

Congestion Pricing is “a tax on the poor and middle class,” Assemblyman Joe Lentos tell Crains

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CONGESTION PRICING

Mayor Bloomberg's lobbying of outer-borough Assembly members on congestion pricing appears to have had little effect. Joe Lentol, D-Brooklyn, says his delegation's meeting with the mayor last week was cordial, but “I don't think every member was convinced that this is anything more than a tax on the poor and middle class.” Lentol still believes drivers would park in his Williamsburg-Greenpoint district and then take the subway to avoid the Manhattan congestion fee. Residential parking permits would address that but prevent shoppers and storekeepers from parking as well, Lentol says. The city's analysis predicts that driving fees would reduce traffic citywide.