



# CONGESTION PRICING 101

State and City officials, stakeholders, and advocacy groups have conducted numerous studies to determine the most effective way to address congestion, particularly in the most congested area -- the Manhattan Central Business District (CBD) below 60th Street. These studies overwhelmingly pointed to congestion pricing as the most effective tool.

**What is Congestion Pricing?** It's a tolling program that will charge vehicles driving below 60th Street in Manhattan to reduce congestion, improve air quality, and bolster mass transit service. The state law was passed in 2019, following years of debate and advocacy for the measure, and is slated to begin June 30th, 2024.

## OUR PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEM NEEDS INVESTMENT

NYC needs thriving public transportation options -- that's how most people get around. Prior to the pandemic, over 75% of trips in the CBD were on mass transit. When riders don't have sufficient mass transit options, they arrive late for work, miss essential appointments, and spend more time away from their families.

### **Congestion Pricing is expected to raise \$1 Billion/year**

which will be used to upgrade and modernize the New York City subway and bus systems, the Long Island Rail Road, and Metro-North Railroad. Upgrades will include more subway station elevators, modernized signals to reduce trains delays, platform repairs to increase safety, and more. This will mean faster, more accessible, and more reliable service!

## THE FACTS:

- An estimated 700,000 vehicles enter the Central Business District (CBD) every day, clogging Manhattan streets and emitting air pollution.
- According to a Global Traffic Scorecard, NYC is one of the worst cities for traffic congestion in the world.
- Due to traffic congestion, New Yorkers miss 117 hours of work every year on average, costing them \$1,976 in lost productivity and other expenses.
- Average travel speeds in the Manhattan CBD dropped from 9.1 mph to 7.1 mph between 2010 and 2019, a 22% decline.

## BENEFITS OF CONGESTION PRICING

Congestion Pricing's Tolling Program will:

- reduce vehicle traffic in and around the Manhattan CBD
- improve air quality
- reduce travel times
- create a regular source of money to improve and modernize MTA subway, bus, and commuter railroads

To learn more and get involved in the campaign for better mass transit, contact the NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign:

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