



## Questions for Lee County Legislative Candidates from BikeWalkLee

8/26/10

1. What do you see are the benefits of making Florida a better place to bike and walk?
2. To make communities more livable and sustainable, many areas have embraced complete streets that give people more transportation choices; mixed use developments that co-locate jobs, homes and businesses in closer proximity; and transit-oriented development that promotes economic vitality. However, Florida is not competitive in attracting grants to fund such efforts due to lags in transportation innovation and leadership.

**Question:** What do you think is required for Florida to shift to this new paradigm? How, as a state legislator, would you work to move the state in this direction?

3. For more than two decades, Florida has had the dubious distinction of being the state with the highest pedestrian and bicyclist fatality rates in the nation. One in 10 U.S. pedestrian fatalities occurs in Florida. One in six U.S. bicyclist fatalities occurs here. In Lee County, the bike/ped fatality and injury rates are 2 and 3 times the national average.

**Question:** As a state legislator, what priority will you give to pedestrian and cyclist safety? What actions do you think the Legislature should take to address safety for vulnerable road users?

4. Despite the fact that Florida is the worst state in the nation for bike/ped safety, funding to address the danger has not matched the danger. For example, safety funding received by Florida from the federal government has been often been redirected by state officials to fund road projects.

**Question:** Would you support targeting federal highway safety funds to the users that are most at risk on a proportional basis (e.g., currently bike/ped fatalities make up 21.4% of all traffic fatalities in FL so they would receive 21.4% of the federal highway safety funds)? How would you hold state agencies accountable for achieving results?

5. Distracted driving is a growing problem on our roadways, especially with greater cell phone use and the dangerous practice of texting while driving. The most vulnerable road users (such as cyclists, walkers, motorcyclists, and senior citizens) are at greatest risk. The U.S. Secretary of Transportation has focused a great deal of national attention on the dangers of distracted driving, and many states are enacting legislation to restrict cell phone use while driving or banning texting while driving. Last year, Florida legislative committees considered several anti-texting bills but no action was taken.

**Question:** Would you support legislation to make texting while driving a primary offense? What other measures would you recommend for dealing with this problem?