

## The Urbanist Seattle City Council Endorsement Questionnaire

Christopher Peguero

- Do you support Seattle's commitment to Vision Zero, and what legislative strategies would you seek to implement the goal of reducing serious injuries and fatalities on our streets to zero within the next decade? *Yes, Vision Zero's mission is what I believe we should strive for in the city of Seattle. Legislative strategies I would like to see implemented are placing more radar speed control monitors around District 2 and the city, speed monitors have proved to reduce speeding in areas of traffic.*
- Do you think legislative strategies are sufficient to achieve this goal? *No, legislative strategies are just one part of the puzzle, we must also educate drivers of the etiquette and implement a system where pedestrians can report driver license plates that are not following pedestrians rights*
- Do you support the completion of the current bicycle master plan? If so, what strategies, both political and financial, do you propose to ensure its completion?

*Yes, the city made a commitment, it needs to keep its commitment and expand the plan N SE Seattle to be more robust. We need to use a racial equity analysis to understand the economic benefit of that system for low income and people of color communities in SE Seattle. Let's look at the funding from the Move Seattle Levy with an equitable lens to fund.*

- The current Seattle Transportation Benefit District funding bus services and transit access expires at the end of 2020. Should it be extended and do you envision any changes to the programs it funds? *Yes, I believe this program should be extended. I do not think there should be any changes made to the program*
- The Move Seattle levy expires at the end of 2024. What features should the next transportation capital project levy have? What lessons do you take away from the way the current levy has gone? *The estimated made in the Move Seattle levy were not sufficient to cover the costs of the promised projects, even in 2015. For the next transportation capital project levy we need accurate predictions of what the cost will be and including the change in cost over the years as the rising costs of local construction in the city*
- Do you support the construction of the Center City Connector streetcar and why/why not? *Absolutely. We must continue to invest and build all public transit options. We need to incentivise public transit use with robust and inexpensive options to single occupancy use. Single vehicle use accounts for 36% of Seattle's carbon output - so there are positive impacts to meeting the city's climate reduction goals in building more public transit options. We also must understand unintended impacts as we build those projects so ask communities benefit from the public asset.*
- What considerations should inform the discussion around finding additional funding for a light rail tunnel to West Seattle? To Ballard? *There should be consideration of where this money will come from and how it will affect the cost of living for folks who are in the areas near where the rail runner to West Seattle and Ballard will be built.*
- For what purposes should impact fees on development be used? *These fees should go towards building affordable houses. We should eliminate impact fees for ADU/DADUs that are used for low income families.*

- Do you support imposing additional fees on ridesharing services like Uber and Lyft? *It depends. Ideally not, ridesharing can be a significant part of our transportation system. It provides good jobs, many to communities of color and immigrant and refugee communities. I would like to see the adoption of organized unions to represent rideshare employees and adoption of EV and charging networks for rideshare.*
- Do you support a congestion pricing program downtown? If so, what considerations should be made when setting up such a program? *I am supportive of congestion pricing only if that money goes towards building a more robust public transportation system that benefits all people.*
- How do you feel about the current allocation of street space in Seattle? Under what circumstances would you support converting general purpose lanes to other uses?  
*I think the allocation of street space is best used when you consider safety, walkability, allocation of public space for EV charging, multiple use consideration - these are priorities I would consider for converting from general use.*
- What approaches would you take to ensure that emerging mobility options (bikeshare, rideshare, e-scooter, etc) are implemented in a manner that increases access to our mobility hubs? *We need to establish laws that will make sure that these emerging mobility options are not a detriment to the walkability of sidewalks for all people and that they are not in the way of those who need the sidewalk because they are disabled.*
- What lessons did you take away from the head tax vote/debate? Would you support bringing back the head tax? *Yes, I am supportive of bringing back the head tax. The biggest takeaway I learned from the debate is that we have a small minority that has too much power.*
- What responsibilities do you think that corporations doing business in Seattle have to the city, and are they meeting them? If not how would you get them to do so? *Corporations that do business in the city have the responsibility to address the effects that their business has, whether it be environmental and or unaffordability for those who lived in the area prior to the corporation doing businesses there.*
- If you had been on council at the time it was considered, would you have voted for Mandatory Housing Affordability, Seattle's version of inclusionary zoning? In what ways did the final approved plan differ from your ideal policy? *Yes, I would have voted for Mandatory housing affordability because it's needed in Seattle, especially for low income folks who are most affected by the fast rising rent costs in Seattle. Building low income housing should have been mandatory and the percentage should have been a flat 25%. Our campaign would like to see the elimination of the single family zone contested to multi family zone.*
- Do you support transit-oriented development? If so, how do you ensure TOD is affordable and doesn't displace communities around new transit infrastructure? *I am pro-transit oriented development which includes getting rid of single family zoning and using it to build multi family low income and affordable housing that includes affordable housing. The city can support exciting programs like mercy housing and Plymouth Housing.*
- What do you think is the most important strategy or set of strategies Seattle can pursue to make the city affordable to live in? What assumptions about affordability do those strategies rely on? *The most important strategy is to get rid of single family zoning and increase the density of housing. This includes building near where public transportation is to increase density.*
- What would you do as a city council member to address evictions and the displacement they cause, particularly in communities of color? *We need to establish rent control in the city and we*

*also need to increase the time that people have to pay their rent past the due date. This includes passing city ordinances that place tenants first and in turn will reduce the rate at which people are being placed out of their homes.*

- *Do you support the proposed creation of a city-county authority to address homelessness in Seattle/King County? If so, what steps would you take to support it on city council? I am supportive of a city-county authority to address homelessness but I believe we have to include folks who have previously experienced homelessness at the table to lead the conversation of how to address these issues*
- *What causes people to experience homelessness in the City of Seattle? The rapid increase of rent prices and results in the lack of affordability for folks who have lived in the city before the economy started boosting. Mental health issues that are not addressed also cause homelessness and the system that makes it harder for people of color to receive higher paying jobs to ensure that they are able to afford to keep up with the rent increases in the city.*
- *What, specifically, should the city do to address racial disparities in housing opportunity? We need to get rid of single family zoning, as it has ties to the historical redlining laws and decreases the availability of land that can be used to build more multi family homes*
- *How would you define “historic character”, and in what ways do you feel your definition is inclusive of Seattle’s indigenous communities? Cities change. Yes, historic districts and building designation are important, but we need to prioritize multiple use and increase low income and affordable family housing - so those designations cannot be a barrier for those needs. Indigenous communities have largely been left out of historic designation in Seattle.*
- *What approaches would you consider to ensure that multi-generational, affordable housing is located in high-opportunities neighborhoods?. We need to ensure that we are not using old redlining practices to build or keep affordable housing areas. There are great mixed income housing units that ensure to de-stigmatized affordable housing by including it in non-fixed housing neighborhoods*
- *What role should Safe Seattle and like-minded groups play in our public discourse? Yeah, no. I don't give much attention to groups like Safe Seattle much time other than to understand a potential extreme. I will prioritize organizations that prioritize racial equality outcomes and work to mitigate gentrification and displacement.*
- *To what extent has pursuing racial equity been a priority in your work to date? How do you plan to continue that work on city council? I have worked at Seattle City Light for more than 10 years and am the manager of the environmental justice program at SCL where I ensure that the lens of environmental justice is used to help low income and majority people of color areas are not greatly affected by environmental injustice and I founded Seattle’s SEqual affinity group where I advocate for workplace equity regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, especially when it comes to queer people of color.*
- *What approaches do you feel are most-important to ensuring that programs, policies, and practices are prioritized in historically underserved and underrepresented communities, who may not have the loudest voice in a public forum? When you are in a place of higher status it is important to bring folks from underserved communities into these spaces. Programs should also include people from underserved communities in their discussions to be able to use their experiences to shape the way this program will operate. By being transparent in the creation of*

*programs and also being inclusive it will make sure that the voices of those who do not usually get a seat at the table is highlighted.*

- *What are ideas for progressive revenue sources for transportation and housing that do not burden low-income communities? Expand multifamily zone across the city. Look to public purchase of land from HALA in high displacement potential neighborhoods for low income and affordable family public housing options - center culturally significant design and businesses. Engage existing communities early to center planning already done for neighborhood.*