



Tolling our Free Bridges: Bad for Queens Businesses

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The Queens Chamber of Commerce urges our state legislators to reject any imposition of bad for business tolls on our free bridges which would tax our members' access to doing business in Manhattan," stated Albert F. Pennisi, President of the Queens Chamber of Commerce which represents thousands of businesses and firms of all sizes that do business from and/ or in our vibrant borough. "Many of our members, especially our smaller businesses depend on their ability to do business in Manhattan. Tolls on our free bridges threaten that ability."

Any tolls of free crossings such as our own Queensborough Bridge represents nothing more than a business killer," stated Chamber Executive Vice President Jack Friedman. "It really would function as another tax that impacts unfairly on smaller businesses."

It would also hurt the overall economy of the city at a most inopportune time. A reduction in the number of people entering the Central Business District – and reduced spending by those who still come to the CBD, but shift to other transportation – would cause some \$1.89 billion less in spending each year. This means an annual loss of \$2.7 billion in economic output, 23,100 jobs and \$235 million in City and State tax revenues each year. Three years ago this month, the Queens Chamber issued its [report](#) making clear the deleterious impact of any imposition of new tolling. In New York's current economic state, any such scheme borders on threatening most irreparable harm on a most fragile economy.

The Queens Chamber of Commerce also questions as illogical any toll scheme because it imposes costs that make tolling the city's free bridges one of the most inefficient and wasteful of taxes.