

Keep NYC Free

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Keep NYC Free supports Avella bill barring toll-tax

[Keep NYC Free](#) supports legislation by Senator Tony [Avella](#) to bar tolling the free bridges connecting Manhattan to other boroughs. At Senator Avella's news conference near the Queens approach to the [Ed Koch](#) Queensborough Bridge, Keep NYC Free noted the Avella legislation also removes contentious policy that offer no benefits while severely harming the City's economy and unfairly targeting City residents not living in Manhattan. As Keep NYC has consistently advocated, “While we agree that our electeds must treat transit seriously, toll-[tax schemes](#) represent nothing serious when we must focus on [revenue](#).” Those who claim to be about “fair tolling and transportation reinvestment” ignore the record about the City residents who use the free roads that connect Manhattan to Brooklyn, Queens and The Bronx. The most recent toll-tax scheme asks these city residents to bear a cost nearly \$11 (\$15 cash) per day. Others participated included Member of the Assembly David [Weprin](#), an ardent toll opponent and [Queens Chamber of Commerce](#) Legislative Advocacy Chair Vincent Petraro. Senator Avella also noted the recent [letter](#) of opposition from Queens Civic Congress, a coalition of the borough's civic and community groups.

Keep NYC Free (KeepNYCFree.com) [documented](#) that any toll-tax [scheme](#) fails to raise the revenues needed, offers no benefits and hurts the economy. It certainly will not move New York. Yet these social engineers persist. It ought to be about what makes sense, not what appeals to some ideological bent.

Those so-called advocates would better move New York if they embraced Keep NYC Free's already [documented alternatives](#) that both raise substantial funds for the MTA and also resources the City and State to renew and increase the contributions they should make to support the MTA, especially its capital plan.

Senator Avella's legislation ends the distractive discussion on the ill-conceived [scheme](#) that claims to move New York but really exists as a [subterfuge](#) to institute [tolling](#) across free bridges that extend city streets across the Harlem and East Rivers. The Avella legislation re-focuses the debate to transit and revenues that make sense – many [documented](#) by Keep NYC Free.