

Keep NYC Free

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Keep NYC Free comments at Stop Congestion Pricing Rally

**Comments by Corey Bearak, Senior Policy Advisor, Keep NYC Free
at Protest to Repeal and Defeat Congestion Pricing!
2:00 p.m. at Tram Plaza across from the Edward I. Koch Queensboro Bridge**

I am Corey Bearak, Senior Policy Advisor for Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free. Thank you to the organizers, the members of our coalitions and elected officials who came out in support for sound policies when it comes to public transit.

By every measure the regressive, inequitable, unfair and unsustainable congestion tax fails on every level.

Despite its name it achieves nothing of any consequence with no relief on congestion.

It even falls short of its claims concerning the environment. The finding of no significant environmental impact (“FONSI”) and reliance on an Environmental Assessment (“EA”) remains flawed.

Some misguided folks got into their heads a need to eliminate passenger cars in Manhattan, mostly south of 60th Street by imposing a tax on entry that effectively eliminates all but the uber-wealthy if this toll-tax scheme that requires a net revenue ultimately prevails.

Policymakers totally failed us by not considering alternative revenue sources that likely better meet the funding goals of the program, thus improve public transit and thus induce those relying on cars to opt to use transit.

The entire project fails to resource improvements in transit deserts. Neither the Capital Plan or the MTA budget includes any money to increase bus service, the only means available to increase public transit capacity.

Additionally, the adverse effect on low-income drivers associated with the cost of any new toll-tax scheme would constitute a disproportionately high and adverse effect.

This tax scheme proposes no measures that address asthma where it impacts most: air pollution hot spots including The South Bronx, East Harlem, South Jamaica and Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Long Island working-class drivers and small businesses will get no benefit and will be burdened with yet another senseless cost, which would also reroute carbon-belching truck traffic into low-income communities.

Again Congestion Pricing fails on every level!

Find more information on the faults of this tax scheme and alternative, fairer, efficient and sound revenues at KeepNYCFree.com.

Thank you.

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View the Appleseed [report](#) for Keep NYC Free at <http://www.keepnycfree.com>.