Name: Rick Blangiardi

Candidate for: Honolulu Mayor

Email: team@rickblangiardiformayor.com

1. Do you believe that walking and bicycling should be safe transportation options available to all and that we need to drastically reduce injuries and deaths of people walking and biking?

YES: Yes, I believe that our roads and sidewalks should be safe for everyone in our community and for all modes of transportation. Whether it be for cars, public transit, bike, or foot, our residents should feel safe commuting in their neighborhoods and communities. Our City must work to improve this feeling of safety and really reduce the risk to our commuters.

2. We currently have 46 miles of shared use path (pedestrian and bicycle) paths and 51 miles of bike lanes. Do you support building 30 new miles of shared use paths and 30 new miles of bike lanes by 2030, which will also make streets safer for pedestrians?

YES: Leading up to my campaign announcement, many people told me that if I just fixed the roads, I would be a great mayor. Of course, this was before COVID-19, and obviously our priorities have shifted. However, our City's infrastructure, including our bicycle and shared use paths, are an extension of our quality of life.

I am very supportive of increasing our bicycling infrastructure. I was a committee member for the Oahu Resilience Strategy, and in it I advocated for the City's efforts to expand the number of existing bike paths by 40% over the next four years. In the short term, these resources will be important during this pandemic as many choose to ride bikes instead of public transportation. In the long term, this infrastructure can help us alleviate our traffic problems.

It is up to the Mayor to ensure that our infrastructure as a whole is flexible for our residents, and in a good state of repair. I intend on being a Mayor that makes this happen.

3. Do you support implementation of Honolulu's Complete Streets ordinance (ROH 14-33) that requires streets to be planned, designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe, convenient and comfortable travel for all modes of transportation throughout Honolulu, including walking and bicycling?

YES: Yes, in the Oahu Resilience Strategy, I supported and advocated for our Complete Streets initiatives. I am supportive of this common-sense planning efforts. It is clear that good, thought-out planning leads to safe, comfortable communities. These efforts ensure that our streets are safe for all modes of transportation, but also for community members of all ages. This is very important to our cyclists and pedestrian commuters, as well as our youth and kupuna. Under my administration, I will ensure that our Complete Streets program is implemented to its fullest potential.

4. Prior to 2020 and COVID-19, seventy-nine percent of Oahu commuters drove as their primary way of getting to work and 15% walked, biked, or took public transportation. However, 55% of Oahu car trips are under 3 miles. Do you support the establishment of specific targets to reduce dependence on private automobile transportation and increase bicycling, walking, and transit use?

YES: I support the establishment of specific targets to reduce dependence on private automobile transportation and increase bicycling, walking and transit use. However, these goals must be reasonable and have the input of the community before we set them.

5. Describe ways you have supported safer walking and bicycling in your community. (short answer)

During my time leading Hawaii News Now, I helped highlight bicycling and pedestrian issues such as safety, as these are very important for our community. We also highlighted community programs such as the BikeEd program put on by HBL. I hope that through my professional efforts, I have helped support and publicize our bicycling.

I was also a strong advocate for our pedestrian and bicycling community in the Oahu Resilience Strategy, and I am proud of our efforts to really focus some of our goals on these alternative modes of transportation to better our community.

I am also a big supporter of HBL's Kalakaua Avenue Open Streets Sundays events. I was able to attend the first event, and it was a wonderful experience to see our families outdoors again, enjoying the beauty of our home in a safe manner. I am thankful to have participated.

6. The City has the Oahu Bike Plan and is in the process of creating the first Oahu Pedestrian Plan. What will you do when elected to implement these plans? (short answer)

We'll have to start by being realistic about the economic duress our City's budget will be in as a result of COVID-19 as we attempt to realize our other goals, including our goals for pedestrian infrastructure and bicycling. However, I believe that through effective leadership and management practices, there are a number of ways where we can ensure that we can realize these goals.

I will start by ensuring that our City's budget is used wisely and waste is eliminated. We are going to have to secure more sources of funding for our infrastructure projects. Spending our money wisely will allow us to help do so.

Through proper leadership and responsible management practices, I will work to ensure that our infrastructure projects are being carried out in an efficient manner. We can do so by coordinating our road improvement project efforts along with our bike lane construction initiatives.

Lastly, I will work with our federal delegation and the State to secure federal funding that can be used for these efforts. The Federal Highway Administration provides

municipalities with funds to reimburse the cost of development projects that include bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure.

7. Trees lower temperature during the day, provide protection from the sun and rain, are a nice buffer to cars, and have a calming effect on traffic. Given that trees make it safer and more comfortable to walk and bicycle, do you support adding more trees to your area's inventory?

YES: Yes, I support the planting of more trees, especially for our urban canopy. When I heard that Oahu has lost more than 5 percent of its urban canopy in just four years, I was very alarmed. These trees are not just important for beautifying our communities and making our island a comfortable place to live, but also for our broader aim at mitigating the effects of climate change. I will work closely with the Department of Parks and Recreations to realize the goal of increasing our urban canopy by 35% by the year 2035, as we outlined in the Oahu Resilience Strategy, and will look into the possibility of developing a native tree program for our City trees.