



Rob Barron – Ward 1 City Council Candidate Survey Responses

3. Safer Streets & Protected Bike Lanes

The City’s Vision Zero plan calls for enhanced bikeways and slow zones near schools. Protected bike lanes—separated with bollards, planters, or curbs—are proven to reduce crashes and make streets more predictable.

- **What role do you see for physically protected bike lanes in Des Moines?**
- **How should the City ensure bike lanes are designed consistently so drivers and riders know what to expect?**
- **How should protected bike lanes fit into the City’s Vision Zero crash reduction strategy?**

(This answer was written to address all three questions)

My priority on the council would be to better connect our current system of bike lanes so that there is consistency and predictability for those who commute on their bike. On a recent ride with the Street Collective and transit advocates, I saw firsthand how inconsistent our current system of bike infrastructure is. I see that as a result of poor advocacy by a majority of the council and I would like to change that.

Our current system does not lend well to taking youth out for rides because most of the biking infrastructure is painted. I would like to move towards more physically protected bike lanes, but I recognize it will require a culture change in this city. An effective council member can use their voice to move that forward towards a well-communicated, commonly understood vision.