



denver STREETS PARTNERSHIP

Flor Alvidrez

What are your top priorities related to transportation as a candidate? How do you expect to address them if elected?

Transportation is an equity, safety, human dignity, environmental, food access and affordability issue. This is something I am extremely passionate about because I live in an area with limited food access, inequitable access to public transit, poor air quality and that is at risk to gentrification. My plan to better transit for all of D7 includes.

1. Additional convenient & free public transit options.
2. Increase mobility for pedestrians & bicycles.
3. Funding community lead projects that align with these goals.

Since Denver leaders made a commitment in 2017 to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious bodily injuries by 2030 (an initiative known as Vision Zero) over 460 people have been killed in preventable traffic crashes on Denver's streets. Fatalities have increased every year except 2020, when traffic volumes were significantly reduced during the pandemic. Meanwhile, other cities in the U.S. and across the world have succeeded in substantially reducing traffic fatalities. What actions do you think the City should take to ensure we reverse the current trend and actually make meaningful progress toward the goal of zero traffic fatalities here in Denver?

My plan to reduce traffic deaths in District 7 would be to:

1. Expand local transit like the connector microtransit program from Montbello to D7 to provide access for all residents to the light rail.
2. Build bump outs at intersections.
2. Speed bumps inside residential areas.
3. Widen sidewalks and add road verge.
4. Integrate real 2-way bike lanes in the middle of through streets with their own traffic signals on major streets. (Google: Barcelona bike lanes). These will be for truly transit oriented electric bikes & scooters to get around.
5. Increase bike parking, bike charging and parking spaces for scooter/rental bikes.
6. Activate community spaces around high injury network(Federal, Alameda, Mississippi, Broadway & Florida). Making these places a destination not just a place to drive through.

Most importantly of all I will be hiring grant writer as part of my administration to create funding sources on behalf of not just my office but community lead safety & transportation initiatives.

Recently, Denver has started making some limited investments in infrastructure to improve bus service, such as dedicated bus lanes, traffic signals that prioritize buses, and enhanced bus stops. The build out of this infrastructure has been slow, however, and the City has not proactively partnered with RTD to increase service frequency along these routes. What role do you think the City should play in ensuring that Denverites have access to enough frequent, reliable public transit service to make transit a practical option for daily trips and reduce our dependence on driving?

There is a national conversation happening lead by our US secretary of Transportation around how railroads & highways have cut off parts of cities around the nation. This conversation comes with Federal funding. District 7 is cut in half by a highway and railroads. We need to access these funds to repair the communities like ours. RTD is just that a Regional Transportation District. We cannot rely on them to get people in Denver around Denver. We need a Denver transportation system to piggy back off of the RTD system. The Connector program in Montbello has been a great success. I want to bring that program to our district. The biggest obstacle I have found over the years is funding. All we can do as a councilpersons is request funding and there's usually not enough to go around. This is why I will be making history by hiring a grant writer for specifically for D7.

Parking issues inevitably come up in any discussion about modifying our streets to better accommodate people walking, biking, and accessing transit, and can often be a stumbling block that prevents much-needed street safety projects from moving forward. What changes, if any, would you make to how the City manages parking to ensure we are using our limited street space in the best way possible to achieve our community's goals for providing healthy, safe, and affordable transportation options for everyone?

As the town of Denver has grown into a city our infrastructure has not kept up. The biggest complaint I have heard from opposition to density is parking & traffic. When we were a town it was easy to drive around Denver and find free or cheap parking anywhere. That's not a reality in a city nor should it be. Especially not one with severely poor air quality. The transition from town to city has been rough, I understand that. That's why we need to have more, affordable & convenient transit options like public transit and 2way center of the road bike lanes which minimize parking loss and increase safety. Mayor Pena lead the way with the light rail but we need to take it to the next level through my plans mentioned above. This will also help with affordability as many people's 2nd largest monthly expense is their car oriented transportation.

Denver Streets Partnership sponsored the Denver Deserves Sidewalks ballot measure, which passed in November 2022 with 56% of voter support. How will you ensure that this new sidewalk program is successfully implemented in a timely manner?

My experience in construction management and directly managing the installation of many of the sidewalks around Denver today is part of what makes me a huge asset to Denver City Council and the Denver Deserves Sidewalks initiative. I know the process for reviewing and requesting proposals. I can read and understand the plans and construction schedules. I know about concrete installation because I've done it. I will integrate measures of success and review the cities strategy to make sure not just that this get's done well and in a timely manner but all of the carpenters and masons doing this work are treated fairly and that we are supporting local small businesses. The success of this project is directly tied to it's management process and the success of the people who will be building these sidewalks.

While funding over time for biking, walking, transit, and Vision Zero has generally increased over the last five years, including the recently established Transportation and Mobility Fund, the City is still well short of what's needed to build and maintain safe, accessible infrastructure citywide. How would you expand funding for these needs?

Funding is the single largest barrier to getting projects implemented and completed. This is why I will have a grant writer on staff to make sure we are accessing all the available funding sources for these projects. I want to be a council person that serves as a support to the community. Our RNOs, community members and organizations like Denver Streets Partnership do so much for the city and I want to give back to you. Not just say here is how you do it but let's do it together for Denver! Thank you.

District

7