

KEEP NYC CONGESTION TAX FREE

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CONGESTION TAX SCHEME: RESULT OF CLOSED PROCESS 14th Truth: Selective Review and Consideration = Flawed Plan

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free announces the fourteenth *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 selective review and consideration of alternatives by a Kangaroo Court commission as part of a closed process that morphed into a flawed and non-passable congestion toll/tax variant scheme.

Chairman Marc Shaw, at the last NYC Traffic Congestion Mitigation Kangaroo Court meeting, spoke of a plan that meets perhaps the highest test: “something that can pass.” This meant a recommendation meant not just to collect dust on some shelf, or worse relegation to some file drawer never again to see the light of day. Regrettably, the Kangaroo Court's final tax scheme – a toll/congestion charge tax distributed in the dead of the night before as one commissioner confessed – fails to rise to the level of something “passable.”

The task of this Kangaroo Court involved no document that gets published in a law review or other distinguished trade journal; their task consistent with federal and state requirements really required a plan that addresses congestion; and the commissioners at their initial gathering also agreed to include a plan to raise revenues.

A plain review of the final report and recommendations issued on January 31 demonstrates the Kangaroo Court commission's failure to heed the voices of most residents. The final alternative presented by the Kangaroo Court failed to reflect any equitable, fair and sound recommendation. The proposal reflected the same top-down approach taken by those responsible for PlaNYC who also FAILED to consult with the community. This process may help explain the tax and tax/toll variant scheme with its anti-labor message and arrogant list of projects to start later with no guaranteed completion date. Worse, the Kangaroo Court commission proposed its tax and tax/toll variant scheme without any guarantees that anything other than alternative funding actually materializes to replace pre-existing allocations. The Kangaroo Court process that kept the language of guarantees from public view.

This commission report followed a sparsely attended “city-wide” January 16 hearing in Manhattan and six same day January 24 hearings whose locations first became public after business hours Thursday, January 17. For months, the commission knew its timetable and yet it convened its January 10 Kangaroo Court without any schedule for borough and suburban hearings. This just raises the question: did the commission even care if the public came out or did this Kangaroo Court just want to create a phony record to claim community participation.

Anyone pushing the toll/tax schemes if they honestly care about the public interest, would state their preference for the sound alternative recommendations for traffic mitigation measures and revenues that makes sense for New York. These include the mitigation [measures](#) proposed by Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free with 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.*
[#11](#) *Too Many Questions; So Few Answers*
[#12](#) *Already Unfair Scheme Made Even More Punitive and Unfair*
[#13](#) *No Room at the Inn; Still Pay Through the Nose.*