

Congestion Pricing and COVID-19: The Last Thing New Yorkers Need Right Now is Another Tax

By MIKE LIPETRI
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There is no question that COVID-19 does not discriminate in its massive harm to New Yorkers. Thousands of businesses forced to close their doors, millions of workers left scrambling for a paycheck, and the daily fears about the wellbeing of our friends and families.

When I introduced legislation to repeal this misguided policy, I did so out of concerns that this was another tax on the middle class.

With no reliable vaccine and no plans to add buses or improve subway service, travel via our own personal vehicles will undoubtedly be the safest and most cost-effective form of transportation for suburban commuters.

Simply put, implementing a congestion pricing scheme now is not only a threat to our wallets, but also to our health.

While the State's response to COVID-19 has been laudable, the fact remains that millions of New Yorkers are struggling and thousands of businesses need, and will continue to need, real economic relief not another hand in their pockets. This congestion pricing tax scheme should be put on hold indefinitely and we should focus on smart economic recovery not partisan policies that hurt our great workforce.

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