



, Flushi
civiccon

Queens Civic Congress

Es

Patricia Dolan

Seymour Schwartz

James Trent

Vice Presidents:

Tyler Cassell Richard Hellenbrecht Paul Kerzner David Kulick
Barbara Larkin Audrey Lucas Kathy Masi Nagassar Ramgarib
Harbachan Singh Edwin Westley Dorothy Woo

Founders:

President Emeritus Sean Walsh
Albert Greenblatt
Robert Harris

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
MONDAY, February 4, 2008

Contact:
Jim Trent
(718) 343-8830

Queens Civic Congress Proposal Best Funds MTA Capital Plan

Prepared by Queens Civic Congress Transportation chair Jim Trent (Creedmoor Civic)
Presented at Queens Civic Congress MTA Capital Plan Forum, February 4, 2008

The Queens Civic Congress, an umbrella organization of more than 100 neighborhood based civic organizations representing property owners, including those owning coops and condos, and tenants who reside in every part of Queens County, makes this proposal to ensure adequate funding for the next MTA Capital Plan. This simple proposal, unlike any of the congestion tax schemes, including the latest toll/tax variant, involves almost no overhead and no new infrastructure.

As Queens Civic Congress testified last month and October before the NYC Traffic Congestion Mitigation Commission, "The best revenue plan – advanced by the Queens Civic Congress – involves no *new* tax scheme. It reforms an old measure that would net nearly \$1.8 billion annually. Unlike any other proposal, this QCC revenue reform would raise hundreds of millions of dollars for the entire MTA systems that primarily serve non-city residents. The Queens Civic Congress sees nothing wrong with making out-of-staters and other non-city residents step up to the plate." By the commission's own analysis, this solid (revenue) recommendation involving true revenue sharing with the suburban counties covered by the MTA, nets \$1,774,000,000.

As the Queens Civic Congress proposed, let the suburbs keep what their residents pay; the city can do rather well collecting its share from Connecticut, New Jersey and other out-of-staters. This should generate upwards of one billion for NYC projects and the revenue-sharing approach should enable the coalition needed to pass it in Albany. In past years, such organization's as the Regional Plan Association supported this approach.

The Queens Civic Congress urges all of our elected officials including the Governor, the Mayor and our state and city legislators, to embrace this sound proposal. No other proposal comes anywhere close to generating the revenue. The Queens Civic Congress asks its community based member organization to help promote this proposal and looks forward to working with transit advocates to adopt this dynamic program.

In 1998 there were 810,965 returns showed some NYC commuter tax liability. As the Queens Civic Congress testified at various budget hearing, this plan involves a simple doubling of the then miniscule rates dating back to 1971, 0.45% of wages and salaries and 0.65% of self-employment income.)

-30-

Queens Civic Congress Members may be found on the web at:
<http://queensciviccongress.org/organization/members.php>