

Written Testimony, Central Business District Tolling Program, Congestion Pricing

Monday, August 29, 2022

My name is **Larry Zogby**, I am the president of the **New York State Messenger Courier Association**. We are a non-profit association, that works to advance the interest of couriers, through advocacy, education, and networking since 1945.

During the Pandemic, it's not an exaggeration to say the delivery workers kept our city running. Everyday couriers are traveling in and out of the CBD Zone for stat & one-off critical deliveries. These deliveries include but are not limited to, medication, lab results, specimen, medical supplies, meals, groceries, critical parts, & more.

On behalf of the New York State Messenger Courier Association and on behalf of my Company, RDS Same Day Delivery, I oppose the congestion pricing proposal for the following:

The impact of the Tolling Program for delivery workers in and out of the CBD zone for one off/stat delivery has the opportunities for whip lash, un-intended consequences, and more casualties. More small business will shutter & we will lose more job loss. Delivery workers are the backbone of our service industry & our economy.

We need more research and development, data points & analytics to be more thoughtful and creative on how we come to a resolution for tolling vehicles as they go in & out of the zone, thousands of times daily, for emergency one off and stat deliveries that happen 7 days per week.

In conclusion the CBD Toll Program will prejudice businesses at a time that is most challenging and critical for them to survive, for example, I have a same day messenger service.

For the first 6 months of 2022, our company has been in & out of that zone 13,000 times, performing one off critical delivery. As I looked at the Executive Summary on page ES-11, I see that they can charge small vehicles, not trucks small vehicles vans \$12.00 to \$65.00, I took an average number in the middle \$38.50 ran the numbers in 6 months it would cost my company over \$500,000 in tolls, run the table for 1 year over \$1,000,000 in tolls. And here is a very important factor you can't amortized that over other customers because we are in and out of the zone think medical, scripts everything I said before we are in and out of the zone for critical deliveries.

I believe it is our moral responsibility as civic and business leaders to avoid making choices that compound the challenges for our local businesses, especially those businesses that enabled our city to weather the most challenging days of the Pandemic.

I implore the decision makers to put this program on hold until our economy is in a more stable position and other, less punitive, measures are fully considered.

Sincerely,

Larry Zogby

Larry Zogby
President