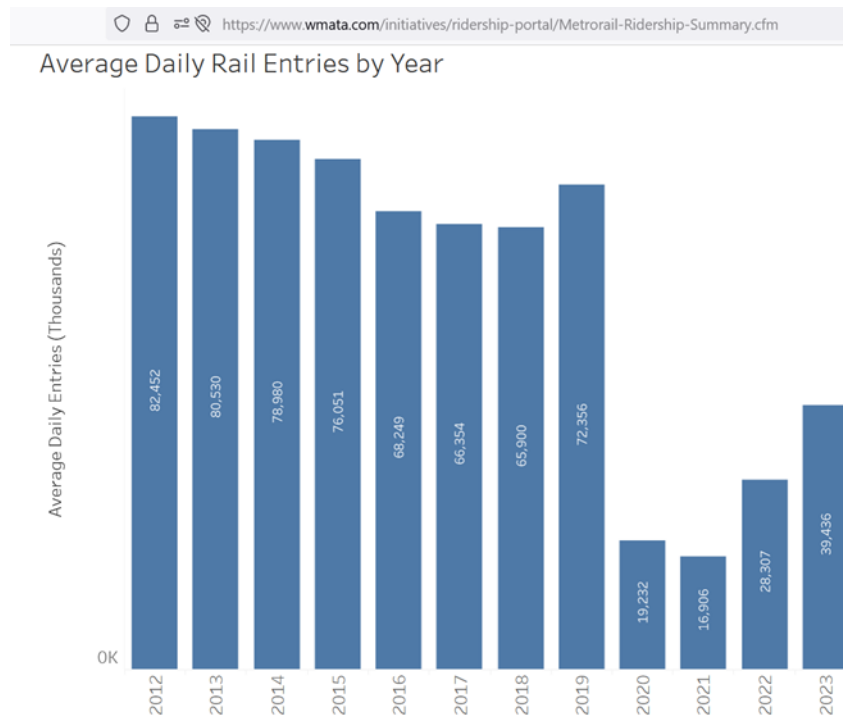


2023 County Board Primary Candidates Questionnaire: Climate Change and Sustainability

Name: Juan Carlos Fierro

1. **Addressing Climate Change** *In its March 20 report, the International Panel on Climate Change stated “There is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a livable and sustainable future for all (very high confidence).” The scientific consensus is that GHG emissions must be reduced by 50% by 2030 to avoid the worst consequences of climate change. As a County Board member what policies and initiatives would you pursue to ensure that Arlington rapidly reduces its GHG emissions?*

With first need to recognize that Arlington has done quite a bit to reduce GHG emissions – promoted LEED buildings, encouraged the use of solar panels, promoted use of public transportation, etc. A major challenge is that Arlingtonians are not taking advantage of several of these initiatives, especially in public transportation, Notwithstanding investments and promotion of the advantages of using public transportation, there has been a dropoff in Metro ridership since 2012 as reflected in the following chart.



If elected to the County Board, I would encourage policies and dialog to reverse this ridership trend as part of our effort to reduce GHG emissions.

2. **Sustainable Development** *How would you advance urban development in Arlington that supports less energy intensive lifestyles and helps advance our housing affordability*

goals while protecting tree canopy, providing equitable access to open spaces and nature, and effectively managing stormwater runoff?

The Achilles heel of Arlington's existing land use policy is that it does not consider the long term impacts of a development projects. I'm in favor of a sustainable development policy that requires that development projects need to address the fiscal and development impacts of a proposed project in terms of the impact on tree canopy, stormwater runoff, and infrastructure requirements. This would include the need for more open space, schools, and an increase in water and sewer infrastructure needs because of the increased population that will occur because of the project.

The recent Missing Middle efforts undercut a sustainability development policy given that there was no impact analysis conducted, as was argued in the recent lawsuit by concerned citizens against the County.

- 3. **Decarbonization of Transportation** Transportation accounts for almost 40 percent of Arlington's GHG emissions and contributes to poor air quality and congestion. What would be your plan for creating more sustainable transportation options that would sharply reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles with shifts to biking, transit, and zero emission vehicles?*

The biggest challenge that we have in the transportation sector in Arlington is to reverse the downward trend in WMATA ridership, as indicated in Question 1. The incoming County Board needs to give priority to incentivize more use of the public transportations system, which will also reduce the need to subsidize METRO, allowing us to free up funds that could be used to promote other decarburization efforts such as biking and zero emission vehicles.