

New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Regressive Toll Tax Failing:
Not Raising the Promised Cash to Fund Transit
Ubers/Lyfts Replacing Private Vehicle So Congestion Remains
Businesses Face Decline to spur Economic Decay
&
It still hurts public health & the environment***

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 FHWA perform an EIS to show the real impacts of Congestion Pricing on our communities and asserts pending state and federal claims that state law requires a review relative to small businesses and job retention, calls attention to phony data used by the MTA and "toll-taxers" in evaluating week one following the illegal implementation of the congestion toll-tax. While our Class Action lawsuit concerning the MTA's failure to follow SAPA (the New York State Administrative Procedure Act) remains pending in SDNY, our Amicus filing in the Town of Hempstead suit that follows our SAPA claim gets reviewed tomorrow in State Supreme Court before Justice Lisa Cairo in Nassau County. SAPA requires consideration of socio-economic impacts, including on small businesses and workers. It is especially important because the toll tax impacts marginalized New Yorkers the most; they will be hurt by the Congestion Pricing Tax which would cut into their pockets and pocketbooks.

The toll-tax-scheme, despite the legal requirement to raise \$1 billion annually to fund \$15 billion in borrowing, is only estimated to raise half that revenue and the apparent shortfall in passenger car entries projects to even less revenue.

The alleged 7.5% traffic decrease is based on a completely made up number, not actual data. The comparable for last year is data collected in October of three years [2022, 2023, 2024], averaged and then "adjusted" to represent January.

While we all know Uber and Lyft spent millions to lobby for the congestion tax – aiming to remove passenger vehicles from the congestion pricing tax zone, observations indicate – and we expect data to support it – that even more app-based vehicles will mass there. New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax has always pointed out this congestion pricing scheme is nothing more than a handout to hedge fund-supported Uber and Lyft and its wealthiest riders at the expense of lower income and minority New Yorkers, many living in transit deserts.

New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax always maintained the Congestion Pricing Tax would increase the costs of goods and services in every NYC neighborhood for small businesses and all New Yorkers whether they take public transit, ride a bike, walk, rely on for hire vehicles or drive a car.

News reports already validated businesses raising prices due to delivery cost hikes and observers report certain hubs of restaurant activity – even this time of year, such as Chinatown leading up to the Lunar New Year, experience slower business. This affects workers, this affects owners, this affects customers.

The MTA's inadequate Environmental Assessment conceded the Congestion Pricing Tax would increase traffic and pollution and incidence of asthma in Environmentally Justice Communities including the Lower East Side, Chinatown, and the South Bronx.

The Governor in her State of the State address noted the more than four billion dollars in revenues. New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax note that because when "[A 5-point Plan to Save Public Transit](#)," was released last Spring, we raised funding the MTA Capital Program the same way New York City and New York State 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. It seems some in public office fail to get that!

As the State moves to consider a new budget, we call on state officials to explore new revenues, including the "[menu](#)" of one dozen alternatives identified by Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free.

New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax also maintains that the federal government, which still can reverse, this regressive, inequitable, unfair and unsustainable congestion toll-tax scheme fails on every level, must come through with substantial funding for the public transit system which fuels the economy of the city and state that fuels the national economy.

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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.