

Congestion plan's asthma fear

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Opponents in the Bronx often cite the environmental-justice issue of pushing congestion out of central Manhattan into other boroughs ill-suited to absorb it.

"South of 60th St. isn't the asthma capital of the world; the South Bronx is," said Olivia Koppell, a Riverdale resident, vocal opponent of the pricing scheme - and sister of Riverdale City Councilman Oliver Koppell.

Many in the asthma-wracked South Bronx are wary of anything that would encourage commuters to park their cars in local neighborhoods and hop trains into Manhattan. This fear is especially strong around Yankee Stadium, where a number of new parking garages and a new Metro-North station are due to rise.

But the worry spans the borough.

"We have three highways in the area with exits right at Pelham Parkway, and three subway stops nearby," said Helen Brandt, 72, who lives near the parkway and White Plains Road. "It has the potential to get ugly."

Brandt said she wondered if there would be any studies of Bronx neighborhoods if Manhattan gets its congestion reductions.

"Nobody's going to be up here studying congestion in the Bronx," she said.

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Read the entire story at

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/bronx/2008/03/04/2008-03-04_congestion_plans_asthma_fear.html