



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 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, rylynch@tstc.org, or 350 West 31st Street, Suite 802, NY, NY 10001, no later than October 7, 2011.

Candidate/Elected Official's Name: KEVIN ABRAHAM S

District Represented: 1st DISTRICT - NASSAU

Contact Information: 516-359-1170

Primary Contact and Title: ROBIN WHEAT

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:

I HAVE FOUGHT AGAINST THE PRIVATIZATION
OF LI BUS. NASSAU RESIDENTS DESERVE
AN ADEQUATE SERVICE

2. Public transportation service is an integral component of Nassau County's economic strength and environmental well being. According to *Newsday*ⁱ reports and the MTAⁱⁱ, 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 Indexⁱⁱⁱ, 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 SECURE FOR FUNDING FOR
LI BUS AND NOT PRIVATIZE THE SYSTEMS

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^{iv}. **What measures and/or projects would you promote to reduce congestion on Nassau County's roadways?**

WE SHOULD ADVOCATE FOR STRONGER COMMUTING
SERVICES AND APPLY FOR FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE
GRANTS

4. According to the Fatality Analysis Reporting System^v, 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?**

THE RED LIGHT CAMERA INITIATIVE IS
A PROGRAM AIM TO REDUCE TRAFFIC FATALITIES.
THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN A SUCCESSFUL RESOURCE

5. Do you support development near transit stations or in the downtown area of your town or village?
Why or why not?

YES. MAKING OUR DOWNTOWNS VIABLE IS
THE KEY TO KEEP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN
NASSAU COUNTY

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:

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

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

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

^{iv} 2010 Urban Mobility Report, Texas Transportation Institute,
http://mobility.tamu.edu/ums/congestion_data/tables/newyo.pdf

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

