



March 25, 2019

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Hon. Velmanette Montgomery (25th Senate District)

Hon. Robert C. Carroll (44th Assembly District)

Hon. Jo Anne Simon (52nd Assembly District)

Dear Legislators:

The Park Slope Civic Council strongly supports congestion pricing. We are writing to you, as the Senators and Assemblymembers representing our neighborhood, to urge you to vote in favor of this desperately needed and long overdue program for the City of New York.

Our transit system desperately needs the considerable revenue that only congestion pricing will bring to address years of deferred maintenance, install modern signaling technology that will increase the capacity of the subway system, and improve service to residents who live in two and three-fare zones for which adequate public transit is non-existent. At the same time, congestion pricing will reduce the number of vehicles entering the Manhattan core, which will greatly help our local economy and make our small businesses better able to compete with the challenges they face today.

Studies have clearly shown that a very small percentage of the drivers who enter the congestion zone are low and moderate-income. Overwhelmingly, those who do drive into this zone can afford to pay the congestion fee. In a city in which millions of people depend for their livelihood on having a reliable and efficient public transit system, the congestion fee is a logical and necessary solution to improving the lives of those who must use our subways and buses. Moreover, the experience in cities outside the United States that have implemented a congestion pricing plan provides ample evidence of its efficacy in reducing traffic, raising revenue and improving the environment.

It is imperative that New York move forward with congestion pricing so that NYC Transit's Fast Forward Plan can be implemented. We urge all of you to throw your support behind this essential legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Rydell".

Joe Rydell, Acting President
Park Slope Civic Council

cc: Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Hon. Bill de Blasio

The Park Slope Civic Council was founded in 1896 as the South Brooklyn Board of Trade and incorporated in 1938.