



# Congestion Pricing Opponents Say Plan Hurts Outer Borough Residents

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Anthony Behar/Sipa USA

**NEW YORK (WCBS 880)** — There’s a new [proposal to fund the financially burdened MTA](#) that includes congestion pricing, but not everyone is getting on board.

Corey Bearak, with the advocacy group Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free, says the proposed toll on motorists entering the heart of Manhattan will hurt commuters who often have no other choice but to drive.

“A number of elected officials refer to part to Queens and Brooklyn as transportation or transit deserts and it’s because people first have to take a bus, a long ride in many cases, to get to a subway station,” Bearak said.

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Congestion Pricing Opponents Criticize Plan

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He adds that using a car is often much more convenient.

“Where I live in Bellerose, Queens, and my daughter chose to attend Bayside High School— it’s like a seven minute car ride. It can be an hour and a half for three buses,” he explains.

Opponents like Bearak often worry about middle class people in the outer boroughs who are already struggling financially, and they say the toll will be a huge problem for people using the east River Crossings to get to Manhattan.

“Small business people who have to go from place to place and carry a fair amount of records, it’s not easy to lug them on and off a bus or a subway and the like,” he said.

Bearak also says a millionaire’s tax might be better because it would also mean less money out of the city’s pocket for new jobs.

Mayor Bill de Blasio had supported a tax on the city’s wealthiest residents in the past.

