

Transit Action Network KCMO 2015 Election

On-Line Transit Forum

Part One: How important do you think a good transit system is to Kansas City?

Sly James, Mayor, Website: <http://slyjamesformayor.com> - I believe we need to tie the city together with a comprehensive transportation system including dedicated bus lanes and an expanded streetcar line. This is critical to our economic growth as we compete with other cities that have more transportation options, which spur transit oriented development, and move people to jobs safer and faster than we do in Kansas City. Comprehensive transit is critical to our aging population and our citizens with disabilities. It's time for us to pull ourselves up to the big table of great cities and have a serious approach to our region-wide transportation system. I'm confident that we can fix this decades old problem by working with the new leadership at KCATA to develop new and innovative solutions.

Scott Wagner, 1st At Large, Website: <http://Wagner4kc.com> - Good transit is a common denominator for a host of issues including employment stability, job creation, infill redevelopment and new development. It creates the opportunity to build density as the availability of transit allows for building more units of retail and housing and less need for parking lots. As I've also worked on homelessness and re-entry issues, transit presents an opportunity to get income challenged populations to jobs, amenities and necessities without having to further invest in cars. Transit removes barriers.

Dick Davis, 1st Dist., Website: <http://dickdavis4kc.com> - Critically important. Good public transit is one of the last hurdles Kansas City must conquer to become nationally and globally competitive. Public transit links workers to jobs, neighborhoods and families to shopping and services, and vacant or underutilized properties to economic development. Electrically-powered transit reduces dependency on the automobile, lessens pollution and helps create a more sustainable environment.

Jason Hodges, 2nd At large, Website: <http://jay4kc.nationbuilder.com> - It is imperative for the success of any city to have good transit. Transit is more than getting people to and from work, it is life style access, school access, elderly access, etc.

Dan Fowler, 2nd Dist, Website: www.danfowler4kc.com - An efficient integrated transit system is crucial to Kansas City's progress.

Katheryn Shields, 4th At Large, Website: <http://ShieldsforKC.com> - A good transit system is very important to Kansas City for several reasons:

1. We need to link jobs and people;
2. We need to attract young people to our city;
3. We need to provide affordable alternatives to the automobile to support the working poor;
4. We need to take actions that help protect the environment, and reducing the need for automobiles is just one desirable action;
5. We need to provide transportation alternatives for the elderly and disabled.

Jolie Justus, 4th Dist., Website: <http://www.joliejustus.com> - A good transit system is critical to Kansas City. I support a regional, comprehensive, multi-modal, mass transit system that includes buses, sidewalks, bike lanes, roads/bridges, fixed rail and streetcars. Based on the information available to me at this time, our top transit priorities should involve seamless, regional and reliable transportation for residents to access jobs and basic services. A special priority should be placed on the needs of low-income residents, seniors, students and the disabled. I make all of my decisions on a case-by-case basis, utilizing all available data and input from all potential stakeholders. I will not pledge or commit to supporting any specific plans or policies, but I can commit that transportation services and infrastructure are at the top of my priority list and I will take transit issues into consideration when casting a vote on any policy matter.

Dennis Anthony, 5th At Large, Website: <http://Dennis4kcmo.com> - Seriously?? We need major improvements to transportation including more eco friendly low emission buses.

Lee Barnes, Jr., 5th At Large, Website: <http://leebarnesforkc.com> - Public transportation is very important to Kansas City. It is essential because it is one of the most effective ways to move people to jobs. Businesses located near public transportation experience more employee reliability and less absenteeism and turnover. In my opinion, Kansas City's public transportation system can be enhanced most by developing MAX bus lines along the corridors that are the most traveled such as Prospect and Independence Avenue. I also believe that we should explore the development of a regional transportation system that can move people to jobs in the outer core of the metropolitan area. A regional system can also entice residence from the outlying areas of the Metropolitan area to visit the entertainment districts within the core of the city.

Ken Bacchus, 5th Dist. Website: www.KenBacchus.com - A good transit system is very important to Kansas City as it is able to provide options for many individuals and families as they attempt to make important decisions for their livelihood on a daily basis. A good transit system provides multiple options for the users, including a planned bus system with optional day and peak systems, hopefully a dedicated rail system (Streetcar, light rail or heavy commuter rail) appropriate park and ride options and a system with good regional partner governments or a regional taxing authority to create a seamless system. It

is very important for the traveling public who cannot or do not wish to own multiple automobiles to have options for mobility. A good transit system reduces carbon monoxide and other emissions into the environment and helps keep our air clean for current and future generations.

Terrence Nash, 6th Dist., Website: www.nash4kc.com - See website

Kevin McManus, 6th Dist., Website: <http://Kevin4KC.com> - The development and implementation of an affordable and accessible regional transit system is critical both to our city's future and the quality of life of our residents. The cost of driving continues to rise, and owning a car is a luxury that many residents simply cannot afford. In addition, many residents who can afford a car also want to use public transit and expect to have access to a transit system from their neighborhoods. For these reasons, our city needs to continue to develop and expand its regional transit system so it can provide residents with a variety of options and multiple modes of transportation, whether by car, bus, rail, bike or foot.