

Full Answers from Sheila Mohan · 2022 WBC City Council Candidate Survey

<p><i>Increased biking can reduce traffic and improve community health and sustainability. What would you do to increase bike use within Cupertino?</i></p>	<p>I would (1) evaluate existing bike lanes for safety (2) explore adding bike lanes on city's main traffic corridors. (2) explore widening bike lanes and/or raising them (3) increase parking for bikes, and reduce or maintain parking spaces for automobiles</p>
<p><i>Many new sidewalks cannot be added in Cupertino due to decades old zoning of streets as rural which do not require homes to have sidewalks, and homeowners that oppose adding them there. What are some other ideas you have to improve walkability in our city as adding them in these areas is difficult or impossible?</i></p>	<p>If residents cannot use sidewalks to walk, consider easy accessibility to neighborhood open spaces - parks, community gardens, school playgrounds</p>
<p><i>What is your view on removing some parking (&lt;10 spaces) to allow for bicycle right-of-ways when doing so improves student safety near schools?</i></p>	<p>I would support removing parking spaces to allow bicycle right of ways - only if it enhances safety for bicyclists. If parking is near schools, I will have to review with schools, security staff, parents, cyclists, students.</p>
<p><i>How have you personally advocated for proven improved walking or biking in Cupertino or the surrounding areas? Examples could include Safe Routes to School work, supporting new infrastructure through signing a petition, or by advocating by speaking as a resident at a City Council or at a Bicycle Pedestrian Commission meeting.</i></p>	<p>I have signed petitions to expand neighborhood open spaces and build hiking trails in local parks</p>
<p><i>Why or why not would you support giving the right-of-way path easement at Lozano Lane to the local HOA (closing it to public use) which was planned to connect to the Regnart Creek Trail?</i></p>	<p>For now, until more information is available on incidents re: access to the Regnart Creek trail, my position is keep the Lozano Lane access open. If I am elected to the City Council, I would support periodic review to address homeowners concerns including considering alternatives such as a pedestrian crossing.</p>
<p><i>The Cupertino 2016 Bicycle and 2018 Pedestrian Plans prioritize infrastructure projects based on many factors derived through community input such as need and safety. What do you think is the role of Councilmembers in adjusting the prioritization of those lists of projects? Do you support building the Carmen Bridge, which is next in the list?</i></p>	<p>Conceptually, I support moving forward with the Carmen Bridge project. But like any prudent and thoughtful decision-maker would, before final approval, I would need to evaluate the project from various perspectives, including safety, community support and funding. I am currently not familiar enough with all the details, but will pledge to educate myself in the weeks to come.</p>
<p><i>Should the city of Cupertino pay for improvements, such as fencing, on private properties of residents near new trails or other infrastructure projects? If yes, then approximately what percentage of the total project cost would be acceptable to spend on this?</i></p>	<p>In general, the City paying for improvements on private properties could set a precedent and result in unintended consequences which could be harmful to the city.</p>
<p><i>The 2016 Cupertino Bike Plan has expired, but the Bicycle Pedestrian Commission choose not to create a new one in the last two years of workplans, which puts city grant funding at risk. Do you support creating a new one? Please explain why or why not.</i></p>	<p>I would recommend creating a new Bike Plan. Increasing the use of bicycling is the way of the future if we want to mitigate traffic congestion.</p>
<p><i>Do you feel it is necessary to appoint Bike Ped Commissioners who regularly walk or bike within the city and have a track record of supporting walking and biking infrastructure projects in Cupertino? Why or why not?</i></p>	<p>Yes, they are familiar with city streets, and they are the experts.</p>
<p><i>What would you like voters, including all the members of Walk-Bike Cupertino, to know about your position on walking and biking in the city?</i></p>	<p>I would want them to know I am passionate about walking, I walk 5 miles a day, and am an avid hiker. I want our City to be the most bike-friendly and walk-friendly city in the country.</p>