

If I Were Mayor

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Happy Valley is a big, beautiful, thriving city. It has expanded from a rural area to a growing suburb in 61 years. However, there are still some things about this city that could be improved. If I were the Mayor of Happy Valley, I would work hard to make our city the best and safest place to live. Happy Valley is growing really fast, and I want to make sure that as we get bigger, we also get better. My plan focuses on keeping students safe, managing traffic, and making sure everyone is involved in our community by taking part in keeping our city clean.

First, I would start by making sure that students have a safe route to go to school. Right now, some kids have to walk on the edge of the road or in the grass because there are not enough sidewalks. Some sidewalks even stop randomly because there are plants or fences in the way of continuing the sidewalk. If I were Mayor, I would add more sidewalks so kids could walk safely to school. I would also add painted bike lanes, really bright street lights and flashing crosswalks on the roads near our schools and other common crossing areas. This way, parents would not have to worry about their kids getting to school, and more students could ride their bikes (non-electric) or walk with their friends instead of sitting in a long carpool line.

Next, I would focus on traffic management. Everyone knows that traffic in Happy Valley can get pretty bad, especially in the morning and afternoons on school days. I would suggest adding more roundabouts. Roundabouts are much better than stop signs because they keep cars moving and help prevent big crashes and interferences. Our newest roundabout at the corner of SE King Road and SE 129th Avenue has really helped move along the school traffic near Happy Valley Elementary and Happy Valley Middle School. Additional roundabouts would make getting around the city way less frustrating and difficult.

Finally, I want to focus on community involvement. I would start by having city-wide cleanup days once a month where we all go to the parks, local trails, and even our neighborhood streets to pick up trash. Active community places like the Happy Valley Crossroads Plaza, the Happy Valley Town Center, and the Happy Valley Library are also places that need to be cleaned up. While citizens help pick up trash in these areas, they would get to meet business owners and community leaders as well. I believe a city is better when neighbors and businesses actually know each other.

By making our streets safer, managing our traffic, and encouraging everyone to help keep our city clean, Happy Valley will remain a great place to grow up. As Mayor, I would listen to what the citizens have to say and make sure our city continues to be a happy place for everyone!