

KEEP NYC CONGESTION TAX FREE

keepnycfree.com

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

For Immediate Release: Monday, January 14, 2008

CONGESTION TAX SCHEME ISSUES REMAIN UNADDRESSED 11th Truth: Too Many Questions; So Few Answers

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free announces the eleventh *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: Nearly nine months later, New Yorkers still look for basic answers when it comes to the city's congestion tax scheme (and its recent variants):

- ? Where are the iron-clad legal guarantees of a net increase in mass transit funding? Why are there no “lockbox” assurances for funding dedicated to mass transit improvements? Will this tax be just like the Lottery – for every Lottery dollar in, government cuts out a dollar it used to allocate?
- ? Why does the City plan rely on privatization to construct and operate the congestion tax infrastructure, ignore prevailing wage and waive “Buy America” provisions for procurement.
(see: http://keepnycfree.com/media/files/2007-11-12_Series_02_PVT-Waiver.pdf)
- ? Will it generate any net revenues? (See: http://www.nydailynews.com/news/2007/10/22/2007-10-22_mayor_says_congestion_plan_will_raise_39-4.html)
- ? Will the plan receive the strict scrutiny of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) review?
- ? Where is the federal money already due? (See Chapter 384, Laws of New York, 2007)
- ? Is the scheme a pilot plan that automatically sunsets (expires) or or not?
- ? Will new transit capacity be in place first? (See: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/08/nyregion/08congest.html?_r=1&en=a66648c1192a127e&ei=5070&emc=eta)
- ? Where is the money to pay for more transit first? (See: http://ny.metro.us/metro/local/article/Wheres_the_cash/10496.html. How does the MTA factor the Congestion Tax into its 2008 budget? (It does not) (See: http://keepnycfree.com/media/files/2007-11-18_MTA-FAQs.pdf)
- ? Where will Park and Ride facilities get built, if at all?
- ? What toll collection mechanism and technology will be used ? At what cost?
- ? How will the public's privacy rights be protected when the tax plans involves the use of cameras and will there be restrictions on use of data that might be mined? (See: http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2007/12/12/2007-12-12_untitled_guest12op.html)
- ? Why apply London's foreign model that ill fits New York City?

One way to answer questions starts with jettisoning the congestion tax plans that raise so many red flags. Instead, look at traffic mitigation measures that makes sense for New York such as the [measures](#) proposed by Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free with its one-half billion or more in incidental revenues and the [revenue](#) measures proposed by its coalition partner, the Queens Civic Congress, which raises nearly 1.8 billion (\$1,774,000,000, based on the commission's analysis).

Previous [#1](#) *City's Congestion Tax does not meet supporters' claims;*
Truths: [#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;*
[#9](#) *Congestion Tax – Avoid the Pit Inside a Sweet Fruit; and*
[#10](#) *London Tax Not for NYC; Just Does Not Fit.*