

## Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free Statement on MTA Capital Plan

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

“Today’s joint public hearing on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s 2020-2024 Capital Plan has left us with more questions than what we started with – a disappointing but not surprising result when you consider the MTA’s inability to do basic math,” stated **Joshua E. Bienstock, spokesperson for Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free.**

Congestion Pricing will fund almost a third of the 51.5-billion-dollar Capital Plan. Despite the budget being 70% greater than the previous Capital Plan, nonprofit, nonpartisan groups have called the Capital Plan unrealistic based on the MTA’s own severe backlog of projects and debt costs.

Given the history of the MTA’s poor execution of its own Capital Plans, and based on the MTA’s own data, it is expected that Congestion Pricing will be relied on to fund an increasingly unreliable MTA.

New York taxpayers deserve a fully transparent plan to understand exactly what impact it will have on their personal finances and the MTA’s ability to realistically deliver better service for its riders, the Capital Plan’s primary objective.

The Regional Plan Association (RPA) recently released a report that concluded that the toll may be too low to reduce congestion or to raise the required funds, and recommended a double-toll. Other problematic recommendations by the RPA include tracking drivers both inside and outside of the congestion zone with license plate readers and cameras and removing the carveouts for vehicles carrying the disabled.

“Failure to repeal Congestion Pricing will subject New York taxpayers to double and/or increased tolls to fund an unrealistic Capital Plan and a fiscally-exhausted MTA,” **Bienstock continued**, “Today’s hearing failed to answer any questions about the role of Congestion Pricing in the Capital Plan, and we are no closer to knowing how this program will be financed, what exemptions and carveouts will be given, and what special interest groups are controlling the conversation. The secretive nature of this program should raise alarm—New Yorkers deserve to know the truth before this disastrous program is implemented and their wallets are raided.”

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