



PRESS RELEASE
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No Way to Another NYC Toll-way; Sen. Monica R. Martinez Issues Statement in Strong Opposition to Congestion Pricing

Sen. Martinez continues objection to NYC congestion pricing plan that will devastate Long Island commuters.

HAUPPAUGE, N.Y. – Congestion pricing will take its toll on Long Islanders, according to New York State Sen. Monica R. Martinez, who reaffirmed her strong opposition to the plan following the Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s (MTA) approval of the fees earlier today. The MTA’s decision comes after Gov. Kathy Hochul’s Thursday announcement lifting the “indefinite pause” on the highly controversial program, which has been in effect since June. If implemented, the plan would burden working Long Island commuters with significant costs to enter Manhattan south of 60th Street.

“The MTA’s vote to lift the ‘indefinite pause’ on congestion pricing is an affront to the hardworking families of Long Island and suburban communities across our state,” said Sen. Martinez. “This ill-conceived measure is nothing more than a money grab at the expense of middle- and lower-income commuters who already shoulder some of the highest costs of living in the nation. I will not stand idly while Long Islanders are unfairly taxed simply for going to work, visiting loved ones, or accessing essential services in New York City.”

Sen. Martinez emphasized the devastating consequences of the plan, which would charge motorists up to \$9 starting Jan. 5. “Although a reduction in the toll from \$15 to \$9 is currently proposed, this fee remains a direct attack on the suburban residents who help this city run. It will force Long Island families to make

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impossible choices, it will harm local businesses, and it will exacerbate financial struggles during a time when inflation and economic uncertainty are still very real. I vehemently oppose this plan and call on our state leaders to focus on real solutions that alleviate congestion and protect our environment without punishing suburban communities.”

Sen. Martinez is actively consulting with her colleagues from suburban districts, whose constituents will also be disproportionately affected by the measure. Together, they are exploring every possible option to block the implementation of congestion pricing.

“The arguments against congestion pricing remain as valid as ever. The economic challenges that led to its delay in June persist today. Nothing has improved for suburban residents—this is simply a reversal made without consideration for the livelihoods of New Yorkers outside Manhattan,” Sen. Martinez stated.

The senator reaffirmed her unwavering stance: “Long Island commuters deserve better. I will continue to fight tirelessly to ensure their voices are heard and their financial well-being are protected. The MTA’s plan is unacceptable, and it must be stopped.”

If implemented, the congestion pricing program would take effect on Jan. 5, adding an undue burden on already overtaxed suburban residents.