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Small Business Congress opposes congestion Pricing

NO, No NO! A thousand times NO! Why must the drivers who already pay the highest rates to operate vehicles in the nation keep being the piggy bank, the cash cow for the mismanaged MTA? Bloomberg INTENTIONALLY created the congestion when he lost the first time, by reducing the number of travel lanes by 30-50%, removing almost 475,000 ON street parking spaces, bike lanes, bus lanes and changing zoning laws for developers to allow the loss of 425,000 OFF Street parking spaces and eliminate the need for new hi rises to put in any parking! Are you counting? That is almost ONE Million less parking spaces! Duh!

Then add the Bloomberg/De Blasio 165,000 Livery and T-plate Ubers, Lyft and others to clog the streets such as an estimated 110,000 delivery vans for Amazon etc, close other streets, and instead of putting bike racks on the sidewalk, take up five spaces or more and a lane for citi-bikes, and put No Standing signs at every corner of every street in all five boroughs so we lose another 4-8 parking spaces at every intersection, plus insane merges creating cuing back ups where none ever existed and traffic islands with huge bells in the name of safety causing more back ups when large trucks and buses can't make these turns.

And lastly divide the city for the last two Mayors, into the us vs them, the vehicles vs the pedestrians, instead of WE, US working together to SHARE the road and look up when you cross, look up from the cell phone, learn that we cannot always see you. Cross at the corner, at the green, remember the jingles, don't cross the street in the middle in the middle in the middle of the block.....and wait... until green etc. We are losing **over \$16 Billion in revenue sitting in traffic.**

How about taxing every share of stock sold every day **one penny for any stock over one dollar?** That would raise a lot of money. Or the very successful commuter tax that worked for three decades until "tax" became a dirty word. Bring it back and call it commuter pricing. After all the congestion pricing is just what everyone says, a revenue stream, aka **a TAX!**

Most people drive because they have to, not from joy, including small businesses, medical trips, handicapped, seniors etc. **Gov Cuomo said less than 2.5% of the drivers in the boros** are the people on the road commuting in, if this is true Governor, **then just exempt all vehicles from the five boros and no one from the city will complain!** And just as a point the number of vehicles entering Manhattan has gone up and down by a range of 125,000 for the last thirty years, not counting the new car services, delivery services and green cabs I alluded to earlier. And millennials

are not driving nearly as much as prior generations, so the illusion of more drivers if you exclude the car services, courier delivery vehicles and green cabs, is within the same range for several decades.

But removing lanes, narrowing lanes too, and creating back ups by these anti car politically driven DOT policies has created the traffic mess. The MTA cannot explain their management either. How about the millions and millions lost on the defective installation of the positive train control for a current news example? The young people saying you shouldn't drive, what if mass transit doesn't serve my community well, and I carry heavy files, and have aging physical impairments which sooner or later hopefully you will get older and understand.

Only 20% of New Yorkers or less own cars, **but 100% NEED and rely on them directly or indirectly** whether they realize it or not. **WE THE PEOPLE should Unite and not fight!** The powers that be have spent the last 18 years pitting pedestrians against drivers with vision zero, but with **total Zero Vision**. We must have many options and be flexible not the only our way works anti vehicle push like Transportation **NON-Alternatives** with only their view. The overwhelming pollution over 82% comes from buildings while vehicle pollution is dropping every year. It is 1/1000th of what is was **just 20 years ago**, and with hybrids, electric, hydrogen hopefully, the car exhaust will be nothing harmful at all in the near future. Go Green, also cross on the green. Think of the over 16 Billion dollars in revenue we lose by creating this Bloomberg/de Blasio created congestion madness.

TOGETHER we can do great things. But the congestion tax scam is nothing more than a political easy scapegoating on the drivers who only make up 20% of us and thus the politically created straw-man in a popularity contest set up for the last 18 years by the Governor and Mayors should be buried once and for all. Remember 100% of New Yorkers actually need those vehicles either directly or indirectly and the revenue of NYC depends on them. Steve B's GO AMERICA!

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