



# Bike Denton

## City Council Candidate

## Questionnaire

**CANDIDATE NAME:** Lilyan Prado Carrillo

**POSITION:** Place 6 (At Large)

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### **Q1: What is your vision for Denton's transportation system?**

**Prado Carrillo:** As I continue to learn, I understand that this is not a one-dimensional issue. This is something we need to consider in order to help our environment, to help our residents with quality of life, access and overall safety, and consider very carefully how the transportation system can and does impact our economy overall. I believe whole heartedly that we need to have an equitable transportation system with multimodal options that fit the needs of our current population and the future growth we anticipate. I understand that a good part of our community does not have access to a vehicle, for a variety of reasons, and so we should have a reliable transportation system that would support the contributions and involvement of this demographic, and anyone else choosing to use public transportation rather than only automobiles.

Denton is blessed to be a very diverse place, allowing people from a variety of lifestyles to call it home, and we need to take into account all of these populations as we plan and develop the vision for our holistic transportation needs. My hope is that all residents be able to have access to transportation to meet their needs, to access getting from one place to another with optimal safety and in a timely manner, and for us as a city be the best stewards of the funds needed to invest not just in transportation (additional buses and bus routes), but also the infrastructure that is needed to support the growing needs of our community (streets).

I hope to have great working relationships with city planners as they continue to propose intelligent designs for our roads, to keep in mind speed limits, sidewalks, durable streets, accessible and safe bike lanes, all integral parts of the vision we should have for a healthy, safe, sustainable community. I also hope to continue to have wonderful relationships with so many passionate resident advocates, who are passionate and very knowledgeable about their specific areas of expertise. Together, we can develop Denton's transportation system into one we can all be proud of.

### **Q2: Which transportation issues do you think are most important for Denton to prioritize over the next five years?**

**Prado Carrillo:** We absolutely need to prioritize the planning of infrastructure we want to have, to make sure we are thinking now of the types of streets and neighborhoods we want, knowing that we expect to double in size. Hiring the right city planners (and budgeting for such positions), that will listen and work hard, and commit to putting forth smart designs that will include bike lanes, pedestrian sidewalks, medians, traffic lights, turn lanes, roads that will encourage safe driving and not encourage speeding, all essential for us to make Denton the safe and equitable place to live, that we believe it to be. The smart thing to do, once we have these ideas is, actually implementing them and not letting these suggestions gather dust on a shelf somewhere. This is all part of accessibility too, and equity... both essential in planning of future infrastructure.

The maintenance of aging infrastructure is also very important. I know that we as a city have placed a priority on street repairs, but it may feel like we can never catch up. We are growing, and with more and more people coming into the city, and more cars, our streets will continue to need repairs. On the development side, we can advocate for mixed land use, and encourage walkable neighborhoods and more bus routes to help this, but cars will be the primary mode of transportation, so we need to be smart. This goes back to smart design, but the aging infrastructure is something that will continue to be a priority. My hope would be to continue to use the OCI (overall condition index) to determine which streets need urgent attention, but also listen to citizen concerns and make sure that we have an equitable system in place to repair all parts of the city streets, not just certain ones.

Safety is also a priority for me. We have and ought to have an even higher number of walkers, and bike riders because we are such a largely young community, with 2 universities and a community college, and the 36K students in our school system. I know not all live within city limits, but we are a vibrant and young community. That being said, safety is of great concern when we have people running red lights, speeding down roads, and with wide and multilane roads being added. I am for growth, but the safety of our community members, especially our most vulnerable, should be paramount. My son, now 23, had a friend struck while crossing the road within city limits, down the street from her high school. We had 2 young men die in a car crash, down a dangerous road, not long after. After both incidents, a streetlight was put in and additional lights, and guard rails were put in for the other. In both cases, we were reactive. I'd like for us to be proactive and evaluate areas where we can see high risk to avoid a catastrophe. I have a daughter in high school, and one in elementary. I don't want to be reactive, and wait for loved ones to be lost, before we choose to act. I know the reports are available that show where dangerous areas are... let's use the information we have, hire planners that can propose smart solutions, and then not sit on those plans, but think of ways to implement them as we grow, and as we repair and fix aging infrastructure.

**Q3: Nationally, at least 30% of the general population cannot drive due to age, disability, finances or legal reasons. Do you feel that Denton's current transportation system is adequate for people who cannot drive? Why or why not?**

**Prado Carrillo:** No, unfortunately our transportation system is not adequate. With only 3 bus routes, and so many gaps left because of the places those routes do not touch, we are leaving a group of people out and not helping them meet their needs. We have become too dependent on access to automobiles and as a city, have not encouraged or even made it easy for our community to choose

public transportation over individual car use. We need a more extensive plan that will allow us to build the partnerships we need with other county, state, and federal agencies, in order to increase bus routes, get the buses we need, and to increase other multimodal options.

**Q4: Each year in the City of Denton, roughly 15 people are killed in traffic crashes. In 2019, the Denton City Council approved city staff to develop a [Vision Zero Action Plan](#) to eliminate traffic fatalities. The multi-phase development of this action plan is still underway.**

**If elected, will you support funding to continue development of this action plan and ultimately implement it?**

**Prado Carrillo:**

- Yes
- No

**Q4(b): OPTIONAL: Explain your answer.**

**Prado Carrillo:** From the city website, it was not clear if phase 2 has started, but if elected, I think it is essential for us to continue to do the work and move from recommendations only, to action through policy. We also want to continue and encourage additional support and community involvement. Many of the surveys or meetings held listed only 30 or 40 stakeholders showing up from the community, some surveys also showed that not everyone thought fatalities could all be together avoided.. With all that said, I believe in encouraging engagement, providing additional education to not only stakeholders but also any and all residents... Many of us might not care until it happens to someone we love, and to find out that it could have been avoided, makes it that much more terrible. I would definitely like to work alongside stakeholders and staff, to make sure we can meet our goals.

**Q5: Currently, most bicycle projects in Denton are funded through larger road expansion projects, which often take a decade or more from start to finish. This results in free-standing segments of bicycle infrastructure that don't connect to much else and don't create a useful network.**

**Do you think Denton should have separate funding for active transportation projects that aren't tied to road projects in order to develop a usable bike network more quickly? Why or why not?**

**Prado Carrillo:** Yes, I do. I understand the desire to get things perfect, in order to move forward and be good stewards of taxpayers money. However, perfect is hard, especially when we are talking about larger road expansion projects. If we continue to tie bicycle infrastructure to these larger projects, we may never get there. I think having it's separate funding is smart, and would allow us to be more creative and able to experiment with innovative designs that could make a huge impact, and faster accessibility. This is also lower financial risk, because it would not be tied to other more

expensive road projects. I would love to learn about opportunities to do this on council, and do something that would truly make a difference for our residents, in real time!

**Q6: Denton currently has [an ordinance](#) from the 1960's that prohibits small mobility devices like skateboards, roller skates and scooters from operating on city roadways. This ordinance also bans these types of devices from on-street bike lanes since they are considered part of the roadway.**

**Because many streets in Denton lack sidewalks, this means many Denton residents cannot legally travel around or leave their neighborhood via e-scooter, skateboard or roller skates.**

**Given the increasing popularity of e-scooters as a more affordable, lower-impact way to get around town than driving an automobile, do you think this 1960's ordinance needs to be updated to allow more options for traveling around Denton? Please explain.**

**Prado Carrillo:** Yes, you had me at 1960. We should be reviewing ordinances every 10 years, or even 15 or 20 years. There are a lot of changes we need to take into consideration, not just our population but also the road we want to follow and what type of community we want to continue to be and become. We can't do that if we have a one size fits all. Yes, let's update this, let's find sensible solutions which fit the specific roadway areas we have. Let's continue to plan innovative and smart designs and design/engineer the roads for the behavior we want, not the other way around. Like I said earlier, we are a young community! We want to continue to celebrate the diversity, we want people to come here and feel part of the community, we want to ensure safety and mutual respect between those who use cars and those who don't, and we want to have a vibrant and lively community. I don't see anything wrong with skateboards and roller skates in lower speed areas like downtown, and e-scooter in all but major roadways. Not too long ago, I enjoyed e-scooter in Corpus Christi. The accessibility and how easy it was allowed us to have a wonderful day of light shopping, eating dinner, and enjoying dessert with friends at local spots, all without needing a car, and fighting parking.

**Q7: Why should someone who cares about street safety or bicycle, pedestrian or public transit issues vote for you?**

**Prado Carrillo:** I want the council to be more representative of the community that actually lives here. This is why I am running. I want to listen and learn from folks much smarter than I, and from those that have had a different experience than mine. So far, I've been so lucky to have so many people, experts in their certain areas, help me to understand the issues that are facing our community. Also, the vision they have for Denton and who we can become, as a community. I want us to be a place where all feel welcome, respected, listened to. I know we are a community of students, creatives, business owners, families, educators, entrepreneurs... We are all very different, but more alike than we think. Safety, accessibility, equity, innovation and a desire to look out for each other... Those are all priorities we should have, and I believe many of us do. I believe in being

responsive, transparent, and I am looking forward to serving the people of Denton because this is my home.

**Q8: Please include how voters can follow your campaign, including website and social media accounts.**

**Prado Carrillo:**

<https://www.lilyanfordenton.com>

FB/IG/ X @LilyanforDenton

Thank you for this opportunity!