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Governor Hochul's Abandonment of Congestion Pricing

The New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA) is deeply disappointed about Governor Kathy Hochul's announcement to delay congestion pricing indefinitely. NYC-EJA and other environmental justice advocates have supported the concept of congestion pricing for over 15 years. Our members reflect the 75 percent of low-income New Yorkers of color who rely on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) buses and 66 percent on subway service to get around. As such, access, reliability, and affordability of public transportation are paramount in our support for congestion pricing, which we see as supporting mass transit and reducing emissions.

The abandonment of this program impedes the rollout of the MTA's regional and place-based mitigation plan. This plan includes key commitments from the MTA and other program sponsors to reduce vehicular traffic and tailpipe emissions, such as expanding funding for electric trucks, installing charging infrastructure, and replacing dirty diesel operating trucks at the Hunts Point Produce Market.

One year after our skies were covered orange and in the middle of a climate crisis, New York cannot desert plans that will reduce vehicular traffic congestion, improve public transit, and help us reach our climate targets set forth by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

NYC-EJA urges Governor Hochul to retract her position and steer the program back on track.