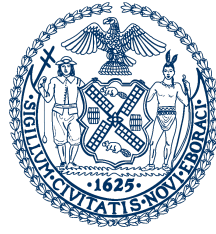


KEITH POWERS
COUNCIL MEMBER, 4TH DISTRICT

CARLINA RIVERA
COUNCIL MEMBER, 2ND DISTRICT



**THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK**

ERIK BOTTCHEER
COUNCIL MEMBER, 3RD DISTRICT

CHRISTOPHER MARTE
COUNCIL MEMBER, 1ST DISTRICT

November 25, 2024

Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Marie Therese Dominguez
Commissioner
New York State Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12232

Dear Governor Hochul and Commissioner Dominguez:

We write to you as New York City Council Members representing the Central Business District of Manhattan ("CBD"). With the news of the coming start of the historic Central Business District Tolling Program, we look forward to positive changes in our neighborhoods, including increasing mobility in Manhattan, reducing the number of cars clogging our streets, decreasing pollution, improving the city's air quality, and making the city safer and more enjoyable for pedestrians.

Congestion pricing is also intended to raise \$15 billion to upgrade New York City's transit system. With this revenue, the MTA will be able to improve the subway's signaling system, expand public transportation options across the five boroughs, and install new elevators in subway stations across the city to achieve 95% accessibility by 2055. These improvements would help make critical repairs and improvements to our transportation system that we desperately need.

Despite the positive results that the program will bring, we are still concerned today for the needs of our constituents who live within the CBD. We are writing today to reiterate our support for an accommodation to be made for those New Yorkers. For the individuals and families living within

the zone, whom we represent, the current fee structure would essentially result in a fee in every instance where a person would utilize a personal vehicle. We aim to encourage use of public transportation over personal vehicles, while also recognizing that there are instances where it is inevitable and unavoidable. We can take our cue from the successful congestion pricing program in London, which guaranteed a 90% discount for residents in the zone.

We are glad that congestion pricing is officially set to take effect early next year. It will drive historic improvements to our city's streets and transit system, and can set an example for the rest of the country. It is crucial that it is implemented in an equitable manner, to provide the greatest possible benefit for New York.

Sincerely,



Keith Powers
Council Member, District 4



Erik Bottcher
Council Member, District 3



Chris Marte
Council Member, District 1



Carlina Rivera
Council Member, District 2

Cc

Janno Lieber, Chair & CEO, Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Traffic Mobility Review Board