

# Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free

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FHWA – NY Division  
RE: CBDTP  
Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building  
11A, Clinton Ave, Suite 719  
Albany, NY 12207  
via email: [CBDTP@dot.gov](mailto:CBDTP@dot.gov)

Dear Administrator Marquis:

By every measure the regressive, inequitable, unfair and unsustainable congestion tax fails on every level.

Despite its name it achieves nothing of any consequence with no relief on congestion.

It even falls short of its claims concerning the environment. The finding of no significant environmental impact (“FONSI”) and reliance on an Environmental Assessment (“EA”) remains flawed. The demise of Westway involved protecting snail darters. With this scheme, the adverse impact clearly involved human lives in disadvantaged communities in the City of New York

Some misguided folks got into their heads a need to eliminate passenger cars in Manhattan, mostly south of 60th Street by imposing a tax on entry that effectively eliminates all but the uber-wealthy if this toll-tax scheme that requires a net revenue ultimately prevails.

Policymakers totally failed us by not considering alternative revenue sources that likely better meet the funding goals of the program, thus improve public transit and thus induce those relying on cars to opt to use transit.

The scheme imposes a *de facto* paywall around the “Zone” which will be deleterious to the local, state and national economy, as a time when much activity within the zone (and outside) still needs to recover, may in fact need to evolve in a fashion similar to downtown NYC after 9/11.

The entire project fails to resource improvements in transit deserts. Neither the Capital Plan or the MTA budget includes any money to increase bus service, the only means available to increase public transit capacity.

Additionally, the adverse effect on low-income drivers associated with the cost of any new toll-tax scheme would constitute a disproportionately high and adverse effect.

This tax scheme proposes no measures that address asthma where it impacts most: air pollution hot spots including The South Bronx, East Harlem, South Jamaica and Bedford- Stuyvesant.

Long Island working-class drivers and small businesses will get no benefit and will be burdened with yet another senseless cost, which would also reroute carbon-belching truck traffic into low-income communities.

Again Congestion Pricing fails on every level! A FONSI will not suffice. A complete Environmental Impact Statement is required.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Corey Bearak  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free  
KeepNYCFree.com

c. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg via email [secretarybuttigieg@dot.gov](mailto:secretarybuttigieg@dot.gov)  
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