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The common refrain is that no one trusts the MTA with their spending. A deep forensic audit needs to be conducted. The MTA is always over budget and late on completion of projects. Many CEO salaries are between \$300,000-\$400,000 plus bonuses on top of that. Perhaps they could take a cut in their salaries to help finance the MTA.

Studies show that MTA construction costs are the highest of any city in the world. A call for a complete reorganization from top to bottom by an independent group must be performed to eliminate waste and redundancy. Contractors must inflate estimates because the MTA misunderstands the complexities of most jobs.

Recent Federal grants totalling over 20 Billion dollars can provide the MTA with the capital money they seek if they use it judiciously. But who is overseeing this use of our tax dollars?

It is another tax on working people and families flowing into the money pit that defines the MTA. Every cab ride and every utility bill is taxed for the MTA. There is no end in sight to taxation.

There is no oversight built into the plan. There is nothing to prevent them from raising the tax and increasing the CBD as soon as they don't meet their one billion dollar mandated goal. Ironically, if there is a significant drop in vehicles coming into the zone they will not make their goal.

We know this is not about congestion because there is no congestion at two in the morning. There is no congestion in much of the CBD zone. But there are 100,000 for profit cars circling the city.

They don't care about pollution. Studies show that pollution will increase in The Bronx, the Lower East Side and all the areas surrounding the CBD area.

They don't care about the economy. It is obvious that this will hurt small businesses, the return of office workers, Broadway, restaurants, Chinatown, Little Italy-all still recovering from the pandemic. The truck tax will increase the cost of every item that enters by truck.

Families struggling to survive living in NYC continue to leave. The tax will increase the exodus of workers that keep the city functioning. Businesses will move. Already fed up with the city, residents will continue to leave.

In the end, congestion pricing will **reduce** the tax base of the city and add to the exhaustion that so many of us feel.