

# Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free

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## **Statement from Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free Spokesman Joshua Bienstock on \$35 Tax Estimate**

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“New Yorkers are waking up to the news that it may soon cost them an extra \$35 to travel south of 60th Street in Manhattan, if the congestion pricing tax moves forward. It would devastate New York’s economic recovery from Covid-19, make traffic worse north of 60th Street, reroute carbon belching truck traffic into low income communities, and break the backs of financially struggling New Yorkers living in transit deserts.

“The proposed tax is unnecessary and counterproductive, as Assemblyman Michael Lawler pointed out so well in Sunday’s [Daily News](#). A \$1 trillion infrastructure bill is poised to pass Congress, and New York, which sends more money to Washington than it gets back every year — losing more than every other state in the rate of exchange — should be able to get money from it for MTA capital projects. Stimulus funds are also available.

“On top of all the other damage the proposed congestion pricing scheme would do, a half billion dollar in revenue would be required for plate readers alone, and infamous contractor and union deals would chew up more dollars. There’s a reason the most [expensive mile of subway track](#) is that laid in New York City.

“The more New Yorkers learn what the congestion pricing tax would mean, the more they’ll seek alternatives. And alternatives are there.”

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**Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free** represents a diverse coalition of civic, business, and labor organizations and businesses throughout New York City. We share a simple vision: to keep our city congestion tax free. Our coalition opposes the imposition of tolls to enter the City's (Manhattan) Central Business District ("CBD") via toll readers installed on City Streets or on the City's FREE East River and Harlem River Bridges. Our members previously opposed the \$8 fee (\$21 for trucks) that then Mayor Bloomberg proposed to impose on drivers entering Manhattan below 86th Street and all subsequent iterations of so-called congestion pricing, including the most current scheme that proponents advocate charging drivers as much as \$25 per day (\$125 per week; over \$500 monthly; more than \$6,000 annually) to enter the CBD! Our members urge New Yorkers to deliver a simple message to our legislators: "Say no to any toll-tax fee scheme that seeks to charge us to enter Manhattan's CBD." Many supporters and coalition members propose alternatives that better address traffic issues in our entire City and provide new and fair sources to support mass transit.