

# KEEP NYC CONGESTION TAX FREE

[keepnycfree.com](http://keepnycfree.com)

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## CONGESTION TAX – EAST RIVER TOLLS: THE ULTIMATE NYC DRIVER TAX 7<sup>th</sup> Truth: Congestion Tax – East River Tolls give a free-pass to non-residents

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free announced the Seventh *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 Congestion tax finally gets exposed as the beard for East River bridge tolls that give a free ride to everyone but city residents. How absurd?

Discussions of East River Bridge tolls make clear that the congestion tax was always about imposing this most unfair of taxes on city residents. Just as the congestion tax gives a pass to most suburbanites and the out of state commuters to Manhattan, bridge tolls on the East River require city residents to pay up even more.

The latest data indicates that some 60% of all private vehicles (autos, taxis, commuter vans and trucks) entering and leaving the central business district in 2005 did so via the 60th Street Sector (cross street east and west of Central Park and including Central Park Drives, 47%) and or from New Jersey (13%). Those entering via Brooklyn and Queens accounted for about 23% and 17%, of the total number of private vehicles, respectively.

A 2003 Komanoff Study found City residents would pay 78% of the East River Bridge toll revenue would be from NYC residents [Brooklyn 33%, Queens 24%, Manhattan 10%, Staten Island 8%, The Bronx 3%] Suburbanites and out of towners who contribute mightily to CBD traffic pay less than a quarter of the tolls (22%) [Nassau-Suffolk 18% (Nassau 13%, Suffolk 5%), NJ 4%].

Based on the percentage splits indicated above, a 500 million revenue estimate for East River Tolls, would tax New York City residents will pay \$390 million led by Brooklyn, with \$165 million and followed by Queens with \$120 million and Manhattan at \$50 million.

Long Island residents from Nassau and Suffolk Counties would pay \$90 million and New Jersey residents (Bergen, Hudson and Essex Counties) will pay \$20 million.

Further, Komanoff report estimates 47 million annual E. River bridge trips involve commuting; these represent “**one-third of all East River bridge car trips are for commuting.**” The remaining 94 million auto trips qualify as non-work auto trips. Think visits to doctors and other medical appointments, recreation, shopping etc.

[Alternative Approaches](#), proposed by Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free, allows a non-intrusive, low-cost (almost no cost) to build and operate plan to impact congestion and raise needed revenues.

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.*  
#[6](#) *Live Outside the City, Pay No Congestion Tax*