

James Nolan

Minority Whip
Legislator, 15th District
Chair, Committee on Appointments



Committee Assignments:
Legislation
Parks & Recreation

To: Vedat Gashi, Chairman of the Board of Legislators
Sunday Vanderberg, Clerk of the Board of Legislators
Colin Smith, Chair of the Legislation Committee
Ericka Pierce, Chair of the Public Work & Transportation Committee

From: James Nolan, Legislator, District 15

Date: September 25, 2023

Re: *Resolution Opposing the Newly Approved Central Business District Tolling Program Of New York City (Congestion Pricing)*

Attached is a Legislative Resolution Opposing the Newly Approved Central Business District Tolling Program Of New York City (Congestion Pricing).

Please refer to the Legislation Committee and the Public Work and Transportation Committee

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE NEWLY APPROVED CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
TOLLING PROGRAM OF NEW YORK CITY (CONGESTION PRICING).

WHEREAS, NEW YORK CITY'S CONGESTION PRICING CONGESTION PRICING REFERS TO THE USE OF ELECTRONIC TOLLING TO CHARGE VEHICLES FOR ENTERING CERTAIN AREAS DURING PEAK COMMUTING HOURS; AND

WHEREAS, THE CONGESTION PRICING PLAN WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY BURDEN YONKERS RESIDENTS, PARTICULARLY THE MANY NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICERS, NEW YORK FIREFIGHTERS, TRANSIT WORKERS, AND PORT AUTHORITY WORKERS THAT CALL WESTCHESTER HOME; AND

WHEREAS, MANHATTAN IS AN ISLAND AND THEREFORE HAS LIMITED POINTS OF ENTRY, AND SUCH A TOLLING PROGRAM WILL IMPACT COMMUTERS, STUDENTS, LOW-INCOME FAMILIES, AND SMALL BUSINESSES TRAVELING INTO SUCH BUSINESS DISTRICTS. ACCORDING TO A 2019 STUDY DONE BY THE NEW YORK CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT, APPROXIMATELY 370,000 WORKERS DRIVE INTO MANHATTAN EVERY DAY, APPROXIMATELY 30,000 OF THESE DRIVERS LIVE IN THE LOWER HUDSON VALLEY (WESTCHESTER, PUTNAM, ROCKLAND); AND

WHEREAS, THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT TOLLING PROGRAM COULD COST DAILY COMMUTERS AN ESTIMATED \$5,000 PER YEAR; AND;

WHEREAS, A COMMERCIAL VEHICLE COULD POTENTIALLY BE CHARGED EACH TIME SUCH A VEHICLE ENTERS THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, INCLUDING MULTIPLE ENTRIES IN ONE DAY; AND

WHEREAS, THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT TOLLING PROGRAM WILL BE PARTICULARLY HARMFUL AND COSTLY TO SMALL BUSINESSES THAT ARE REQUIRED TO TRAVEL INTO MANHATTAN, WHILE SUCH SMALL BUSINESSES ARE STILL RECOVERING FROM THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC LOCKDOWNS; AND

WHEREAS, THE INCREASED COSTS TO SMALL BUSINESSES FROM THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT TOLLING PROGRAM SUCH BUSINESSES WILL BE FORCED ON CONSUMERS, WHO ARE CONTINUING TO STRUGGLE WITH PERSISTENTLY HIGH INFLATION; AND

WHEREAS, CONCERNS HAVE BEEN RAISED THAT THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT TOLLING PROGRAM WILL RESULT IN INCREASED CONGESTION IN THE OUTER BOROUGHES OF NEW YORK CITY; AND

WHEREAS, THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT TOLLING PROGRAM REVENUE IS DESIGNED TO COVER THE

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, WHICH IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE LOST \$690,000,000 IN 2022 DUE TO FARE EVASION AND IS REPORTEDLY FACING A PROJECTED BUDGET SHORTFALL OF ALMOST \$3,000,000,000 BY 2025: NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE WESTCHESTER BOARD OF LEGISLATORS DISAPPROVES OF THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT TOLLING PROGRAM OF NEW YORK CITY, ACKNOWLEDGES THE SEVERE ECONOMIC BURDEN THE PROPOSED CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT TOLLING PROGRAM WOULD POSE ON SMALL BUSINESSES AND WORKERS AND STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THE STATE OF NEW YORK CONDUCTS AND MAKES PUBLICLY AVAILABLE, AN ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT ON SUCH PROGRAM, AND ASK THAT THE PROGRAM NOT BE IMPLEMENTED

RESOLVED, THAT THE CLERK OF THE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS IS DIRECTED TO SEND A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO MTA CEO JANNO LIEBER, GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL, SENATE MAJORITY LEADER ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS, ASSEMBLY SPEAKER CARL HEASTIE, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY STATE DELEGATION