

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ONLY IN NEW YORK: MTA ACKNOWLEDGES THAT CONGESTION PRICING TAX WILL INCREASE TRAFFIC AND AIR POLLUTION IN LOWER-INCOME COMMUNITIES

Proposes Spending Even More Tax Dollars to Help Remediate Condition It Will Cause!

New York-March 29...The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has finally acknowledged that its planned Congestion Pricing Tax in Manhattan south of 60th Street will cause more traffic and air pollution in other areas of the city, including in lower-income communities with some of the highest asthma rates in the nation, Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free today noted.

The MTA is now telling the federal government, which has bizarrely refused to require a full environmental impact statement for the project, that it will spend \$130 million over 10 years to help mitigate the impact of an action that they themselves are taking. Areas of the city expected to suffer more traffic and air pollution include the Bronx, Manhattan north of 60th Street, Staten Island, Brooklyn, and Queens.

“The MTA is an unmitigated disaster, and the planned Congestion Pricing Tax may be its most boneheaded decision yet,” said Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free spokesman Joshua Bienstock. “The agency is admitting that Congestion Pricing will adversely affect hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of New Yorkers, and, still, it's planning to move forward. How is that morally acceptable?”

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free and other concerned New Yorkers have called on the federal government to implement a full environmental impact study before any more work on the Congestion Pricing Tax occurs.

“The more one looks at Congestion Pricing, the more one realizes just how skewed it is in favor of wealthier New Yorkers over New Yorkers struggling to get by,” Mr. Bienstock continued. “People of means can afford rideshare and yellow taxi rides that make up the lion's share of traffic south 60th Street, while poorer communities will have to eat more smog. What does that tell you about the values of our state leaders?”

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[Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free](#), a diverse coalition of civic, business, and labor organizations and businesses throughout New York City, argues that implementing a tax on vehicles traveling south of 60th Street in Manhattan will increase traffic and pollution in other areas of the city and permanently damage efforts to revitalize the two districts.