

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

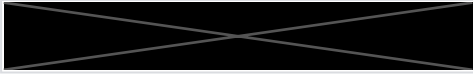
What is your full name as it appears on the ballot? *

Elizabeth Hudson

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

www.cambridgeschoolcommittee.com

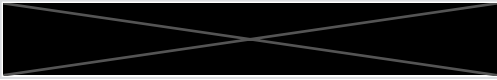
Please provide the name of your primary point of contact. (This information will be kept confidential and not published.) *



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 took the bus, as there were no other transportation options available (too long to walk; no shoulders). This meant that I didn't have much independence beyond that which my parents were able to provide by taking time off work, before I was able to drive.

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 three - soon to be four - kids, who are all pretty small, and thus dependent on us for travel. Each of the three are currently in different schools: The oldest takes the bus, to MLK, the youngest is walked to school, and my middle son takes the T most days with an adult.

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):

It's smart to say "I don't know," where you don't know / and are not the expert. I spend all my available time on what happens on the school bus, and during the school day. On all other matters, I'm reliant on a well informed network I trust, to help me understand where and when I need to weigh in.

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 support looking into this. We need to understand which campuses we'll be operating (we'll re-open the Kennedy Longfellow, but it's an open question whether it will be an 11th elementary school, or whether we'll consolidate and move another elementary/upper school community in as well) - and where they're located relative to the school aged population. I'm not a transportation expert (beyond that which I've learned about our bussing setup, which is a lot at; I can talk about this for hours), but I do know this: Kids can't learn if they're not in class on time, and without easy transportation options that don't place additional unnecessary stressors on families. So this is important.

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'd want to better understand the impact this would have on local traffic (thinking specifically busses going to other schools); I know many of the entrances are on heavily trafficked streets (which is, of course, why this is important - but also why I'd want to be better educated). I presume this would also differ school to school (e.g., at the new Tobin, the bus and walker drop off is on a separated loop, off the main street without through traffic, and the car drop off is underground, in the parking lot).

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 know many who participate in the bike busses, though I don't myself (see above; too many kids to fit in one vehicle / going three different directions all around the same time) - I'd rely on bike bus participants to speak to that support which is most desired. The simplest idea that comes to mind is more visibility (the school can reach all parents; we have email addresses for 90%+) for existing groups, and/or organizational support (on the latter though, I'd note that the transportation team needs to focus first on executing its existing responsibilities well - ie making sure the buses run on time - before I'd support it taking on more).

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'd want to know more about what this means (e.g., what is 'at all levels of education'). My only hesitancy - and it stands for all additions to the curriculum - is time. We have limited hours available during the school day, and we're already dramatically behind on the fundamentals (ensuring kids can read; ensuring they're working at grade level in math; etc.) Fewer than half our kids are working at grade level today, across English, math and science, and not because we're not stuffing the day to the gills (younger students often have so little time for lunch that they don't get to finish eating, for example). I want us to better understand first how we're using all our educational time.

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. *

To anyone reading the SC candidates' answers and thinking about the schools more generally - thank you, very much.

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