New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax

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New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax to USDOT & its Attorneys: Rescind Regressive, Unfair, Inequitable Toll-Tax via NYS Court

Statement by Susan Lee, President

New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax ("New Yorkers") called on the federal attorneys who are working to rescind the failed, regressive and harmful congestion pricing toll tax to join the pending litigation before the New York State Supreme Court to declare Congestion Pricing unlawful. New Yorkers' attorney Jack Lester already shared his <u>letter</u> to Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy sent earlier this year with the Justice Department. New Yorkers advocate a judicial resolution as the best way forward to decisively determine the future of Congestion Pricing in New York City.

The New York State Administrative Procedure Act ("SAPA") mandates public hearings on rulemaking determinations of the MTA/TBTA that affect small businesses – particularly in communities such as Chinatown and Little Italy – and wage earners. A full and fair opportunity to have a judicially imposed determination of the legalities and equities of Congestion Pricing will serve the interests of all New Yorkers and reestablish the primacy of the rule of law. New York law addresses the negative socioeconomic consequences of Congestion Pricing.

As an alternative to litigation, New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax strongly recommends all stakeholders collaboratively building a better road to cleaner air and improved mass transit in an equitable manner that doesn't burden environmental justice communities and hard working New Yorkers, based "A 5-point Plan to Save Public Transit" that New Yorkers proposed last Spring. Representatives of New Yorkers met earlier this year with the Governor's office to present the 5-point Plan and a "menu" of one dozen alternative resources identified by Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free. Public transit fuels the City economy which fuels the state economy, which fuels the U.S. economy.

This path avoids any need to pursue pending litigation. Our grassroots coalition of residents and businesses from diverse neighborhoods around New York City meanwhile asserts pending claims that New York State law requires a review relative to small businesses and job retention.

As we previously <u>stated</u>, "Rescinding this congestion pricing toll-tax that has been picking their pockets and cutting into their pocketbooks helps marginalized New Yorkers – whether or not they commute or live in or outside the congestion zone. The rescission of the Congestion Pricing Toll Tax protects Environmental Justice Communities including the Lower East Side, Chinatown, and the South Bronx which faced increased traffic and pollution and incidence of asthma."

New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax is a coalition of residents from diverse neighborhoods around New York City who have initiated a lawsuit to demand that the Federal Highway Administration perform an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to show the real impacts of Congestion Pricing (CP) on our communities. The federal government and the Metropolitan Transit Authority rushed an incomplete Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS) instead of applying the more extensive and comprehensive EIS. An EIS would properly examine the three E's: Environmental Impacts, Economic Hardship, and Equity.