

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tri-State Transportation Campaign Statement on Postponement of NYC Congestion Pricing Plan

On Monday, MTA Chief Development Officer Janno Lieber stated that the agency's plan to implement congestion pricing in Manhattan will be delayed "roughly a year" due to holdups by the Trump Administration. In response, Tri-State Transportation Campaign released the following statement:

"As New York City emerges from a months-long shutdown brought on by the coronavirus, traffic congestion is on pace to quickly exceed pre-pandemic levels, threatening to hinder the city's economic recovery and exacerbate greenhouse gas emissions. Increasing air pollution, which kills an estimated 4 million people worldwide each year, is counterproductive in the fight against global climate change and deadly respiratory infections like COVID-19.

"The MTA's congestion pricing scheme, approved by the state legislature in early 2019, will reduce car and truck traffic in Manhattan's central business district while simultaneously providing a \$15 billion revenue infusion for desperately needed mass transit modernization and improvement projects. The plan, initially set to launch no later than January 2021, has been intentionally held up by the Trump Administration. It is a tremendous blow to the MTA and to the New York City region, which relies on our public transit network to exist. A billion-dollar-a-year blow to New York's regional economy is a massive federal failure, and the only reason this will register as barely a blip on the historical record of our time rather than stand as the epitome of the stunning incompetence it truly represents is that it is just a small part of the unthinkable scale of the Trump Administration's failures during the COVID pandemic and resulting economic collapse.

"It's now even more clear that the best interest of New York City's public health and economy is not a priority for the White House, and now millions of commuters will suffer unnecessarily as a result."

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Tri-State Transportation Campaign is a 27-year old advocacy organization that fights for an equitable, safe, multi-modal transportation network that provides options and supports the economies of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. TSTC works to fix our commutes, meet our climate goals, stop traffic deaths, and make transportation fair.