

Keep NYC Free

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Wasted Words

Though I love hoops and play full-court twice a week, March Madness takes a back seat to the Allman Brothers. Listening to a past live show I attended during high school while winding down a project, I heard Greg Allman sing “...wasted words so absurd...” Those lyrics certainly reflects the unhelpful insertion of a call for “East River tolls or congestion fees” in the report, “Caution Ahead: Overdue Investments For New York’s Aging Infrastructure,” issued yesterday (March 12 2014) by the Center for an Urban Future (CUF). The report correctly calls attention to aging infrastructure, no secret since past City Comptrollers issued voluminous reports on these needs. One comes away with a sense that a purpose of *Caution Ahead* involves promoting the toll tax agenda rather than a real fix.

Keep NYC continues to debunk all arguments that any congestion tax, makes sense with regard to revenue or even relieves congestion. While the report did include a recommendation we advanced to capture the taxes generated by property value increases from transit development, it appears that agenda and motives prevailed over sound policy when this CUF report ignored the real revenues Keep NYC recommended.

The taxers most recently tried to advance their scheme as a cure all to pedestrian fatalities. Keep NYC exposed that myth.

Civics in Queens still recognize how the toll-tax hampers commerce. Oh, and, by the way, *Caution Ahead* failed to noted the need to rebuild aging bus garages such as the Jamaica Depot that serves southeast Queens. So, still, *The Song Remains the Same*.

Nothing has changed to justify a scheme that likely results in little or no net revenues after including the costs of administration. And that goes before the truly negative economic costs of this blatant tax scheme. No amount of messaging can correct this faulty policy.