

KEEP NYC CONGESTION TAX FREE

keepnycfree.com

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STATEMENT BY WALTER MCCAFFREY ON *TRAFFIC ON THE BRAIN*

In “Traffic on the Brain” on the [web](#) and in its “City Section,” The New York Times invites “ideas for treating congestion” from its readers. Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free welcomes the opportunity for the public to comment. We also point out that the report, “Alternative Approaches to Traffic Congestion Mitigation in the Central Business District involves more than just meter hikes; the Times should acknowledge as its own October 12 news story covered that report offered a substantial set of recommendations -- a holistic approach -- that to date have withstood criticism.

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free also would welcome a healthy discussion on the the problems associated with traffic congestion in Manhattan's Central Business District and the entire city and how the various proposals to address these conditions would work. For example the City plan – essentially and end run around tolling the currently free East River crossings – according to the public record -- would provide at best \$300 million out of \$620 million the city asserts this tax program would raise for mass transit projects. This is after some \$240 million in annual operating costs and \$104 million the MTA expects to use for new service operations get deducted from the annual take. So as a revenue measure with less than 50% of the monies collected going towards transit projects, the city plan just fails dramatically.

If revenue is the goal, look to other means. Many preferable alternatives exists just waiting for policymakers to consider them.

The statement presented to its readers essentially perpetrates a bias in the question because the simplification, notes not at all the inefficient funding scheme outlined above. And its exorbitant costs extend beyond the system's annual operation to its construction. The Times has not really -- even when it covered Alternative Approaches --given any attention to these compelling facts and Times readers (print and web) who do not take the steps to research further lack that info. Thus, as a public service, Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free recommends Times readers peruse the information readily available at KeepNYCFree.com. In addition to the Alternative Approaches report, this includes reports on asthma impacts and analyses of the federal funding requirements. Most important, the section, “What Congestion Taxers Do Not Want You To Know,” sets forth the inconvenient truths about the ill-considered scheme.

New Yorkers want and deserve a cost-effective workable plan as detailed in Alternative Approaches that will more effectively meet the need to alleviate congestion – and will do so at a lower cost. This makes much greater sense than a controversial, regressive, exorbitant and complex congestion pricing scheme, especially in the face of better alternatives.