

Keep NYC Free

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To the editor:

Your editorial about a congestion pricing tax in Manhattan ([Give green light to tolling plan, Oct. 2](#)) fails to consider a number of important factors that should halt congestion pricing in its tracks.

Long Islander working class drivers and small businesses will get no benefit and will be burdened with another yet another cost from a senseless congestion pricing tax, which would also reroute carbon-belching truck traffic into low-income communities. They should oppose the tax.

Taxing trips below 60th Street also flies in the face of efforts to revitalize midtown and downtown commercial districts hit by Covid vacancies. These are state economic engines that we need up and running. Why not instead lobby for MTA funding from stimulus dollars and the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill when it finally passes? It would save an estimated half billion dollars that setting up the camera system would cost.

In London, where a congestion tax was put into effect, congestion didn't end; it simply moved from one area of the city to another. In addition, commuter vehicles aren't the problem; for-hire cars such as Uber and Lyft are the culprit. Private automobile trips into Manhattan's central business district have been [declining](#) for two decades.

There are more equitable, fairer and progressive ways to raise the money.

Sincerely,

Joshua E. Bienstock