

**CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DISTRICT 8**

Joe Boykin
Anna B Johnson (*Incumbent*)

1.) According to [Dangerous by Design 2022](#), Charleston-North Charleston ranked as the 5th most dangerous metro area in the nation for people walking between 2016 and 2020. Furthermore, Charleston County leads the state (which ranked 3rd most dangerous in the country) in bike/ped fatalities and injuries. Meanwhile, pedestrian trips are substantially increasing year-over-year. Is safe and connected infrastructure for bicycling, walking (with and without assistive devices), and public transit a high priority for you?

Joe Boykin: Yes.

Anna B Johnson: *I am very much concerned about safe and connected infrastructure for bicycling, walking and public transit.*

2.) Are there specific bicycle, pedestrian and/or public transit projects in your district that are priorities for you? If yes, please tell us about them and how you would lead to address them.

Boykin: *Sidewalks along Main Road on Johns Island approaching St. John's High School are nearly nonexistent. This poses a grave danger for the students that walk along the shoulder of Main Road when going to and from St. John's High School and Angel Oak Elementary School. If elected, I will pursue funding to construct safe sidewalks for pedestrians making ingress and egress from these schools.*

Johnson: *I am working to get Riverland and Central Park sidewalk/multipurpose path completed so that children can safely walk to school and visit their family members.*

3.) If elected, would you support greater annual funding from the county for bike, pedestrian and public transit infrastructure? And, would you lobby the South Carolina Department of Transportation to increase the agency's spending on bike, pedestrian and public transit infrastructure?

Boykin: Yes.

Johnson: *I think the County needs to stay within it's budget on this issue and seek more funding from other agencies to assist with bike, pedestrian projects.*

4.) Charleston Moves is intensely focused on addressing the multiple Ashley River crossings, to make them safe and connected for people on bikes and foot. So far, the Ashley River Bike & Pedestrian Bridge is funded and should go out for a design-build contract bid in 2023; the County applied for a federal grant for the Better North Bridge project in 2022 (but was not selected); the James Island Connector retrofits have been assessed, but no action has been taken to move for-

ward; and the Wappoo Cut Bridge (as an alternative to the Connector and a linkage to the Ashley River Bridge) has yet to be studied in-depth by a public agency. Would you support advancing the North Bridge, James Island Connector and Wappoo Cut Bridge crossings?

Boykin: Yes.

Johnson: [no response]

5.) What is your vision for Lowcountry Rapid Transit? Would you support zoning changes to encourage transit-oriented development and a robust network of bicycle and pedestrian paths connecting to the system's stations?

Boykin: I see the LRT as a vital connection between affordable housing and employment opportunities. I additionally see the benefits it will have on reducing the number of vehicles on our roadways during morning and afternoon commutes. I would support both zoning changes and multimodal paths connecting to the systems stations.

Johnson: I support the Lowcountry Rapid Transit project and some bicycle and pedestrian paths that are already in the works such as the Rethink Folly Road Plan that was approved by Charleston County Council.

6.) Do you agree with the following statement [Feel free to explain why or why not]?: All transportation projects (related to roads, streets, bridges and/or commercial development) should include access for multiple modes of transportation.

Boykin: Yes. Not everyone has the ability or finances to travel by vehicle. It is imperative that we provide safe means of travel for our pedestrians and cyclists, especially when it involves crossing the bridges over our many waterways.

Johnson: I have supported installing multiple modes of transportation where it is feasible to do so.