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Earlier today, UTRC hosted a panel discussion to ask mayoral candidates about their transportation policies. In attendance was Sal Albanese, John Liu, Bill Thompson, and Anthony Weiner on the Democratic panel (Christine Quinn and Bill de Blasio were no shows),



Democratic Mayoral Candidates: Sal Albanese, John Liu, Bill Thompson, and Anthony Weiner (left to right)

and Adolfo Carrión, John Catsimatidis, Joe Lhota, and George McDonald on the Republican / Independent panel.



Republican and Independent Mayoral Candidates: Adolfo Carrión, John Catsimatidis, Joe Lhota, and George McDonald (left to right)

Here were some the highlights:

1. Most candidates support expanding SelectBusService and Express Bus Service in the outer boroughs to provide transit to underserved areas; however none mentioned creating exclusive busways to improve this service.
2. Anthony Weiner and Paul Steely White (of Transportation Alternatives) got into a friendly debate about cycling in the city. After Weiner mocked the polls indicating support for cycling, White said that bicycles poll higher than the mayoral candidates in front of him.
3. Sal Albanese and Joe Lhota both explicitly support the city investing in mass transit infrastructure. Lhota believes that the N/R trains should be extended to Staten Island.
4. Joe Lhota was the only candidate to bring other transit modes into the discussion, such as Light Rail on Staten Island's Northern and Western shores. He also supports construction Metro North Railroad stations at Co-Op City and Parkchester.

**The Question**

Where do you get your information during emergencies? (select all that apply)

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5. John Catsimatidis said that another subway line would never be built in our lifetime, but supports constructing "aboveways" (monorails) throughout the city.
6. The Democratic candidates disapprove of the "Taxi of the Future."
7. Bill Thompson supports a commuter tax, but almost all of the other candidates believe that it is unattainable.
8. Sal Albanese believes that New York City Transit should be under city control. Anthony Weiner said that the city needs more control of the MTA board.
9. There was a lot of discussion of tolling in the city, with candidates divided about additional tolls in the city, particularly on the East River bridges.
10. Anthony Weiner noted that the city pays \$7000 per student that takes a school bus. While candidates disagreed about labor costs, many mentioned that inefficient routing was a large reason for the high costs of school buses.

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Democratic Mayoral Candidate Anthony Weiner fields questions from the press after the panel.

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