



2015 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Edwin Lee

Candidate for: Mayor

PERSONAL WALKING EXPERIENCE

1. Please describe what role walking plays in your life.

Walking in the city allows me to maintain a real and personal connection with our citizens and our communities as a whole. For me, it serves as a relaxing break from the hustle and bustle of my busy job.

BIG PICTURE

2. Describe your vision of a healthy, safe, equitable, and sustainable transportation system for the city and the role that walking plays in that vision.

The ideal transportation system needs an ideal city setting in order to exist. I believe that here in San Francisco we have an opportunity to provide that setting for our citizens. This means keeping the streets clean and assuring citizens that walking through the city is a safe and friendly experience.

VISION ZERO

3. If elected, what steps would you take to ensure the implementation of Vision Zero projects? In your answer, please explain how you would address trade-offs that may result from building a safe transportation system (e.g., the removal of parking in order to improve visibility of pedestrians at intersections, or the removal of vehicle lanes to slow traffic and shorten pedestrian crossing distances, etc.).

Vision Zero projects engineer safety into our high-injury streets and require the necessary funding and project implementation to be built. San Francisco is a multi-modal city and we need to balance the needs of all street users while using a data-driven approach to address trade-offs that may arise.

4. What would you do to ensure there is enough funding for pedestrian safety improvements and Vision Zero projects?

In 2014, I worked with the Board of Supervisors and numerous community groups from across the City to support Proposition A. Prop A was a historic \$500 million transportation bond that was the second largest bond in our cities' history, and includes more than \$300 million for projects that will help us achieve Vision Zero and make our streets safer.

POLICY/LEGISLATION

5. The most dangerous transportation behavior in the city is speed, as it exponentially increases a victim's risk of injury or death. Two key strategies that have effectively reduced speeds in other states and countries are automated speed cameras and decreased speed limits. Unfortunately, the State of California doesn't permit automated speed enforcement and only allows speeds lower than 25 mph in school zones. Do you support these strategies? If so, how will you work with your community and State legislators to change these (and similar) laws so the City can use these strategies to save lives?

I have worked with the State Legislature to support additional tools for sensible speed management including automated enforcement near our most vulnerable populations: schools and senior centers. The transportation challenges in urban cities are very different than other jurisdictions in California, and I will continue to work with the community and State legislators to address these challenges.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

6. Given the student assignment policy, 41% of San Francisco elementary school students live within walking distance of school. Unfortunately, only 25% take the short journey. Studies have shown that children who walk to school enjoy key health benefits and academic advantages, as well as getting more quality bonding time with parents. What would you do to increase the number of children walking and biking to school, and what would you do to increase safety around local schools?
The positive benefits of walking to school are clear and we should work to make them more clear to all citizens. This means increased awareness through education in schools that walking is a healthy, safe, and sustainable way to get to school. An effort should be made to encourage students and their families to choose to make the walking trip.

WALKABILITY/WALKING MODE INCREASE

7. The City has established a goal to steadily increase the percentage of all walking trips and walking trips for commuting in the next 5 years. Do you support this goal? If yes, what would you do to help the City realize it?

I do support this goal, and I believe that it can be reached. To do so, the benefits of making walking trips a part of daily life should be made clear to citizens. Along with increased awareness, it's imperative that we work to make our streets safe and clean, and as a result, a pleasant and inviting place to walk.

8. Walk San Francisco believes that everyone deserves equal access to enjoyable places to walk. Walk SF is working with community groups and the City to install 'Intersection Murals' that will advance this goal, as well as other Pavement to Parks projects that reclaim wide/dangerous intersections for public use (e.g., Persia Triangle). How important are these projects to you, and how will you support them?

They are important to myself and to all San Franciscans. Making our streets an inviting atmosphere is an initiative that won't only serve to better the lives of our citizens, but also to better the reputation of our city among the many thousands of people who visit it from across the world every single year.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

9. Have you championed or strongly supported any other initiatives that are in line with Walk San Francisco's mission of making walking in San Francisco safe, so that our community is healthier and livable?

In February of 2015, I launched the Vision Zero Action Strategy alongside Walk SF that guides implementation and works to ensure our streets are safe for all road users. I wholeheartedly endorse Vision Zero and will continue support this ambitious and necessary initiative to reduce traffic fatalities to zero by 2024.

10. Is there anything else you'd like to share with the people of San Francisco, all of whom walk or travel with an assistive device at some point?