

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free

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MTA BURNING CASH ON CONSULTANTS AND OVERENGINEERED MEGAPROJECTS WHILE NEW YORKERS GET SOCKED WITH REGRESSIVE \$23 CONGESTION PRICING TAX: GROUP

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*Enough Capital Project Waste to Float \$15 Billion in Borrowing and
Nix Congestion Pricing Tax*



*New York-Sept. 19...*The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) continues to burn through potentially hundreds of millions of unnecessary dollars on consultants, fantastical project plans, and wasteful business decisions while working-class New Yorkers, struggling to pay rent and to put food on the table, prepare to get socked with a new \$23 Congestion Pricing Tax to enter Manhattan south of 60th Street by car, the group Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free today charged.

The group pointed to studies on MTA wastefulness, one by New York University and one by the New York Post, showing that, among other wasteful practices, the MTA:

- Spent twice as much on subway consultants than it did to build the Second Avenue Subway tunnel;
- Spent more than \$3 billion on outside consulting and engineering firms in recent years;

- Gives outside consultants no financial guidelines in designing upcoming projects;
- Plans to implement “mega-projects” that include at least \$2.3 billion in oversized or over-engineered recommendations;
- Unnecessarily added \$320 million in cost to a Long Island Railroad project for a power system far larger than needed;
- Designed needlessly long subway platforms for its planned \$5.5 billion interborough subway between Brooklyn and Queens;
- Dug platform caverns twice the size of what was needed, and engaged three separate escalator manufacturers to outfit three subway stations;
- Continues to spend on track miles multiples of what any other city on earth spends, and
- Fails to address fare beaters that cost New Yorkers tens of millions of dollars in lost revenues each year.

“The MTA is arguably the most wasteful local agency in America, and New Yorkers are sick and tired of bailing it out,” said Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free spokesman Joshua Bienstock. “Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams could produce far more revenue for MTA upgrades simply by running the agency competently. Indeed, the level of capital project waste identified could easily float the \$15 billion in borrowing for which the Congestion Pricing Tax is being created. As it is, the MTA is a cash sieve, with hardworking New Yorkers asked to pour more and more of their money into it each year. The Congestion Pricing Tax is just another way to pick our pockets as a way of hiding the incompetence that is the MTA.”

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[Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free](#), a diverse coalition of civic, business, and labor organizations and businesses throughout New York City, argues that implementing a tax on vehicles traveling south of 60th Street in Manhattan will, among other things, permanently damage efforts to revitalize the two districts.