

# 2022 Candidate Questionnaires

## Nebraska State Senators

**Candidate Name: Connie Petersen**

**District 16**

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### **Question 1:**

Nebraska's state highways function as local streets within municipal boundaries while remaining under the purview of the Nebraska Department of Transportation.

What safety concerns are you seeing on these streets in your district's communities? (Are these streets safe for all ages and abilities to cross?) What should the state be doing to make these state highway segments within local areas safer?

### **Candidate Response:**

*It is important for state highways to pass through towns in order to keep the towns alive. Town that are bypassed tend to start seeing a decline in revenue for the town, which could lead to a downhill spiral of the town. I am a big supporter of small towns and small businesses. Safety is important on our state highway segments. Such acts as reduced speed limits, stop lights where appropriate, and local law enforcement presence are all vital to maintaining safety.*

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## Question 2:

Too many Nebraska children have died or been seriously injured in crashes involving people running red lights or speeding. Automated enforcement measures such as red light or speed detection cameras placed at intersections with demonstrated safety concerns could reduce law enforcement burden and eliminate potential biases.

Would you support a change in state law to allow automated enforcement in Nebraska? If so, under what conditions?

## Candidate Response:

*I would not be in support of automated enforcement in Nebraska as I see this as a slippery slope into government overreach. I support first responders, I "back the blue" and understand the importance of the law enforcement presence on our highways and in our local towns. Encouraging drivers to slow down through dynamic speed limits signs is another way to get the attention of drivers.*

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## Question 3:

Workforce issues in Nebraska have been described as "the most pressing economic issue in the state" and "very quiet and...happening at record speed."

Knowing that young professionals increasingly prefer walking, biking and taking transit over driving, what should the state be doing to invest in or encourage active transportation options that will help stem the tide?

## Candidate Response:

*It appears transportation options continue to pop up throughout many of our more urban areas, but continue to fall short in rural setting. The state investing in transportation companies that are willing to meet the needs in rural Nebraska is a great idea. Encouraging rural transportation companies to consider outreach. The Norfolk Area Transit is a great example of the expansion to more rural areas. Their Regional package is an example of additional options, but these options need to be more economical.*