



## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Norman Yee

Candidate for: Board of Supervisors, District 7

## PERSONAL WALKING EXPERIENCE

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

*I have always enjoyed walking and regularly commute to City Hall by public transit and walking. My wife and I often enjoy taking a stroll after dinner and love to experience our neighborhood through walking. We also walk around Lake Merced on a regular bases. I personally try to walk to lunch away from City Hall between ½ to one miles a few times a week. I also will be walking in such events as the Aid Walk and Walk for Alzheimer's Awareness.*

## 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.

*We need to come together to create a healthy, safe, equitable, and sustainable transportation system for the City. I believe it starts with a system that is people centric and deeply rooted in the need of the neighborhoods. Instead of City Hall driven processes, we work hard to involve and make residents part of every step of the planning effort. So many people in San Francisco use our transportation system for many different reasons and I believe that we should cherish that and try to enhance it rather than pursue the ever popular “increase in ridership” mantra. For me a healthy and safe transportation system encourages people to use it but also protects them and helps them stay safe. Whether it is increased night service on MUNI, better bikeways or safer pedestrian crossing we need to focus on the people that use and will use these systems. To create an equitable and sustainable system we need to again focus on the people and use the data we collect to complement that effort, I have always been a strong supporter of improvements that are community led and may even be very small in addition to the massive street re-workings that we are focusing on. I think it's important to fix 19th ave, Monterey and Sloat Blvd but I believe we need to also not forget about smaller projects that a dedicated group of community leaders can help shepherd. Finally I believe that walking plays a fundamental role in all our planning efforts because we are all walkers and my life experience has taught me that it's not enough to expect people to be safe walking, but we have to ensure that we are making every possible effort to make them safe by implementing the framework of our vision zero policy.*

## VISION ZERO

3. If elected, what steps would you take to ensure the implementation of Vision Zero projects? In your answer, please explain whether you pledge to prioritize safety improvements that narrow crossing distances and slow traffic (bulbouts, “road diets,” etc.) over other competing demands for street space, including parking or automobile lanes.

*I was proud to co author the Vision Zero legislation that provides a framework that we are using to direct resources toward finding solutions that will make our streets safer for everyone. I have also, every year during the Budget process, been able to secure additional funding for Pedestrian Safety projects in my district which I have then allocated through a Participatory Budgeting effort to ensure that residents were involved in every step of the way as wells as championing and supporting additional citywide funding for the planning and implementation of Vision Zero project.*

*I have also continuously urged the SFMTA and DPW to include Pedestrian Safety improvements in their infrastructure projects trying to ensure that when repaving efforts or other projects come through a neighborhood we can ensure that long awaited improvements are part of the work, saving the city money and hopefully saving lives.*

*I have also reintroduced to the San Francisco Unified School District the Student Crossing Guard Program that has spread to 13 schools. The purpose of the program is to involve students at a young age in pedestrian safety activities and build awareness throughout the school community. I have also spearheaded the effort to create a San Francisco centric streetscape movie set to teach young students pedestrian safety awareness throughout San Francisco. A movie set designer is producing this portable streetscape and we anticipate that it will be completed in the next few months.*

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

*I have a proven track record of doing everything I can to ensure that there is enough funding for these projects*

## 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?

*Absolutely. I have also supported the efforts of community leaders in successfully advocating for decreased speed limits on Monterey Blvd in my district and while that is one of the rare examples in which we have been able to do so, I want to continue to support any such efforts not only in my district but citywide. I have been encouraging our local State representatives to*

*create legislation that would allow local jurisdictions to implement the usage of speed cameras. I have encouraged the formation of advocacy groups of family and friends of victims of fatal and serious collisions with the hope that this group would bring pressure to local and state government to focus on pedestrian safety measures.*

### SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

6. Approximately 41% of San Francisco elementary school students live within walking distance of school. Unfortunately, only 25% take the short journey by foot. 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 and safety of children walking and biking to school?

*I think one of the main reasons that so few children walk to school is that both them and their parent don't feel safe. I think therefore investing in any efforts that increase the safety of children walking in proximity to school is fundamentally important. I was able during my first term to restart a student crossing guard program in which students themselves receive training jointly from SFPD and one of their teachers and become a part of ensuring the safety of their fellow students. I was also able to secure funding for the construction of Richie's Neighborhood a real life sized street playset that helps students be safe on the street and learn about pedestrian safety in a fun way. Finally I have been a strong supporter of DPH safe routes to school program and I am especially excited on the work they are doing focusing on pedestrian safety improvements around schools.*

### 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?

*Yes I support this goal, I believe the two main strategies that would ensure that we can reach that goal are: more and continued investment in pedestrian safety improvements all throughout our City and more efforts in educating people whether they are youth or seniors. I will continue to participate in Walk to School events.*

8. Walk San Francisco believes that everyone deserves equal access to enjoyable places to walk, and that our street space can be better used by shifting excess street right-of-way from private automobiles to places for people to walk and gather. How do you feel about projects like these that improve our public realm, and how will you support them?

*I generally support these efforts, I believe it is critical though that they are deeply rooted in the local community because those are the most successful efforts. District 7 has limited access to parks and open space for people to gather and I have relentlessly pursued new opportunities to create new and improve existing spaces. I was proud to fund and deliver a new open space where people are able to walk and gather behind the Ingleside Library and I look forward to supporting many more of these initiatives.*

## 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?

*I coauthored the Vision Zero Policy. Sponsored and passed legislation that ban narration by tour bus drivers and that mandates the installation of black boxes in every city vehicle. I have also sponsored and successfully passed legislation that requires City vehicles to be harmed with a telematic device (GPS) to track the driving behaviors while using the city vehicles. Studies have shown that when other jurisdictions have done this, there was reduction of collisions and drivers being more fuel efficient. I have also co sponsored the creation and currently chair the Vision Zero committee of the SFCTA. Finally I have supported many efforts both legislative and budgetary to ensure that our City is held accountable to its commitment to Vision Zero.*

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?

*My dedication to ensuring the safety of all those walking in San Francisco predates that night in 2006 when I was struck in a crosswalk near City Hall and spent months in the hospital, but nevertheless having lived through such an experience makes me an even stronger advocate for Vision Zero and the needs of WalkSF members.*