



## 2011 Candidate Questionnaire: Transportation and Land Use Policy

### 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 York, New Jersey 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 approach 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 Long Island'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 Long Islanders 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](http://blog.tstc.org) and in our newsletter, *Mobilizing the Region*.

In order for ample time to distribute the results of the questionnaire to the voting public, please return the completed questionnaire to Ryan Lynch, [rlynch@tstc.org](mailto:rlynch@tstc.org), or 350 West 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 802, NY, NY 10001, no later than October 7, 2011.

Candidate/Elected Official's Name: Delia DeRiggi-Whitton

District Represented: LD 18

Contact Information: (417) 288-5128

Primary Contact and Title: Alana Glaubiger Campaign Manager

1. Please provide a brief overview of transportation initiatives that you have undertaken, or will undertake, as a Nassau County Legislator. If applicable, please list specific legislation, policies, or programs:

Nassau County residents deserve to have reliable, available, and affordable public transportation. As a Glen Cove City Councilwoman, I have worked to develop the Waterfront, which would include a ~~new~~ revitalized ferry to and from Glen Cove into Manhattan. As part of these ideals, I believe the Long Island Bus system should not be privatized.

2. Public transportation service is an integral component of Nassau County's economic strength and environmental well being. According to *Newsday*' reports and the MTA<sup>ii</sup>, ridership on the Long Island Rail Road has increased by approximately .02% from 2005 to 2010, although ridership over 2009 is down as a result of the weak economy. According to the LI Index<sup>iii</sup>, ridership on LI Bus increased by approximately 3.5% from 2000-2009, although ridership is down 6% over 2008 numbers because of the lagging economy. **Given these trends, how would you address increased ridership on public transportation across Long Island?**

We need to keep costs of transportation as low as we possibly can. Nassau County is going through an economic crisis, and in order to ensure that residents continue to use public transportation, they must be able to afford it in their budget. I think it would benefit the County if the MTA is not ~~allowed to exit of state~~ privatized, whereby costs would not be regulated.

3. The economic costs of traffic congestion in the New York metropolitan region was nearly \$11 million in 2009, and the cost to auto drivers was almost a \$1,000 per person over the same time period<sup>iv</sup>. **What measures and/or projects would you promote to reduce congestion on Nassau County's roadways?**

Communicating to the public all of the transit options available is the first step to reducing traffic congestion. The next is to educate Nassau County on the benefits of using public transportation ~~such as~~ such as reducing air pollution. Additionally, ensuring that public transportation is providing convenient access to major recreational and employment areas is key to getting individuals to use public transportation over driving.

4. According to the Fatality Analysis Reporting System<sup>v</sup>, which is maintained by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 86 pedestrians were killed in Nassau County from 2007-2009. In addition, a Tri-State analysis found that 11 cyclists were killed over this same time period, the second highest number of fatalities outside of NYC. **In light of these statistics, what measures would you propose to reduce these preventable fatalities on Nassau County roads?**

I would propose constructing more bike lanes and pedestrian crossings. Our residents should feel safe and be provided with safe conditions to travel. Additionally, law enforcement, such as the addition of more police officers ~~to~~ should be made more strict as to ensure that our residents are following the law so ~~that~~ everyone may remain safe.

5. Do you support development near transit stations or in the downtown area of your town or village?

Why or why not?

I do support development near transit stations and the downtown area of ~~my town~~ <sup>city</sup>, Glen Cove, because it helps to revitalize the area and bring more ~~residents~~ people into our community. Additionally, development of these areas lead to economic development which our whole County needs during this economic crisis.

6. Finally, please tell us whether you support or oppose the following transportation projects or policies:

*Privatization of Long Island Bus*

Support

Oppose

Don't Know

Additional comments:

*LIRR East Side Access connection to Grand Central Terminal*

Support

Oppose

Don't Know

Additional comments:

*Third Track on the LIRR Main Line*

**Support**

**Oppose**

**Don't Know**

Additional comments:

*Intermodal Truck to Rail center at Pilgrim State Hospital site*

**Support**

**Oppose**

**Don't Know**

Additional comments:

*Mixed-Use Development Project at the Nassau HUB*

**Support**

**Oppose**

**Don't Know**

Additional comments:

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<sup>i</sup> "Ridership Drops in Weak Economy," *Newsday*, 1/27/2010, Alfonso Castillo.

<sup>ii</sup> "Metropolitan Transportation Authority Annual Report Narrative 2010," page 5, Operations Section, MTA.

<sup>iii</sup> Long Island Index, Transportation Indicators, <http://www.longislandindex.org/Transit-Ridership.693.0.html>

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<sup>iv</sup> 2010 Urban Mobility Report, Texas Transportation Institute,  
[http://mobility.tamu.edu/ums/congestion\\_data/tables/newyo.pdf](http://mobility.tamu.edu/ums/congestion_data/tables/newyo.pdf)

<sup>v</sup> Fatality Analysis Reporting System, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, <http://www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov/States/StatesPedestrians.aspx>

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