

KEEP NYC CONGESTION TAX FREE

keepnycfree.com

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CONGESTION TAX WOULD PUT LABOR OUT IN THE COLD

2nd Truth: City Hall's Congestion Scheme Would Privatize Jobs & Waive "Buy American"

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free announced the Second *Truth About* the City congestion tax plan to assist the public, their elected officials and the members of the commission as they move to a more deliberative stage: The City plan relies on privatization of the construction and operation of the congestion tax infrastructure, ignores prevailing wage provisions and seeks a waiver of "Buy America" provisions for all system procurement. While the focus has been on traffic mitigation and revenue raising, these two aspects of the plan receive almost no attention.

The City plans seeks a "Buy America" waiver for congestion pricing technology procurement.[source: Urban Partnership Agreement Application P.24 (June 22, 2007)] This represents a significant expenditure to spend abroad. This may also allow an end run around the use of trade union workers in the installation of the technology. It also is anti-American worker and a disinvestment in the American economy.

The City proposes to privatize the construction and operation of the congestion pricing system: "The City will request authority from the State Legislature to engage a private vendor in a Design-Build-Operate-Maintain (DBOM) contract to deliver the pricing infrastructure and operate the system. [Source Variable Pricing Program document p.17) The city clearly intends for a private build and operation of the congestion pricing system: "Should the City's plan or similar pricing plan be approved, the City anticipates contracting, with one entity to design, build, operate and maintain the program." (See RFEI bottom of page 3, p.4 of the PDF – since the document is no longer available on NYC.gov, please contact Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free for further information.). In fact, privatization represents an anti-labor measure that allows its proponents' contractors to avoid hiring skilled and professional workers in trade unions to line their (contractors') pockets. The RFP also fails to require prevailing wage and "no-contest" (of worker organizing) provisions which protect workers in major development and public works projects.

These anti-worker provisions, raised by Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free in its testimonies to the NYC Traffic Congestion Mitigation Commission, make it all the more important to look at alternatives proposed by [Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free](http://KeepNYCFree.com) and others that reduce traffic congestion more effectively and fairly and also raise much more revenue for transit projects. [Alternatives Approaches](#) and other ideas may be found at KeepNYCFree.com.

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free offers this "Truth About...." series to correct common misinformation about the issues and inform the public and decision-makers about the reality and promote workable alternatives to the congestion tax. The first truth, announced with this series, concerned the false claim in the fact sheet on the congestion tax proponents' website. As a public service, Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free will explore the issues and share further commentaries through this "Truth About..." series over the next several weeks.