

New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Bill O'Reilly, 212-396-9117

Bill@novemberteam.com

January 5, 2025

Starting Congestion Pricing Tax Remains Without Merit & Causes Harm

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

New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax, the coalition of residents from diverse neighborhoods around NYC who initiated a lawsuit to demand that the FHA perform an EIS to show the real impacts of Congestion Pricing on our communities, issues the following statement on the eve of the apparent start of a bad and harmful policy:

Overnight, a horrible, inefficient, harmful to the public health, deleterious to the economy and regressive toll-tax begins despite the certainty that its demise is forthcoming as we pursue legal and other strategies to right a clear wrong.

The New Jersey court made clear that further federal review of this regressive, inequitable, unfair and unsustainable congestion toll-tax scheme, which, despite its name, it achieves nothing of any consequence with relieving congestion. Further, a required review under state law remains to be completed relative to small businesses and job retention. A state court will address this on January 16.

So what we have is the MTA – supported by misguided public officials, some groups with an ideological view that makes no sense here, and worse, by others with a clear special interest that benefits their economic bottom line – proceeding to collect dollars it will ultimately need to refund – with interest. Other economic harm that cannot be calculated is the loss of revenue for businesses in the zone because patrons cannot afford to pay the Congestion Pricing tax to come into the Central Business District.

This is not a good way to begin any year, especially this year.

Last Spring New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax proposed “[A 5-point Plan to Save Public Transit](#),” especially as a starting point. That plan includes funding MTA Capital Program the same way NYC and NYS fund their regular capital programs. Funding for public transit should be a priority in the same manner the city and state fund schools, hospitals, senior center, roads, libraries, museums and parks. Since PublicTransit fuels the City economy that fuels the state economy that fuels the U.S. economy, the Federal government must provide a steady stream of capital funding to the MTA. The federal government must come through with substantial funding for the Public transit system that fuels the economy of the city and state that fuels the national economy. As new revenues, look at the “[menu](#)” of one dozen alternatives identified by Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free.

###

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.