



Questions for 2012 Lee County candidates for U.S. Congress

1. One of the pressing issues facing the next Congress will be to reauthorize the national transportation programs, which expired in 2009. We need a reformed transportation system for the 21st century in order to be economically competitive and fit the needs of today; one that establishes national policy objectives and goals for the transportation system; one that would hold all levels of government accountable; and one that is a more balanced multi-modal transportation system.

Question: *If you are elected, will you support swift passage of a transportation bill that reforms our current system? Will you support a clear national transportation policy that will help achieve key national outcomes across all modes of surface transportation?*

2. BikeWalkLee, along with advocates and communities across the nation, has advocated for increasing investments in bicycling and walking infrastructure and programs to support popular, healthy and cost-effective transportation. Research shows that these investments—made possible by dedicated federal transportation dollars—are working but are not enough. While only 1.5% of federal funding goes to bike/ped programs, pedestrian and bicyclist deaths account for 13% of traffic deaths nationwide. Yet, in 2011 and 2012, Congress made several attempts to eliminate dedicated funding for bicycle and pedestrian programs.

Question: *If you are elected, will you support the continuation of dedicated funding for bicycling and walking programs in the reauthorization legislation?*

3. Lee County's experience with complete streets has shown the value of this approach and the need for a federal policy. In December 2011, the Senate Commerce Committee adopted a provision with bipartisan support that would make our streets safer for all users, consistent with the complete streets approach.

Question: *If you are elected, will you support this federal safe and complete streets policy, which will mean that federally funded road projects in Florida (the most dangerous State in the country) would follow federal standards to safely accommodate all road users?*

4. The current federal transportation legislation targets approximately 20% of the transportation dollars to transit, primarily through support for capital investments, not operations costs.

Question: *If you are elected, will you support increased funding for transit, a dedicated funding source, as well as more flexibility to cover operating costs?*