

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free

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PUBLIC DESERVES ANSWERS FROM PROFLIGATE MTA

Where Is All Our Money Going?

Group Calls on MTA Chairman to Give Full Accounting

*New York-Oct. 11...*The perennially wasteful Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) needs to explain to New Yorkers — in detail — how it spent billions of dollars provided to the agency in recent years from city, state, and federal taxpayers, the group Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free today demanded.

The MTA, which was handed \$15 billion in federal pandemic money, plus an extra \$1.1 billion per year through the State's payroll taxes — on top of its \$19.3 billion annual State budget allotment — is now warning taxpayers that upcoming projects will cost up to 50 percent more than budgeted. New York famously has the highest transportation costs in the world already, the group noted. The MTA is also planning to implement a \$23 congestion pricing tax on vehicles traveling south of 60th Street in Manhattan because the MTA is again crying broke.

“The MTA can make money disappear faster than 1,000 three-card-monte dealers in Times Square,” said Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free spokesman Joshua Bienstock. “No matter how much money we fork over, the MTA comes back with excuses and an open palm. It's time for MTA Chairman Janno Lieber to explain exactly where all this money is going, and he should do it in an open forum.”

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free argues that a Congestion Pricing Tax is unfair and unnecessary. The tax would disproportionately target lower-income New Yorkers, increase dangerous particulate matter in inner city communities already struggling with some of the highest asthma rates in America, and it would slow the revival of Manhattan's core business districts. The City and State have reported that hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenues have been lost following workplace changes prompted by the Covid 19 Pandemic.

“If the MTA was run half as well as transportation systems in London or Paris taxpayers would be receiving refund checks rather than new tax bills from the MTA,” Mr. Bienstock continued. “After decades of gross incompetence, the MTA needs to come clean. Where is all our money going, Mr. Lieber?”

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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.*