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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

March 29th, 2018

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Community Board 8 (Manhattan) recognizes that there is tremendous overcrowding on New York City's roads, particularly in the midtown "Central Business District." CB8 also recognizes that the MTA urgently requires additional funding. There have been many suggestions for improving the congestion and providing for supplemental MTA funding. Some of these suggestions have been incorporated by FixNY into a congestion pricing proposal.

CB8 does not support the current congestion pricing proposal for reasons, including but not limited to, the following:

The impact on our community, just north of the northern border of the Central Business District, is unknown. We are concerned that visitors and commuters will drive into our community, prepared to leave their cars to avoid paying the tax for driving into the CBD. Our streets and garages are crowded too.

There is no mechanism for a "lockbox" for the funds generated by the tax and other financial changes, including potential new bridge tolls, to ensure that the funds go to and are used by the MTA to improve New York City's public transportation. We are also concerned that the funds may be mingled with tolls from Port Authority bridges, which are used for Port Authority ventures.

There is no protection from congestion pricing fees for disabled individuals who may not be able to use public transportation. We believe this is unfair.

There is nothing to prevent trucks from getting off bridges, going north on the FDR and avoiding congestion pricing, only to clog the streets and pollute the air of our community, and other communities north of the CBD.

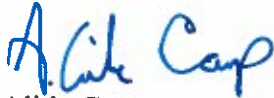
We do not see how an analysis of the increased investment in public transportation can be made quickly so that Phase 3, in which a congestion pricing fee is imposed, could be implemented by 2020.

Furthermore, New York is not London.

These are a sample of the reasons Community Board 8 opposes the current congestion pricing plan as introduced to the Transportation Committee by FixNY. We do support, though, additional funding for the MTA.

While we agree that overcrowding and insufficient MTA funding are significant problems, we would like to see our concerns addressed in future proposals. We would be happy to assist FixNY by presenting the interests and perspectives of a community adjacent to the CBD.

Thank you for your attention to our views.



Alida Camp
Chair of Manhattan Community Board 8

cc:

Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President of the City of New York
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 14th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable Jose Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Robert Rodriguez, NYS Assembly Member, 68th Assembly District
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District