

## TRANSIT COMMITTEES HEAR LVT PROPOSALS

Felice Gruskin, president of the New York City Incentive Taxation League and founder of Transit Riders In Pursuit (TRIP), proposed a land value tax surcharge as a means of paying for mass transit service at two December hearings on proposed fare increases.

Ms. Gruskin testified at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's public hearings and also spoke before the Permanent Citizen's Advisory Committee to the MTA.

She called for the imposition of a land value surcharge of "no greater than six percent" which would raise revenues of \$840 million.

"Compare this to the 18 percent general Corporate Tax Surcharge which currently nets less than \$180 million," she said at the MTA hearing on December 6. "The current surcharge impacts badly on the economy, whereas the land value tax is economically sound, equitable and easy to administer."

The same message was delivered to the PCAC, a 35-member board of advisors appointed by the governor. The committee was "intrigued" by the idea, according to a staff member and planned to "explore the feasibility of such a plan."

TRIP is a consumer activist organization which is "dedicated to the improvement of mass transit," according to Ms. Gruskin. "Chief among our concerns is that the cost of improving service ought to be absorbed by those who would benefit the most from improved service -- the landowners."

## NEW SOURCEBOOK ON TRANSIT FINANCING

Mary Rawson has just completed an annotated bibliography called, "Transit: The Nature and Role of Localized Benefits." Available from The Centre for Transportation Studies, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada V6T 1W5 for \$5, the guide provides a wealth of literature on value-capture mechanisms to fund mass transit systems through LVT.

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