

New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Bill@novemberteam.com

Statement on MTA's Plan to Charge Marathon Runners for Crossing the Verrazano Bridge by Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free Spokesman Joshua Bienstock

April 3, 2024

“The most wasteful transportation agency in America now wants to [charge New York City Marathon runners](#) for crossing the Verrazano Bridge. Never mind that the Marathon yields millions of dollars in tax revenues for the City, or that the MTA is losing more than \$700 million annually in fare evasion.

“The MTA's attempt to squeeze \$700,000 each year from the New York City Marathon is the latest, and arguably most absurd, MTA money grab since the Congestion Pricing Tax was proposed. The MTA received billions of dollars in federal bail out money during Covid, yet they now want more. They blow through tax dollars on ridiculous studies and inefficiencies, while hardworking New Yorkers struggle to hang on. It's no wonder that New York pays [seven times more per track mile](#) than the second most expensive transportation system in the world (Paris.)

“New Yorkers have had it with the MTA's perennially incompetent leadership. The agency deserves every bit of ridicule it's receiving today. What's next? Charging holiday shoppers for walking in midtown? Don't laugh. It's not beyond them.”

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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.