

Keep NYC Free

www.keepnycfree.com

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Contact: Corey Bearak
(718) 343-6779/ cell: (516) 343-6207

Better Change

Could have started with Tom Jones' *ditty*; *it's not usual* for taxers to taint a crisis to promote bad policy. This week's *Crain's* correctly notes the need to protect the subway infrastructure from disastrous storms heading our way with unprecedented frequency. Rather than play up a need around which a developing consensus exists, it exploits *Sandy* to push for the discredited congestion tax scheme. New York needs better change than chants for a congestion tax that remains a faulty option despite efforts to make it sweet. It brings to mind these lyrics from Dan Fogelberg's song that titles this commentary:

*And the door you see before you
Could be poison tasting sweet*

Resources may be needed; indeed the MTA already plans new fares and tolls next year. Before *Sandy* hit our shores we note a developing national coalition to support transit – to induce the federal government to resource transit at the level justified. We need to start there.

Keep NYC FREE finds it rather inappropriate to exploit discussions of storm protective infrastructure by calling for (and toll) increase with a new call for taxing access to the CBD. We consistently identify how this realizes nothing but some smiles for a few fervent believers and some special interests.

As Keep NYC Free demonstrates time and time again, the congestion tax represents an inefficient, inequitable and unfair approach to transit revenue. We addressed these and other faults throughout the process, including many debates. When it comes to funding, Keep NYC reminds *Crain's* and the taxers of our proposed sensible and practical alternatives.

See the November 5, 2012 [The next superstorm; Sea walls? Yes. But traffic and telecom walls, too.](#) (*Crain's New York Business*).