



Rob Barron – Ward 1 City Council Candidate Survey Responses

2. Safety Near Schools

City leaders are considering lowering school zone speed limits to 15–20 mph, adding flashing signs, and redesigning dangerous roads near schools. How should the City approach school zone speed limits and enforcement?

I would love to see all of the data on lowering the school zone speed limits, but as the parent of two DMPS kiddos I'm supportive of doing anything we can to make the roads around our schools safer

When road redesigns near schools may reduce lanes or change traffic flow, how would you balance child safety with other transportation needs?

For successful road redesigns I believe there are two things councilmembers can do. The first is that we need to spend time talking to the constituents that live along those redesigned roadways. In most cases this means walking those roads and knocking on doors. I love talking to folks and intend to spend time knocking doors in the neighborhoods of Ward 1 throughout my four years on the council. Folks deserve to see their councilmembers present in their communities and we can win back trust from residents if we show a willingness to show up on their doorsteps and ask what they think.

The second important step is for the council to put forth a clear vision for the future of the city that includes the future for our roadways. I believe that individuals will accept some small sacrifices if they see them in relation to a larger vision they helped to inform. I do not believe the city has a clear vision for the future of Des Moines and that the council has not gone through the process to ask for feedback from their constituents for an inclusive vision.

What additional steps would you take to help children walk and bike safely to school?

For over half of the school year our kids are walking and biking to school in the dark. One positive step forward could be reevaluating the street lights in our neighborhoods. Multiple residents have pointed out to me that the new LED lights cast a brighter light, but without the broad coverage of traditional lights. When elected I will engage with our traffic

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department to talk through the strategy for street lights in the city. On street parking is another area that can negatively affect the safety of our kids. We should talk about the right times of the day to allow on street parking in certain areas so that kids who are riding their bikes to school do not have to move into the roadway as often and walkers can be seen more clearly with fewer obstructions.