



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.

## Statement from Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. on Congestion Pricing Delay

JOSEPH P. ADDABBO JR. June 5, 2024

Queens, NY (June 5, 2024): "In April 2023, I introduced legislation (S.6388) to delay the operation and enforcement of the central business district tolling program, otherwise referred to as 'congestion pricing'. While I understand the program's intent to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and financially support our public transit system, I had concerns about the impact on New Yorkers residing in transit deserts with no viable transportation option into Manhattan other than by car. Congestion pricing would impose heavy financial burdens on taxi drivers, truck drivers, the elderly, the infirm, and the disabled community. Additionally, restaurants, theaters, concert halls, and an entire business ecosystem dependent on financial support from outer-borough residents and visitors would suffer as people are deterred from visiting the city. I believe that delaying the implementation of the Central Business District Tolling Program would allow residents and tourists to better prepare for this unwarranted expense, as we continue recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and inflation. I applaud the Governor for recognizing the widespread consequences this program would present for residents, businesses, and tourists. As for the need of replacement funding for the MTA, I draw attention to the additional need to expedite the process of awarding the 3 downstate casino licenses, which statutorily would require the initial total of the 3 license fees received to be allocated to the MTA. Those 3 license fees could realistically mean upwards of \$2.75 to \$3 billion to the MTA, or roughly 3

years' worth of congestion pricing. In addition to the initial license fees, according to the legislation passed in 2022, the MTA would be the beneficiary of minimally 40% of the downstate casino revenue going forward, possibly making congestion pricing less relevant."