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Charged Up Over Congestion Pricing Plan

In speaking out against Mayor Michael Bloomberg's proposal to ease traffic congestion in Manhattan's busiest areas by charging a fee to drivers, some elected officials and Queens Chamber of Commerce members held a press conference on Tuesday, Apr. 24 at the Bulova Corporate Center in Jackson Heights. Among those on hand were Queens Borough President Helen Marshall (at podium); City Council members Tony Avella and Hiram Monserrate (flanking Marshall at left and right, respectively); and former City Council Member Walter McCaffrey (at far right). Shown next to McCaffrey, looking on, is Chamber President Raymond Irrera. Suggested alternatives to Bloomberg's proposal include increased ferry service, reopening Long Island Rail Road stations in Queens and stricter enforcement of federal Clean Air Act emissions standards. (photo: Dominick Totino)