

New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Bill O'Reilly, 212-396-9117

Bill@novemberteam.com

Statement from Susan Lee, President–New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax

New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax applauds Mr. David Mack's courage to vote against the Congestion Pricing Plan. However, it is unfortunate the rest of the MTA Board refused to do the right thing for New Yorkers by passing the Congestion Pricing Plan.

New York– March 27, 2024... Throughout the meeting, the public heard from various board members how this regressive, inequitable, unfair and unsustainable congestion toll-tax scheme will improve public transportation for New Yorkers while at the same time, relieving congestion. What was once called the Central Business District has been renamed “Congestion Relief Zone” because the MTA realized that the area below 60th street is not entirely a business district. Whatever name they want to use, the bottomline is that Congestion Pricing will achieve nothing of any consequence with relieving congestion. It even falls short of its claims concerning the environment; instead it negatively impacts public health. Moreover, **its implementation will increase everyday costs of goods and services for small businesses and all New Yorkers whether they take public transit, ride a bike, walk, rely on for hire vehicles or drive a car.**

New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax will continue its litigation demanding a thorough Environmental Impact Study because Environmental Justice Areas, including the Lower East Side, were ignored in the inadequate Environmental Assessment. The negative economic impact on businesses located south of 60th Street, an arbitrary demarcation, has not been thoroughly analyzed. Businesses in Chinatown, Little Italy, Midtown, Broadway will all be negatively impacted. The Environmental Assessment used data from 2015-2019, pre-pandemic lockdown which is not representative of the realities of today.

As the state legislature approaches its deadline to adopt the State budget, they still can remedy this travesty.

And of course it all remains illegal under state and federal law as the courts will find.

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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.