

I own a small business in the congestion tax zone

I fear the damage this tax will do to my customers and how many I will lose because of it.

In the London tax zone which was nowhere near as punitive or regressive, there was an economic dropoff of 30% the first year. Many businesses were forced to close or move out of the zone.

I will have to cut and layoff many of my 67 full time employees as will many other NYC businesses – because of this tax. We don't have the luxury of being the MTA which has never been on time or on budget for any study or project in the last 40 years but just steal from regular people to make up for their incompetence.

At a time when the city still hasn't recovered from Gov. Kathy Hochul's business-killing policies, to add this tax would be devastating.

There are four (4) empty restaurant spaces on my block that have been closed since Covid.

What is this congestion tax?

Will it help congestion?

The MTA and the Federal Highway Administration's corrupt and flawed study show that, while there might be a small decrease in traffic in some areas, there will be a large increase in traffic to avoid the congestion tax district.

Is it about pollution?

No it will not reduce the number of cars on the roads; it will just redirect some of the traffic to lower-income areas as drivers avoid the tax zone. Also, if this toll-tax scheme was about pollution, there would be an exemption or reduced toll-tax for fully electric or certain hybrid cars

In reality, this is just a scam by the incompetent MTA to tax the regular people of New York

Its leaders should all be fired, at the least held accountable for their waste and corruption.

Why impose this tax 24/7? Why does it have a full rate long after the traffic congestion ends approximately 5:00 p.m, the way the London zone does. This kills all the evening business of restaurants and Broadway. The customers who no

longer come to work in the tolling zone daily will stay away; restaurants and Broadway face a significant loss of patronage as well.

Rather than making the subways safe or reliable the MTA thinks it can tax us into risking our lives or wasting it away with train and bus delays etc.

They say this toll tax will raise \$1 billion net to pay off borrowing \$15 billion for improvements.

How can we trust them? They have always been raising tolls and fares and never improved anything. This time they will improve the system?

We have to get all these garbage politicians who refuse to repeal this toll tax out of office ASAP.

--Steven Traube, owner, The Wall Street Grill.