## **KEEP NYC CONGESTION TAX FREE**

## keepnycfree.com

CONTACT: Corey Bearak, 516 343-6207 or 718 343-6779

For Immediate Release: Monday, February 4, 2008

## CONGESTION TAX SCHEME MADE WORSE 12<sup>th</sup> Truth: Already Unfair Scheme Made Even More Punitive and Unfair

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free announces the twelfth *Truth About* the City congestion tax plan to assist the public and their elected officials following the release of the so-called final plan: After the NYC Traffic Congestion Mitigation Commission's failure to look at many sound and preferable alternatives, it releases a toll/tax scheme that all but show how the Commission has succeeded in making an unfair proposal even more punitive and unjust.

The Commission's tax/toll scheme exempts some of America's richest areas from paying anything while sticking it to working lower and middle income families, to senior citizens and to union workers of Brooklyn, Queens, The Bronx, Staten Island and Manhattan.

The Kangaroo Court of a commission tries to trick New Yorkers into believing that more money for mass transit would be *absolutely guaranteed* when in fact it does **not**.

The result really comes as no surprise.

From its very inception, the public faced a stacked Commission who came to their posts hell bent on tolling and taxing New Yorkers (while they protected wealthy folks from the suburbs and out of state).

The commission included two lobbyists for congestion pricing, one who employs lobbyists for congestion pricing and a majority of members who were previously outspoken advocates for congestion pricing.

How can we have not have expected any result but a verdict that was pre-ordained and biased?

New Yorkers and their elected officials are too smart to fall for this charade. They know it is totally unfair.

The public interest requires that even those who support the tolling tax scheme would fight for the sound alternative recommendations for traffic mitigation measures and revenues that makes sense for New York on the bases of effectiveness, fairness and equity. These include the mitigation measures proposed by Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free with one-half billion or more in incidental revenues and the revenue measures proposed by its coalition partner, the Queens Civic Congress, which raises nearly 1.8 billion (\$1,774,000,000, based on the commission's analysis).

**Previous** #1 City's Congestion Tax does not meet supporters' claims;

*Truths:* #2 City's Congestion Scheme Would Privatize Jobs and Waive Buy American;

- #3 The Public Knows Better on City's Congestion Scheme;
- #4 The Unfair Congestion Tax;
- #5 Just Not the Season;
- #6 Live Outside the City, Pay No Congestion Tax;
- #7 Congestion Tax East River Tolls give a free-pass to non-residents;
- #8 Congestion Tax Projects and Promises Just Do Not Add Up;
- #2 Congestion Tax Avoid the Pit Inside a Sweet Fruit; and
- #10 London Tax Not for NYC; Just Does Not Fit.
- #11 Too Many Questions; So Few Answers