2011 NJ Legislature Candidate
Survey on Transportation and Land Use Policy

As a candidate for NJ State Legislature in the upcoming election, we hope you will take a few moments to answer this short, yet important, questionnaire regarding the transportation issues facing our state. Please feel free to attach sheets as needed.

Organizational Overview:
The Tri-State Transportation Campaign is a non-profit organization working toward a more efficient, transit-friendly and equitable transportation system in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. Since the mid-nineties, the Campaign has played a critical watchdog role in the field of transportation policy, helping state transportation agencies reform their approaches to solving transportation problems. Our work has increased funding for infrastructure maintenance and repair, created more effective road projects and led to millions of dollars in new funding for walking, cycling and mass transit projects.

Purpose and Process:
Transportation policies directly impact New Jersey’s citizens in a variety of ways. Elected officials influence the development of these policies and how certain transportation systems are funded and built, thereby impacting constituents’ daily lives. This short questionnaire will be used to inform the public on the incumbents’ or candidates’ positions in key areas of transportation policy. The questionnaire will provide you with an opportunity to present your views and vision on how to address the transportation issues facing New Jersey residents at the state and local levels. Please be as detailed as possible when describing your positions. The Tri-State Transportation Campaign is a non-partisan organization that neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate for office. Questionnaire responses, however, will be posted on our blog at blog.tstc.org and in our newsletter, Mobilizing the Region.

Upon completion, the survey may be emailed to janna@tstc.org, or faxed to (212) 268-7333 attention Janna Chernetz. Or mailed to: Tri-State Transportation Campaign, attn: Janna Chernetz, 350 W. 31st Street #802, New York, NY 10001. Please return the surveys no later than close of business October 19, 2011.

Name: Fernando Uribe

Party Affiliation: Republican

District Represented: 33 - NJ State Assembly Candidate

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Transportation Funding:

New Jersey’s Transportation Trust Fund relies upon substantial transfers from the state’s general fund over the next five years – contributions from the general fund will be $76 million in 2012, increasing to $805 million in 2016; and contributions from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. However, there is no indication as to how New Jersey plans to find this money year after year without identifying new revenue. (This summer, PATWNJ announced substantial fare and toll increases to meet budget demands.)

1. Do you believe New Jersey will be able to meet the general fund transfers over the next five years? Y N
   Explain: ____________________________________________________________________________

2. Do you support increased funding for transportation? Y N
   Explain: ____________________________________________________________________________

3. Through Local Aid, municipalities can apply for and receive funding for a variety of infrastructure and safety projects on a competitive basis. Local Aid has generally been funded at $10 million annually. Do you believe this funding level to be adequate? Y N
   Explain: ____________________________________________________________________________
Roads and Bridges:

New Jersey has made progress in reducing the backlog of deficient bridges since it mandated a “fix-it-first” policy in 2000. “Fix-it-first” means existing road and bridges are repaired before new ones are built. But as of 2010, over 200 of New Jersey’s bridges and 50% of New Jersey’s roads remain in substantial need of repair. Spending on new roads and bridges has also increased in recent years.

1. How will you ensure that New Jersey is adhering to its “fix-it-first” policy?

   I will inquire as to the spending costs and investigate how as well as where the funds are being allocated to

NJ Transit:

Transit saw 247 million riders last year statewide, an increase of 10% since 2008, yet state support for the transit system has decreased. In 2004 nearly half, 49%, of the NJDOT Capital Construction Program was dedicated to NJ Transit. Since 2004, that amount has steadily decreased to a third, or 33%, in 2012.

1. Do you ride trains or buses? Y N  When and Where? Weekly, I ride buses to and from Hoboken. In addition, I take mass transit into Manhattan a few times per week.

2. What would you do to address the increasing demand for public transportation?

3. Do you think the current level of public transportation service in NJ is adequate? Y N  Explain: There need to be more timely arrivals and departures. In addition, more parking needs to be available at reasonable costs to motivate people to take mass transit.

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4 NJDOT FY2004 Capital Program http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/capital/tcp04f/
5 See footnote 4 above.
1. Will you promote smart growth planning and development in your district?

   Explain: 

2. Do you regularly walk or ride a bicycle? Y N 

   Where?

3. How will you address traffic safety in your district?

   Do you believe current traffic safety measures are adequate? Y N

   With pedestrains or cyclists? The total death count was 889.

4. In 2009, there were 549 fatal automobile crashes on New Jersey's roads. Of these, more than 70 were on NJ Transit corridors.

   Explain: 

5. If yes, what measures and/or projects would you promote to improve the cross-Hudson commute?

   Do you believe improvements to the cross-Hudson commute are necessary? Y N

   Tools on PATH and Hudson River crossings:

   Hudson River: The Lincoln Tunnel, Exclusive bus lanes and the Port Authority bus terminal are at capacity. In addition, this past month, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey raised rates and 

   NJ Transit continued:
Sustainable Communities continued:

2. In 2012, the nationally recognized Transit Village program will be defunded. The program provides small grants to help towns promote development near train and bus stations. Previous funding levels were between $1 and $3 million annually.

Will you support the restoration of funding for the Transit Village program?

Y ☑ N  If so, at what level? Again, I will require accountability from the appropriate state agency to ensure sound fiscal management in this matter.

Above & Beyond:

Is there anything else we should know about your goals regarding transportation?

If elected, I will immediately call for an investigation of the Port Authority concerning the toll hikes. Many of my residents in District 33 are commuters and I want to be their voice in demanding accountability from this agency. I will introduce legislation to audit the Port Authority every 6 months to ensure they are operating within their means and not undermining taxpayers.

Thank you for taking an interest in the future of New Jersey's infrastructure.