

Tanya K. Bhasin

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Bike Norfolk: Do you own a bicycle? Tell us about it, we love to hear about bicycles!

Tanya Bhasin: My family owns bicycles; however, I do not own one. I have not ridden a bike in a couple of years due to balance issues and fear of riding on city streets. The rest of my family is comfortable riding their bikes on protected streets/trails; however, I worry for their safety on regular roads.

BN: Are you familiar with [Bike Trains and Walking School Buses](#)? If so, will you help make them commonplace in Norfolk?

TB: I am familiar with Bike Trains and Walking School Buses. I will advocate for and support efforts to help make them commonplace in Norfolk. I have begun the work by supporting local advocates with establishing and strengthening Safe Routes to School Projects which may include initiatives like Bike Trains and Walking School Buses.

BN: Do you support a funded dedicated position within NPS to manage and promote the [Safe Routes to Schools Program](#)?

TB: Yes, I support a funded position dedicated to implementing and monitoring the Safe Routes to Schools Program.

BN: In the past several decades there's been a dramatic [decline](#) in the number of students to bike/walk to school. What will you do to reverse this trend away from a dependence on school buses?

TB: To reverse the trend away from dependence on school buses a multi-tiered approach will be necessary. I believe it is critical to begin with bicycle education programming for both students and families that is centered around a vision of active transportation to and from school. This program will help strengthen a culture of healthy behavior and will motivate children and adults to take part.

Starting a Ride to School Day at least once a week will build interest, and slowly progress to being an everyday occurrence. It will require funded bike leaders and infrastructure support from the City. I believe that funding once used for buses can be transferred to support this effort.

BN: In what ways can walking and bicycling infrastructure be improved to allow for more children to travel safely to school?

TB: The safety of our students in transit to and from school is a priority. This includes students who walk or ride their bikes to school. The determination on how to safely get students from home to their school destination and vice versa is done by our administration with collaboration from the City, as needed, who helps support our students by providing crossing guards at select intersections. I will continue to share my support for active transportation to school and will work with my city counterparts to advocate for stronger infrastructure to include safe roadways, crossing at intersections, funding for resources to strengthen safe walking, and biking education.

BN: We love to ride bikes! Would you like to go for a bicycle ride with us?

TB: One day, sure!

