

## 2012 NY Legislature Candidate Survey on Transportation

**Candidate Name:** Russell C. Gallo

**District:** NYS Assembly, 45th District

**Party:** R, C

**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: I support finding ways to cut costs and attract new users to our public transportation systems which will in turn increase revenues. Any additional sources of revenue must be carefully explored before being implemented. I will not take money out of anyone's pocket unless it is absolutely necessary and only as a last resort.*

**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?

*No response.*

**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?

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*I support a proposal for new transit funding.*

☐

*I support a fare hike.*

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*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: Yes. This is a hidden tax that most New Yorkers don't even know exists. If the MTA is essential to New York State then NY State needs to fund it from the budget and not through hidden taxes and fees. The MTA is a bloated and somewhat unaccountable public authority. They waste millions of dollars through multiple departments that perform similar functions. By merging several of them together we can eliminate costs to users by reducing the number of executives needed to head each authority under the MTA umbrella. A full and transparent audit of the MTA and all of the authorities it oversees is needed. We also waste millions on bike lanes and other unused alternatives to public transportation. That money would be better spent repairing bridges, roads, and funding public transportation. Also, the elephant in the room is pension costs for MTA employees (as well as others). Until we get those under control the MTA and the state will be in a fiscal mess in perpetuity.*

**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 transfer 50% of the fund to pay for roads and bridges.*

**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?**

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*I support the use of red light cameras.*

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*I support the use of speed cameras.*

☐

*I support the use of both red light and speed cameras.*

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*I do not support the use of red light or speed cameras.*