



Still the Same MTA

May 16, 2024

Dear Editor:

Thank you so very much to the Queens Chronicle for its strong editorial advocacy against, and news coverage on, the regressive, inequitable, unfair and unsustainable congestion toll-tax scheme (“Fifth lawsuit filed vs. congestion pricing,” May 2, multiple editions and “MTA toll Mambo No. 5,” Editorial, May 2). I also appreciate the focus on the several lawsuits including The New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax class-action lawsuit that I am part of as a member of its Steering and Legal Committees.

It’s important to note and similarly thank the plaintiffs from Queens, including many current civic activists — Queens Civic Congress President Warren Schreiber, past QCC President Kevin Forrestal and Glen Oaks Village Co-op Board President Bob Friedrich and former Juniper Park Civic Association President and current City Council Common Sense Caucus Chair Bob Holden — and Bob’s City Council colleagues Joann Ariola and Vickie Paladino. (Indeed this class-action suit includes plaintiffs from all five boroughs and Long Island — the only one of the several suits that can boast that! — and bipartisan support from our politicians).

By the way, oral arguments at the Southern District New York court take place Friday, May 17.

Despite its name, “congestion pricing” achieves nothing of any consequence with relieving congestion. It even falls short of its claims concerning the environment; instead it negatively impacts public health. Moreover, its implementation will increase everyday costs of goods and services for small businesses and all New Yorkers, whether they take public transit, ride a bike, walk, rely on for-hire vehicles or drive a car. It remains the most inefficient and uncertain source of revenue.

The best path is canning this toll-tax scheme and identifying other resources not reliant on any net revenue scheme.

People seeking more information can check in at Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free (keepnycfree.com) or New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax (stopcongestionpricing.com), where you can find out how to support our lawsuit.

Thank you, Queens Chronicle, again.

Corey Bearak
Glen Oaks

Read the [*Letter to the Queens Chronicle editor*](#) on line.
The relevant editorial follows on the next page.



MTA toll Mambo No. 5

May 9, 2024

The Town of Hempstead is late to the party, but that's OK — it brought enough drinks for everyone.

Our distinguished neighbors to the east, who somehow saw fit to break away from Queens County in 1898 and help form something called “Nassau,” don't want to pay any more into the ravenous beast called the MTA. So, they just filed suit to block congestion pricing.

Stop us if you've heard this one before.

You sure have! The State of New Jersey has filed suit to block congestion pricing. So has the mayor of Fort Lee, NJ. So have the United Federation of Teachers, the Municipal Labor Committee, the Staten Island NAACP and the Staten Island borough president. So has a coalition of people mostly from the Lower East Side but including Eastern Queens' own activist attorney Corey Bearak.

Yes, four separate lawsuits, now five. Each make their own legal arguments — many of them compelling. Hempstead notes that the subway, which congestion pricing is partly designed to force people into, is so dangerous the governor sent the National Guard in to keep order. Ouch!

We've always opposed new tolls. Welcome, Hempstead.

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Read entire [editorial](#).

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