

## **Santa Barbara City Council Candidate Questionnaire on Transportation**

Brought to you by the Community Environmental Council, Coalition for Sustainable Transportation, and Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition.

### **Michael Self**

- 1. Do you agree with the City's Circulation Element vision statement, "Santa Barbara should be a city in which alternative forms of transportation and mobility are so available and so attractive that use of an automobile is a choice, not a necessity"? If not, how would you improve it?**

I would agree. I would make the other options compete so as to attract more participation. I'm the MTD liaison.

- 2. Given that dangerous walking conditions exist in Santa Barbara's Eastside, what might you do to make the Eastside a safer place to walk - more lighting, re-pavement of crosswalks, speed bumps, more police enforcement, or something else?**

Speed bumps are illegal on public streets in the state of CA, that is why we only see new ones in private centers. I have always felt that those who break laws and disrespect our neighborhoods should be caught and ticketed as the best first deterrent to bad driving. Many Neighborhood Traffic Management Programs throughout the nation recognize this as the best solution to speeding and even use their street funds for police enforcement. Better lighting, ADA access ramps and sidewalks in good repair make walking safer and there is the added bonus in pride of ownership for the community.

- 3. Is it the City's duty to improve the jobs/housing imbalance in Santa Barbara? If so, what would you have the City do to accomplish this? If not, how can this imbalance be best addressed?**

Since the government got involved in trying to solve this problem the imbalance has gotten worse. In communities without governmental solutions there is less of a problem. The solutions proposed have/and will make housing more expensive not less. I do think that developers should comply with zoning that has protected the quality of life in SB but be able to build housing and commercial projects that will sell. See Chapala One which is a government mandated and encouraged development that is in bankruptcy.

- 4. Please list three specific things you would prioritize to improve our regional transportation. How would you pay for them? How long would it take to accomplish them?**

There are services provided by MTD that drain their financial resources and make them less efficient. These should be analyzed.

There are private bus systems that serve their communities better than what we have in SB. I would prefer and interview as this could take two pages to outline.

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Institute a franchise system for cab service that would not only add to the City's revenue but make cab service less expensive, therefore more used.

The timeline depends on those in positions of importance who would be willing to explore new options.

**5. Do you support the State of California's goals for new and retrofitted "net zero energy" buildings that generate as much energy as they use? If so, how can the City be a leader and help its citizens meet this challenge? If not, why?**

There is currently no such thing. I do support the furtherance of technological exploration to achieve this goal, such as paints that could provide enough energy to power a vehicle or building.

The City currently with the guidance of Jim Dewey is making city facilities less outside energy dependent.

**6. Given projections of increased traffic levels in Santa Barbara, how would you best mitigate our upcoming street congestion?**

By mandating adequate parking so that we do not negatively impact surrounding neighborhoods. We have plenty of examples throughout the city of under-parked developments. If and when the vehicle is supplanted with other modes of transportation these unused spaces can be utilized for other purposes.

I seriously question the wisdom of squeezing everyone in a tiny core and expectation congestion not to occur. I have been requesting an example of this anywhere in the nation with no success. Wishing is good but a factual foundation is better. Maybe you can provide an example as I'm a work in progress and constantly am looking for solutions