



**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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COUNCIL SPEAKER CHRISTINE C. QUINN ISSUES STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF PLANYC 2030
Speaker is joined by environmental, business and health leaders

“Cleaning up our air and water, easing traffic congestion and expanding public transportation, increasing sustainable energy sources, building new housing and repairing the city’s aging infrastructure – these efforts are more important than ever as New York City anticipates adding a million new residents over the next two decades. Today, I am announcing my support for the PlaNYC 2030 effort, the far-reaching initiative that will help the city meet these important goals.

“Over the past two months, I have been carefully reviewing the 127 items included in PlaNYC 2030. Many of these grew out of the Mayor’s Sustainability Task Force, which the Council was pleased to participate in.

“I support the move to congestion pricing and recognize its importance to the goals of PlaNYC 2030. But before congestion pricing is implemented, the various mass transit upgrades, enhancements and expansions discussed in this plan must be in place across the City, especially in neighborhoods that are currently underserved by public transportation.

“To make sure this plan is implemented as smoothly and fairly as possible, I have begun discussions with the administration and the MTA, with an emphasis on several areas, including:

- The timetable for public transportation enhancements in the boroughs outside of Manhattan, especially in areas where subway and bus service are not easily accessible.
- Ensuring that those who live in the zone are not penalized for moving vehicles to comply with alternate street parking.
- Special consideration of the potential impact on small businesses.
- Incentives for car pools and other efficient ways of travel for those who can’t use mass transit.
- Regional transit passes to encourage use of public transportation by those who would use multiple mass transit systems in combination, such as Queens residents who take the LIRR and then a subway.
- A commitment for thorough annual review of congestion pricing to see what effects it has had on commuter travel times, average speeds throughout the City, impacts on neighborhoods on the

border of the zone, and impacts on business to make sure that predicted benefits come about without unforeseen problems.

“There are a number of other proposals in the plan that are critical to the goal of building a greener and more livable City in the years to come, including:

- Expanding public transportation options, especially for neighborhoods currently underserved.
- Combating global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 30% from today’s levels through aggressive actions, including modernizing and cleaning up our power plants and implementing numerous energy efficiency measures for City government and the private sector.
- Cleaning up contaminated land by establishing a new City Brownfields Office that will make brownfields investigation and remediation more efficient and transparent.
- Ensuring easy access to green space for all New Yorkers by completing unfinished parks and significantly increasing the number of street trees and Green streets.
- Reducing emissions from vehicles and buildings, a measure long promoted by the Council, to ensure New York City’s air is the cleanest of any large city in the country.
- A major study of neighborhood-by-neighborhood air quality in order to better understand and fight the city’s asthma epidemic.
- Improving the quality of our city’s water bodies by using existing and new “green infrastructure” to reduce storm water runoff and combined sewer overflows.

“In the coming weeks and months, my office will continue to work with Mayor’s Office and the MTA to continue to review all of the details of the plan, address concerns, and make sure it is implemented fairly and thoughtfully.

“Twenty-five years from now, I want the people of New York – all 9 million of us – to be able to look back and say the City’s leaders didn’t sit back and hold to the status quo in 2007—they looked forward and made tough decisions to ensure a greener, thriving future for all New York City residents.”

Other groups joining Speaker Quinn for today’s announcement:

Gene Russianoff, New York Public Interest Research Group
Kathy Wylde, Partnership for New York City
Peggy Shepard, WE ACT for Environmental Justice
Andy Darrell, Environmental Defense
New York League of Conservation Voters
Transportation Alternatives
Citizens Committee for New York City
Tri-state Transportation Campaign
Regional Plan Association
Lung Association of the City of New York

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