



Queens Civic Congress

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KEEP NYC CONGESTION TAX-FREE; KEEP E. RIVER TOLL-FREE

“Queens Civic Congress finds offensive any commission plan that focuses on a toll tax in apparent disregard of sound alternatives, including our plan which produces the greatest revenues - double any other plan -- with the greatest fairness and equity,” states Transportation Chair James Trent, also its Treasurer. “The commission appears poised to show its true colors as a fig leaf for the city's plan or a copycat variant -- all of which gouge city residents, especially those from our home borough of Queens. Our legislators ought to commit NOW to declaring any toll tax plan DOA.”

The Queens Civic Congress [CIVIC 2030](#) platform states rather plainly: *"Maintain free use of all non-TBTA East River and Harlem River bridges for all city residents, and oppose any plan or scheme to impose a tax, fee or toll on vehicles to enter Manhattan such as the "fee" proposed by the Mayor as part of "PlaNYC".* Trent added, “We stated [that](#) in March 2003 with respect to tolling the East River Bridges; the justification remains the same. “

Any toll scheme follows a shameful tradition of city fathers imposing fees to cover municipal services covered by the tax levy and failing to reduce the tax levy. East River Bridge tolls represent nothing more than a tax increase on the backs of working and middle class New Yorkers. “Out-of-towners get a pass with this latest tax scheme.”

“If this exercise is all about revenue and not really about congestion and clean air, the Queens Civic Congress recommends to the NYC Traffic Congestion Mitigation Commission, elected officials, policymakers, those concerned about congestion and clean air as well as funding mass transit at the level we need, and the public at large, the revenue reforms delivered to the Commission when I [testified](#) at the Commission's Queens hearing on October 30.”

“The more New Yorkers learn about congestion pricing, the more they see how rotten it is to tax New Yorkers to address Midtown and downtown Manhattan traffic when better ways exist. The members of the Traffic Congestion Mitigation Commission owe New Yorkers a fiduciary duty to examine all traffic mitigation alternatives and give each and every proposal a fair and proper hearing.”

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<http://queensciviccongress.org/organization/members.php>