

New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Bill O'Reilly, 212-396-9117

Bill@novemberteam.com

Judicial Upset? – Not Quite!

Public Policy governs this outcome

Statement by Susan Lee, President, New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax

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From the outset, New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax, the lead plaintiff in a class action lawsuit including residents of all five boroughs and Long Island, small businesses inside and outside the “zone,” and a bipartisan group of elected officials emphasized the failure to consider economic impacts and the need to comply with State law; those key issues remain alive and well in the Southern District and, even more importantly, in Albany where the Governor recognized those adverse economic impacts.

Let's not lose sight of what remains important: Good Public Policy. The regressive, inequitable, unfair and unsustainable congestion toll-tax scheme fails as a public policy on every level; that explains and justifies Governor Kathy Hochul's announced “indefinite pause.” Clearly New Yorkers inside and outside of New York City agree by a 2:1 margin! (Source: [Sienna Poll](#))

Most importantly, and the Governor agrees, the toll-tax scheme is economy-killing; it not only increases the operating costs and incomes of small businesses, it increases the costs of goods and services to everyone, including non-car-driving residents of the toll-tax scheme zone, pedestrians, bikers, public transit users, those who ride in FHV's and/or yellow taxis, or those who drive their own car; and by the way; our lawsuit relevant to these policies remains ongoing.

This scheme per the MTA's initial and follow-up EAs fails on all three prongs; it fails to raise \$1 billion required by the 2019 statute; it fails to reduce congestion at the level first announced and inflict more harm to health (AKA the environment) of everyday New Yorkers inside and outside the zone. City Comptroller Brad Lander must agree that spending several hundred million to mitigate severe environment impacts is not insignificant.

New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax calls on City Comptroller Brad Lander, Riders Alliance and all those like-minded to support the New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax 5-point plan to Save Public Transit” <<https://bit.ly/Save-Transit>>, especially as a starting point.

New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax and our plans is part of the solution and we welcome the opportunity to meet with the Comptroller, RA and others to put the right plan in place.

This Congestion Pricing Toll-Tax scheme is where it should be now, in the pile of bad ideas.

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New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax is a coalition of residents from diverse neighborhoods around New York City who have initiated a lawsuit to demand that the Federal Highway Administration perform an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to show the real impacts of Congestion Pricing (CP) on our communities. The federal government and the Metropolitan Transit Authority rushed an incomplete Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS) instead of applying the more extensive and comprehensive EIS. An EIS would properly examine the three E's: Environmental Impacts, Economic Hardship, and Equity.