

## 2012 NY Legislature Candidate Survey on Transportation

**Candidate Name:** Cecilia Tkaczyk

**District:** NYS Senate, 36th District

**Party:** D, WF, G

**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 Thruway Authority is facing significant challenges in upcoming years - this includes \$200 million in debt service payments and nearly \$300 million in additional borrowing scheduled for 2012, not to mention potential increased costs to finance the Tappan Zee Bridge. No one wants to raise fares - particularly so close to a recession, so we need to take a long, hard look at the costliest impacts on our roads and bridges, look to transportation alternatives (particularly other means of freight carriage), and look to improving efficiencies. For example, one area where improved transparency and efficiencies appears most necessary - and most likely to generate increased revenue - is the Canal Corporation. As the Comptroller recently reported, the Canal Corporation will cost the Thruway Authority an additional \$436 million between 2013 and 2016, despite boating activity declining by nearly 33% since the Thruway Authority assumed control of the Canal.

**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: There are more rational ways to fund transit than the Payroll tax, which have been proposed for several years. The fairest is probably some form of congestion pricing, which would more accurately reflect and offset the impact being imposed on our transportation system.

**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.*