

New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax

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NEW YORKERS FILE CLASS ACTION SUIT DEMANDING FULL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY ON CONGESTION PRICING TAX

Seek Injunction Against Launch of Controversial Program, Scheduled to Begin late Spring

Plaintiffs Include Elected Leaders, Alarmed Citizens from Across the City

New York – Jan. 18....Irate New Yorkers from all five boroughs today announced the filing of a class action lawsuit demanding that a full Environmental Impact Study (EIS) be conducted before any congestion price tax scheme moves forward. A \$15 daily congestion pricing tax (\$22.50 without EZ Pass) is scheduled to go into effect this Spring on drivers entering Manhattan south of 60th Street.

The class action suit — [available here](#) — includes plaintiffs from across the city who would be materially affected by the controversial tax. Plaintiffs include former and current elected officials, community leaders, and concerned individuals. The suit will be filed in the Southern District of New York United States District Court today.

“New Yorkers are rightly outraged by an ill-conceived congestion pricing tax that will worsen air quality, create new traffic woes, and pick the pockets of New Yorkers who can least afford it,” said retired State Supreme Court Justice and former Manhattan Councilwoman Kathryn Freed. “The MTA’s own studies show that congestion pricing will redirect carbon-belching trucks into communities already suffering from some of the highest youth asthma rates in the nation; indeed as our complaint states, ‘ residents of the Lower East Side, the South Bronx and East Harlem currently experience poor air quality and resulting health impacts.’ A project of this magnitude simply cannot move forward without a full EIS. The stakes are too important.”

The Congestion Pricing Tax was signed into law in 2019 by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who has since called for its repeal. Today’s class action suit joins at least two other lawsuits — one by the State of New Jersey and one by the United Federation of Teachers and Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella — to stop congestion pricing in its tracks.

In addition to increased traffic and air quality concerns, grassroots plaintiffs who live in and outside the “zone” will argue that a congestion pricing paywall will damage small family-owned businesses, create medical hardships, and effectively strand hundreds of thousands of working-class New Yorkers living in transit deserts.

“Environmental Impact Studies are required in New York for virtually every major project, but the MTA found a way to skirt those requirements because it didn’t want the public to know the true impact of their plan,” said Joshua Bienstock from the group Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free. “That’s outrageous. Everyday New Yorkers have a right to know what the MTA will be doing to their air quality, livelihoods, and health care needs.”

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New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax is a coalition of residents from diverse neighborhoods around New York City who have initiated a lawsuit to demand that the Federal Highway Administration perform an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to show the real impacts of Congestion Pricing (CP) on our communities. The federal government and the Metropolitan Transit Authority rushed an incomplete Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS) instead of applying the more extensive and comprehensive EIS. An EIS would properly examine the three E’s: Environmental Impacts, Economic Hardship and Equity.