

KEEP NYC CONGESTION TAX FREE

keepnycfree.com

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

For Immediate Release: Monday, December 3, 2007

UNFAIR BILLIONAIRE/MILLIONAIRE AID PLAN TAX EXEMPTION FOR SUPER RICH NEEDS DERAILEMENT Congestion Pricing Reduction from 86th Street to 60th Street favors wealthy

The reported plan to exempt the wealthiest of New Yorkers from paying the congestion tax smacks of the height of hypocrisy and is grossly unfair, according to Walter L. McCaffrey of Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free: “So now they want working and middle class New Yorkers to pay the tax while super wealthy get a tax-free zone created for them. Talk of special interests!” McCaffrey's comments follows reports that The NYC Traffic Mitigation Commission is now considering exempting billionaires and millionaires who live on Park Avenue and Fifth Avenue from paying the congestion tax, but they will continue to charge residents and businesses north of 60th Street who need to enter the zone that extended north to 86th Street under the city's original plan.

“To soak the working and middle class and leave the super rich to run around scot-free smacks of class bias that must end and end now! The (NYC traffic mitigation) commission needs to reject any talk of plans that exacerbate unfairness and inefficiency. New Yorkers want a plan that addresses congestion and provides revenues for mass transit projects. The City plan and this new variant that works as a public assistance plan for the barons of greed provide no real relief and creates a drainpipe that sieves away resources needed for mass transit projects.

“Under this apparent revision the billionaire driving to the Hamptons or a weekend in Connecticut or the Jersey shore pays nothing; meanwhile the West Side musician who carts around his equipment performing for the elderly in senior centers on the Lower East Side pays double - \$8 instead of \$4 under the original plan. And what about the business on 72nd Street that delivers to East 23rd Street. They now pay the \$8.

Stop carving out billionaires and millionaires who live on Park and Fifth Avenues from paying a tax while screwing over the regular folks who live within their means in place like Hells Kitchen or own a small business on Amsterdam Avenue but must deliver to their customers in the new zone. This outrage must stop. They must drop these these giveaways to the super wealthy.

Instead, New Yorkers seek a focus on sound, fair, cost-efficient and effective measures to relieve congestion and provide resources for mass transit.” The [Alternative Approaches](#) plan proposed by Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free does just that. Coalition partners also outlined additional resource opportunities. This variant of the city plan is more snarled than any traffic pattern the Department of Transportation could ever fix. residents will now have to foot the entire bill for this flawed plan, which just prove once again how arrogant and unfair this pricing scheme truly is.