

2025 Cambridge Bike Safety School Committee Candidate Questionnaire

Cambridge's transportation choices shape public health, climate emissions, affordability, and mobility justice for students and guardians. Because road-space is finite, each mile of sidewalk, bike lane, or bus lane represents a deliberate policy trade-off, one that either widens or narrows opportunity for children and guardians walking and biking to school. This questionnaire, developed by Cambridge Bicycle Safety (CBS), lets voters see where you stand on those trade-offs. We appreciate you taking the time to share your views with potential voters.

- **Candidates must submit this form no later than Friday, August 22, 2025 (11:59 p.m. EDT).**
- Responses received by the deadline may be published and/or shared with our membership.
- Final endorsement decisions will be made shortly after the deadline based on questionnaire responses along with candidates' backgrounds, voting records (if applicable), advocacy work, platforms, and public statements.
- CBS will not coordinate election strategy or messaging with any School Committee candidate or committee, and endorsements will not be negotiated.
- For questions about this questionnaire or process, please contact us at info@cambridgebikesafety.org.

Section A – Candidate & Campaign Details

What is your full name as it appears on the ballot? *

Jessica Goetz

What is the URL of your official campaign website? (If applicable)

www.JessforCambridgeSC.com

Please provide the name of your primary point of contact. (This information will be kept confidential and not published.) *



Please provide the email address of your primary point of contact. (This information will be kept confidential and not published.) *



Please provide the phone number of your primary point of contact. (This information will be kept confidential and not published.) *



If offered, would you accept an endorsement from our organization? *

☐ Yes

☒ No

Section B – Background Questions

Use this section to share your personal travel experiences to school and, if applicable, how your children travel(ed) to school. **Please keep each response under 1,500 characters.**

How did you travel to and from school when you were growing up, and how did that affect your independence and which activities you participated in? *

I lived very close to school - a 3 minute walk. I lived in a single parent household so being able to get ourselves to and from school was key. I rarely even thought about how I would get from point A to point B, my whole life was on foot or public transit. Transportation was never a limiting factor for my afterschool activities. Our apartment was often a hub where other kids spent the night if they needed to be at school early or stay late. It was great for when I forgot stuff!

If you have kids, how do they travel to school and school activities (e.g. sports)? How has the city's street environment affected your choices for your kids? *

I have two kids - a rising 7th grader and a rising 8th grader.

Initially, my oldest was put at King Open, which was in the Longfellow building at the time. For 6 weeks we drove to school, which was terrible. I had just started making arrangements with friends in the Netherlands to ship over a cargo bike (they were not as readily available locally back then) when we got into G&P, which we can walk to.

For 8 years we walked to school; sometimes we would bike, but I was pretty strict about not driving (it honestly took longer and was annoying).

We are extremely excited for the new DVUS building after 2 years of terrible school bus experiences travelling to VLUS. We did bike to the Spring Street building a few times, but I was not OK with how unsafe Cambridge Street felt and going along the Somerville bike path made the ride too long for my late-rising children. In the end my daughter opted for public transportation to VLUS.

All that to say that we've tried a variety of ways to get to school. I will always prefer walking, but my kids are getting more into biking. I wish I felt great about them biking around Cambridge, but I don't. This doesn't fully affect the actual choices we make for them, but it does affect my cortisol levels when I know they are out and about. And I always make a strong plug for public transportation!

Section C – Questionnaire

For each question, select your position on a scale from **Yes, No, and Partial**.

You may also provide up to 700 characters to briefly explain your position or describe how you would implement or address each topic. **Explanations are optional, and you are welcome to share additional context or priorities that can help voters better understand your perspective.**

Do you support completing the [Cycling Safety Ordinance](#) projects scheduled for 2026? Among ^{*} them, [Cambridge St.](#) and [Broadway](#) are major projects connecting directly to multiple schools (CRLS, Fletcher Maynard, King Open).

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partially

You may elaborate on your response (optional):

.....

As of 2019, over 40% of K-8 students walk or bike to school (data from [2020 Bike Plan](#)), and the ^{*} city only [provides bus service](#) to those students PreK-5 living more than a mile away from school and grades 6-8 more than 1.5 miles from school. **Do you support ensuring that every school has a safe biking connection installed by 2030?**

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partially

You may elaborate on your response (optional):

I would hope they could also be used by pedestrians.

.....

Do you support piloting [School Streets](#) (which close a block adjacent to the school to car traffic * during arrival and departure to [provide a safe space for students](#)) at all City schools?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Partially

You may elaborate on your response (optional):

I really LOVE this idea! There are too many unsafe/unattentive drivers around schools. I answered partially because I'm not sure how that would work for CRLS (being sandwiched by two major streets), but I support it around the elementary and upper schools for sure.

The City has a few [parent-organized Bike Buses](#), where [volunteers lead a group bike ride of students](#) to school. **Do you favor the City formally supporting bike buses and expanding the practice to all elementary schools?** * If you have ideas for what formal support could look like, please include them.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Partially

You may elaborate on your response (optional):

I have participated in and watched bike buses. I love them!

I can imagine some ways the city could be helpful: providing traffic cones or crossing guards. Yet, I can also imagine that, if the city has more say there might be rules around timing or noise or which days are OK (maybe not on garbage days in certain neighborhoods, for example). So, I'm torn. I support bike buses and I would love for them to be an option for all families, but I also love that they are caregiver-driven and community-specific. I'm open to being persuaded though.

Do you support ensuring that all students have bike safety training at all levels of education (at least three times)? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Partially

You may elaborate on your response (optional):

I would love to see these opportunities also expanded to families. Or, at least, have the kids bring home summaries of what they've learned.

Please elaborate on any other ways that you, as a School Committee member, plan to enhance safety of students traveling to and from school and related activities and encourage more students to bike to school. *

I feel strongly about not driving to school every day when it can be avoided. My kids and I agree that walking or biking to school is a great way to get some exercise and clear your head on the way to school. I know that I prefer non-car travel around Cambridge and, if people who would rather not drive are empowered to choose other modes of transportation, the roads will be clearer for those who must drive.

In addition to walking and biking, I feel strongly about public transportation. When my daughter chose the public bus over the school bus, it made total sense. The public bus is free or low price for students, air conditioned, clean, quiet, free from fighting, and trackable. I have heard from teachers that many mornings are spent undoing the bad moods that the school bus can put kids in.

As a potential School Committee member, I am interested in synthesizing all of this to truly scrutinize our current school bus situation. Do we really need so many of those archaic yellow buses around town? What cost savings could be put towards safer biking and walking routes? Can we educate and encourage families to use public transportation (and not be afraid of their kids using it independently)?

***Note: I just want to explain why I answered "No" to accepting an endorsement. This is because I don't have clarity around what that would look like and what the expectations that went along with it would be.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms