

*1. If elected, what would be your top priorities for improving safety and comfort for people walking and biking in Newburyport? Are there specific locations that you would like the City to focus on in the next few years? Are there specific initiatives or policies you would support?*

I've enjoyed working with Livable Streets over the past three years, and unlike my opponent, I've been consistently supportive of your initiatives. Together, we've made significant progress in improving safety and accessibility across Newburyport.

We've completed 62 streets and over 15 miles of paving, always with pedestrian, bike, and vehicular safety in mind. We've added new sidewalks where needed, including on Moseley Avenue, Noble Street, and Johnson Street, and the Lower Atkinson Safety Project has greatly improved the Merrimac Street corridor, including a new sidewalk from Plummer to Moulton.

We also made important safety upgrades on Plummer Avenue, where we reduced speeds along this busy cut-through by adding bump-outs and installing a raised crosswalk at the park entrance. These traffic-calming measures have made a noticeable difference for both pedestrians and drivers.

We've used state grants to target intersections like Federal and Water Streets and Olives at Myrtle and High, and we've removed parking near heavily used crosswalks to improve pedestrian visibility.

In my next term, I want to keep this momentum going. My top focus will be the Storey Avenue corridor from Three Roads to Dennett Drive. With new housing planned at Port Plaza and potential rezoning, this area presents a great opportunity to leverage a MassWorks grant for pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Low Street is another priority. With the Rec Center under construction and potential development nearby, we need to take a fresh look at the corridor from Graf Road to Storey Avenue, including lowering the speed limit to 25 mph, adding bike lanes, and redesigning intersections at North Atkinson and Perry Way.

We'll continue to pursue Safe Routes to School funding for the Colby Farm and North Atkinson area and revisit the Kent Street intersection to improve safety. I also want to address the Merrimac Street stretch from Broad to the Route 1 Bridge, where safety remains a concern.

There's more to do, and I believe I'm the best candidate to continue this important work in partnership with state and local officials and with input from Livable Streets.

2. *What do you think the City is doing well in terms of bike and pedestrian facilities and infrastructure? What could be improved?*

Newburyport is finally making the right level of investment in our streets and sidewalks. We've more than doubled funding for infrastructure improvements and successfully secured state grants to stretch our local dollars, with projects like Olives, Federal Street, North Atkinson, and Colby Farm all supported by outside funding.

The bike share pilot launching this spring is another positive step, expanding options for residents and visitors. Looking ahead, I'll continue to prioritize bike lanes and pedestrian safety in all major roadway projects.

We developed a five-year plan to ensure better planning, coordination, and transparency, not just for construction, but for improving neighborhood livability and safety. Regular neighborhood meetings remain a key part of our process to gather feedback and build trust.

As we prepare to hire a new DPS Director, I look forward to continuing this progress with new leadership and a shared commitment to safety and accessibility.

3. *Snow and ice can block sidewalks, curb ramps, bus stops, and bike lanes for days, making it difficult for people who walk, roll, bike, or rely on transit to travel safely. Clearing these areas quickly is essential for maintaining year-round accessibility. How do you envision improving accessibility for walkers and bikers during winter weather events?*

Our Parks Division does an excellent job clearing public spaces quickly, and I'll continue working closely with the Highway Division to make sure sidewalks and crossings are safely and efficiently cleared after storms.

We've had some trouble areas along Storey Avenue and Low Street, and addressing these remains a priority. That means strengthening enforcement of our snow-clearing ordinance and ensuring both residents and businesses do their part. Keeping our sidewalks clear is a shared responsibility, and we'll continue improving communication and enforcement to maintain safe access year-round.

4. *Safe walking and biking routes to school help children have the freedom and independence to move around the community and reduce car trips for parents and guardians. Is there anything the City should do to promote safe options for kids walking and biking to school?*

I'm a big supporter of efforts that help kids get to school safely and independently. The Bike Bus Fridays have been a great success. My own son often rides well into the winter, and it's

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been wonderful to see our Police Department and Recreation and Youth Services promote and participate in these activities.

We also host Walk to School Days in the spring, which are always a highlight. I'd like to see us add more bike racks downtown and near schools. When I was a kid, they were everywhere, and now there aren't nearly enough.

Working together with the schools, PTOs, and NRYS, we can get even more kids excited about walking and biking. It's healthy, it's fun, and it's good for the environment.