about the public outreach component of the plan.

To ensure that roads are allocated fairly by ensuring proposals are created before any funding is allocated and that the roads given the highest priority to the proposals submitted.

17. PennDOT and the County own many roads and bridges inside the Pittsburgh city limits such as parts of Penn Ave, and the Three Sisters Bridges. What will you do to ensure that these streets and bridges are designed in a way that are safe for bicyclists and pedestrians?

To be an advocate for separate and wide walkways/lanes across these bridges.

18. What role do you think the City of Pittsburgh should play in educating its citizens about issues related to traffic safety, infrastructure, and wayfinding?

The city can help promote cycling and walking during the summer, allowing the city's constituents a chance to view the city by using these methods of travel, especially around downtown neighborhoods.

19. What ideas do you have to advocate on a regional, state and national level for bicycle and pedestrian improvements within the City?

First to continue to advocate that funding given to promote bicycling and pedestrian improvements not benefit one or all of Allegheny communities, but to help build communities, all communities, that are in need.

20. In conclusion, why do you think people who care about bicycling and walking issues should vote for you?

Not only do I focus on health awareness, but public safety in all communities.