

Keep NYC Free

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“It's not unusual”

Gotham Gazette piece disingenuously equates “delay” to environmental racism

An opinion article the Gotham Gazette today (Tuesday, October 12, 2021) raises totally false claims that New York City children will suffer while the MTA conducts a 16-month federally required environmental review. Keep NYC Free blasts this piece for raising totally false disingenuous arguments. If anything the congestion tax scheme pushes additional traffic outside the zone where some NYCHA housing is to be found. Most in zone pollution is from buildings. New York City passed law to address that impact. Diesel powered school buses and construction and Sanitation vehicles are additional sources. And we already know that App-based for hire vehicles ("ABFHVs"), mostly some 100,000 Uber and Lyft vehicles cause the traffic congestion.

As Tom Jones sings, it's not unusual to find this kind of falsehood pushing this tax scheme. During the first go round fighting it, we posted, “Too often, elected officials want a program so bad, they make unsupported claims. Sometimes, advocates really want some programs and sell out despite a rotten core inside the shiny apple.” What we wrote then still rings true today!: “The city scheme proposes no measures that address asthma where it impacts most: air pollution hot spots including The South Bronx, East Harlem, South Jamaica and Bedford-Stuyvesant.”

Read the full article, “Make No Mistake, the Ongoing Congestion Pricing Delay is Environmental Racism” (Gotham Gazette, October 12, 2021).

View the better ways that make sense to truly address congestion in the central business district and raise the dollars needed to resource the MTA to not only pay for needed repairs but also increase access and make the entire system more accessible and equitable for the entire city.