

2012 NY Legislature Candidate Survey on Transportation

Candidate Name: Julia Haich

District: NYS Assembly, 36th District

Party: R

Q: Roads, bridges, and transit systems are in a state of disrepair across the state. Would you support finding new revenues to help maintain and repair our existing road and bridge infrastructure and invest in our transit systems? If so, please suggest ideas.

A: The first order of business is to reduce waste and fraud. Shovel-ready may not have been shovel-ready but the delays in many of the existing projects is unconscionable. Penalties for not meeting construction and repair deadlines can at least get projects on track to completion. I would consider East River tolls to assist providing more funds for infrastructure investment. My plan would require a portion of these tolls to be dedicated to bridge repair and replacement (including the Kosciuszko Bridge replacement and work on the Gowanus which always seems to cause an excessive amount of traffic and idling). I would consider also voting for a reinstatement of the commuter tax as an additional source of revenue for New York City's infrastructure which is overburdened and in need of repair.

Q: The FYE 2013 New York State budget distributed the "long lines tax" according to population which helped support operations for over 130 transit providers across the state and provided an additional \$29.6 million for non-MTA transit systems. Do you believe this tax should be permanently redistributed across the state?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Q: Few projects symbolize the state's funding challenges better than the replacement of the Tappan Zee Bridge, the development of the I-287 corridor, and the struggle over whether or not to include transit in the project. Do you support finding ways to improve bus service in the corridor?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Q: There have been three MTA fare hikes since 2007, and another is slated for 2013. During this period, many subway and bus lines were reduced. The State contributes about 40% of the MTA's revenue through dedicated taxes, but those taxes will not generate enough

revenue for the agency in 2013. Would you support a proposal for new transit funding to relieve strain on the farebox or do you think fares should be raised?

- ☒ *I support a proposal for new transit funding.*
- ☐ *I support a fare hike.*
- ☐ *I support a mix of new revenues and higher fares and tolls.*

Q: Do you support the repeal of the Payroll Mobility Tax, which generates \$1.3 billion in revenues for the MTA? If you support repealing the tax, how would you address the ensuing budget gap?

A: It is uncertain if the current PMT will survive the appellate process in the courts, however assuming that it does I would not support the repeal of the Tax as it is an important part of the MTA Budget and has assisted in keeping fares down not just for New York City transit riders, but suburban commuters whose political leaders are the ones who have successfully challenged the law as implemented.

Q: The new federal transportation law, MAP-21, consolidated a number of programs that pay for projects to make biking and walking safer into the new Transportation Alternatives fund. The law also gives states the authority to transfer up to 50% of this funding to other transportation projects, such as roads and bridges. Do you think the state should transfer 50% of the money in this fund to pay for roads and bridges, or keep it in the fund to pay for biking and walking infrastructure?

A: I believe the state should keep the funds for biking and walking infrastructure.

Q: Across the country, red light and speeding camera enforcement technologies have been used to help police control driver behavior. Authorization for using these cameras in our communities is up to Albany legislators. Do you support the use of red light cameras? Do you support the use of speed cameras?

- ☐ *I support the use of red light cameras.*
- ☐ *I support the use of speed cameras.*
- ☒ *I support the use of both red light and speed cameras.*
- ☐ *I do not support the use of red light or speed cameras.*