

KEEP NYC CONGESTION TAX FREE

keepnycfree.com

CONTACT: Corey Bearak, 516 343-6207 or 718 343-6779

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, November 20, 2007

CONGESTION TAX DOES NOT FOOL NEW YORKERS 3rd Truth: The Public Knows Better on City's Congestion Scheme

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free announced the Third *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: Just as the polls today through the past Spring and Summer indicate the widespread opposition to the city's proposed congestion tax, New Yorkers made clear their opposition to the tax at the hearings held in each of the five boroughs held by the NYC Traffic Congestion Mitigation Commission.

In fact, the lack of support for the congestion tax at the hearing mirrored the further erosion of support evidenced by the most recent Q-Poll, particularly when one notes that the proponents dispatched a team to testify at almost every hearing. In contrast Keep NYC Congestion tax free only testified at two of the five hearings and each testimony was different, not a basic redux as the various proponents' staffers delivered.

More than one-half, 56% (73), who spoke to the tax opposed it. 22.5% (36) of 160 speakers at the five commission hearings in the boroughs supported the tax; 22 expressed caveats and 29 spoke to other issues. In Manhattan, only 16% (nine of 53 speakers) supported the tax. 14 opposed it, 19 spoke to other concerns and nine expressed strong caveats. In Queens, 10 – eight from proponent organizations – spoke for the tax, 15 clearly opposed the tax (and this does not include CB8Q's intended no delivered by Community Board 7Q which also opposed the tax) and one spoke for telecommuting. In the Bronx – on Halloween – less than a fourth, five, spoke for the tax, nine opposed, six expressed caveats, and one spoke on another issue. In Brooklyn less than a quarter, eight of 36 speakers, wanted the tax. 21 opposed it. Four gave caveats and three spoke on other issues or proposals. In Staten Island only four of 26 who testified wanted the tax; 14 opposed it, three expressed caveats and five spoke to other concerns.

Today's recent poll, shows an increase in opposition to 61-33 from 57-36 in August and 52-41 in July. In this latest survey, voters in Queens oppose congestion pricing 65-29% in Queens; in Brooklyn 63-31%; in The Bronx 70-24%; in Staten Island 63-34% and even Manhattanites opposed it 47-46%. The opposition held and even further despite the multi-million dollar multi-media campaign waged by tax supporters. Voters, including mass transit users, opposed the congestion tax, 56 – 37% according to its May poll.