

Keep NYC Free

www.keepnycfree.com

For Immediate Release: March 13, 2015

Contact: Corey Bearak
(718) 343-6779; cell: (516) 343-6207

Let's Be Clear: *The Song Remains The Same*

Statement by Corey Bearak, senior policy advisor for Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free

"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," stated Corey Bearak, senior policy advisor for Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free. "This toll-tax scheme asks these city residents to bear a cost just above \$11 (\$11.08; \$16 cash) per day."

"Keep NYC Free (KeepNYCFree.com) documented that any toll-tax scheme fails to raise the revenues needed, offers no benefits and hurts the economy. Tolling the free East River bridges connecting Brooklyn and Queens to Manhattan certainly will not move New York. A discussion on revenues ought to be about what makes sense, not what appeals to some ideological bent."

"We agree that our electeds must treat support for transit seriously. Toll-tax schemes represent nothing serious when we must focus on real revenue streams to support public transit. The tolling proponents argue revenue – that cannot be realized – to mask a campaign where they act as social engineers to take moderate, middle and lower income New Yorkers out of cars and impose their ill-advised economically devastating social agenda."

Alternative revenues including a reform of the non-resident income tax – long advanced by the Queens Civic Congress – now proposed in legislation by Assembly Member David Weprin, could secure much of the revenue needed estimated at some \$2 billion, and in a more progressive manner. Other revenue sensible streams include reform of City fees for closing streets as part of construction projects (approx. \$500 million) and a surcharge on expensive car registration in the MTA regions.

[Editor's note: above delivered at a news conference on the Queens side of the still-free [Edward I. Koch Queensborough Bridge](#) called by NYS State Senator Tony Avella, and joined by Assembly Member David I. Weprin, to oppose the MoveNY [scheme](#). Other speakers included representatives of [Queens Civic Congress](#), the Small Business Congress, the Glen Oaks Village Cooperative Juniper Park Civic Association, the Friends of LaGuardia Airport and a past president of the Queens Chamber of Commerce. View a picture on below.]

[Read](#) the release from Senator Tony Avella.



Pictured left to right Harbachan Singh, President, Queens Civic Congress; Ken Pastar, President, Friends of LaGuardia Airport; Assembly Member David Weprin; Keep NYC Free's Senior Policy Advisor Corey Bearak (speaking), Robert Friedrich, President Glen Oaks Village Cooperative; State Senator Tony Avella; and Ray Irrera who was president of the Queens Chamber of Commerce when it released its [report](#) (“A Cure Worse than the Disease?”) on tolling.

[WCBS-TV](#) coverage

[NY1 News](#) coverage

[WCBS Newsradio 880](#) coverage