

New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Silence from its Electeds Sickens Lower East Side No Apparent Effort to Secure Mitigation by LES Federal, State & City legislators Statement by Susan Lee, President, New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax

Where are our elected officials when we need them the most? The Bronx and some New Jersey localities receive mitigation funding but Lower East Side, nothing!

Sickening silence from Lower East Side Elected Officials – Congressman Dan Goldman, State Senator Brian Kavanagh, State Assembly Members Grace Lee, Harvey Epstein and Council Members Christopher Marte and Carlina Rivera.

They support the Congestion Pricing Tax yet show no concern about the health of the people they represent on the Lower East Side. The MTA's Environmental Assessment acknowledged the scheme's adverse environmental impacts on the thousands of low and middle income residents who reside along the FDR Drive. The toll-tax scheme promises after-it-starts mitigation for the increased pollution predicted in the Bronx (nothing before the scheme would commence and could take four or more years if at all) but provides no similar protection for Lower East Side residents. In the MTA's latest issued mitigation plan, Bergen and Essex Counties in New Jersey would receive close to \$10 million in mitigation funding; however, it offers zero dollars for Lower East Side. The toll-tax scheme would create winners and losers and one wonders why any legislator representing the Lower East Side would allow this one environmental justice community to be losers while others win.

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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.