

KEEP NYC CONGESTION TAX FREE

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CONGESTION TAX – TOP DOWN SCHEME MASKED INSIDE “GREEN” PLAN 9th Truth: Congestion Tax – Avoid the Pit Inside a Sweet Fruit

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free announces the ninth *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 manner in which City Hall pronounced its scheme – a large pit wrapped in a sweet fruit followed to this very day by the selective release and/ or obscuring of, information.

This congestion tax was part of a plan imposed top down. It even took more than two months after the Mayor announced the Congestion Tax masked inside feel-good environmental and green proposals on Earth Day (Sunday, April 22, 2007), to release – selectively – legislation first outlining the specifics of the tax and its implementation has been shared with the public. Not only that but at forums where our representatives “debate” tax proponents, they cite erroneous traffic data, mislead (as was done with the ads about environment and traffic impacts outside Manhattan. Even at the last commission meeting, city bureaucrats failed to share information with commission members – and the public – about toll revenues by borough when even our own representatives had the information.

From the outset, City Hall engaged a consultant from a high powered management consulting firm and failed to engage community groups in discussions of its plans. The feel good session called earlier this year as part of the PlaNYC process feel to heed the sound proposals advanced civic leaders to address mass transit and other needs, including many items included in the innovative platform of the Queens Civic Congress, a strong opponent of the Congestion Tax.

The Mayor's scheme is touted as similar to that of London. Yet that plan, according to the Deputy Mayor Nicky Gavron when she keynoted a pro-congestion tax forum May 18 in Manhattan, took several years and much consultation with local civic groups before a final plan got announced. Here we get a pronouncement, not a consultation.

How about a New Year's resolution: Ax the Congestion Tax. Let's move on to the alternatives that make sense, including the traffic mitigation [measures](#) proposed by Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free with its half a billion or more in incidental revenues and the [revenue](#) measures proposed by such coalition partners as the Queens Civic Congress.

And let's not forget that [Alternative Approaches](#) 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;*
#7 *Congestion Tax – East River Tolls give a free-pass to non-residents;*
#8 *Congestion Tax – Projects and Promises Just Do Not Add Up.*