

# KEEP NYC CONGESTION TAX FREE

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## CONGESTION TAX – ONLY FOR CITY RESIDENTS 6<sup>th</sup> Truth: Live Outside the City, Pay No Congestion Tax

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free announced the Sixth *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: Among commuters into Manhattan only those from the four boroughs outside Manhattan get to pay the congestion tax.

A new analysis released yesterday (December 11) by the New York City Independent Budget Office (IBO) makes clear that non-City residents comprise a majority of commuters into the proposed congestion zone. This new finding follows the analysis in the fourth Truth that noted how the wealthy out of town commuters get a pass on the congestion tax from the toll offsets in the city plan. As the IBO notes, “only 45.5 percent of motor vehicle commuters to the zone lived in the city—18.7% in Queens, 11.4% in Brooklyn, 9% in the Bronx, 4.5% in Staten Island, and 1.8% in Manhattan.” Is not something amiss with a City plan that almost exclusively taxes some 122,000 city residents who drive but EXEMPTS the nearly 150,000 drivers from New Jersey, Long Island, the northern suburbs, Connecticut and Pennsylvania.

Drivers into the zone from outside the city had median incomes of \$63,776 vs \$41,209 for city residents, according to IBO's review of census data. IBO did not differentiate income by boroughs which should be lower than the \$41,209 citywide number and closer to the \$32,379 median income for in-city non driver commuters. (IBO actually explains the incomes for motorists when it notes that motorists are 3 years older in median age than non drivers [43 v. 40] and more likely to be married – reflecting many two-income households [68.1% v 50.1%] and to live in family households [85.6% v 77%].)

The IBO findings make plain the inherent UNFAIRNESS of the city plan's proposed congestion tax. IBO did not disclose income data by borough which will further make clear how unfair the congestion tax is on residents of Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and The Bronx. We urge they conduct a further review and disclose the borough income data. We further urge IBO to look at non-commuter driving into the zone and the impacts on those who drive not to work but for health care or recreation purposes.

In our fourth Truth, we noted: “Outerborough driver households earn less than half (43.8%) of Manhattan car households. Many outerborough seniors and others rely on hospital and other medical care in Manhattan and now face an additional tax for seeking that care.”

The IBO concludes: “Of course, the group of workers who would pay the congestion pricing fee would differ somewhat from the current population of drivers.” This comment discreetly highlights that city residents pay while most non-city drivers will not pay and that inherent unfairness remains.

Previous Truths: #[1](#) *City's Congestion Tax does not meet supporters' claims;*  
#[2](#) *City's Congestion Scheme Would Privatize Jobs and Waive Buy American;*  
#[3](#) *The Public Knows Better on City's Congestion Scheme;*  
#[4](#) *The Unfair Congestion Tax;*  
#[5](#) *Just Not the Season.*