

Full Answers from Yuko Shima · 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 make it visible the bike lines where it's not obvious right now. So that we know that there are bike lanes there. I would also place bike racks near library, city hall, parks, grocery stores, and public schools to encourage biking.</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>Roconsider the old zoning to meet current demands. Walking is a good practice of commute near around home and walking as long as it's safe to do so there should not be blocked by old zoning. From conversation: Fixing intersections and making safe crossings of busy streets such as Stevens Creek is important. In Japan, they have air passage ways [bridges to cross busy streets], which might work for Stevens Creek.</p>
<p><i>What is your view on removing some parking (<10 spaces) to allow for bicycle right-of-ways when doing so improves student safety near schools?</i></p>	<p>When doing so improves safety then it should be done.</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 spoken about the safety issues of the bikers and pedestrians crossing street at Stevens Creek Blvd. and Saratoga-Sunnyvale Rd. for students going to Lawson Middle School. For students it is more important to know the risk here as it's an everyday thing. Having two cross guards is ideal during school commute hours.</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>Safety for bikers and pedestrians is the foremost important aspect. Considering the fact that the residents there would love to use the bike path beyond, keeping the path open to all the public is reasonable.</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>It was approved in November, 2021. As looking at the map, it looks like a fun project. Myself never actually been to the location. As long as it's safe for the bridge users which I assume it is as it was approved in 2021, the designing and construction should be prioritized as doing so would encourage the development of the surrounding neighborhood and that would most likely to be a walking & pedestrian friendly development. Such development should be prioritized.</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>If fencing is for the public good, then the city can pay up to 100%. With the consent that the fencing would not be removed by the private owners even after changing hands.</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 may not be understanding how funding works. I support putting Carmen bridge project complete before city submits for future funding. Completing prior approved projects are important.</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>I think it's helpful. Only that can provide the actual true voice. If it is recorded, that would be even more helpful for others who have actually not been there to make decisions.</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 want the development to be human friendly. Pedestrians and bikers alike. Bikers are humans even though they are often considered to be cars in America, but in fact it's humans inside. Protecting the safety of pedestrians and bikers are the first and foremost priority. Promoting community planning to encourage safe walking and biking is welcome and appreciated.</p>