



Old Astoria Neighborhood Association (OANA)
www.OANA-NY.org

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Congestion Pricing should = Residential Parking Permits

With the likelihood that Congestion Pricing (Tolls for driving into Manhattan) soon being approved in Albany, we at OANA urge our elected officials to seriously explore, (And Implement) Residential parking Permits.

This is especially important for those areas in the outer boroughs, especially Queens, that sit next to Public Transportation into Manhattan.

We feel the likelihood that local Parking will be taken up by drivers avoiding these tolls. We are not against the implementation of Congestion Pricing, for it will definitely help control vehicular traffic. However, always be aware of unanticipated consequences, and chief among those would be the loss of parking in the outer boroughs.


Astoria is especially vulnerable, as we are close to Manhattan, next to major highways and Bridges, and have Bus, Ferry, and Subway service directly into Manhattan.

OANA has been [advocating for Parking Permits since 2016](#). This support was reported in an [article in the Astoria Post](#), which included reactions from local elected officials at the time. It also supported a [pilot program \(Never initiated\) by LaGuardia Airport](#).

Now is the time to take this seriously!!!!!! Our local parking issues have a strong effect on our quality of life, from the extra pollution, waste of time, and the psychological frustrations we all face from cruising the neighborhood looking for parking.

Most major cities in the USA currently have some sort of Residential Parking Permit program. To think that NYC could not run a successful program is counter intuitive: If Miami can run one, so can we! We have been losing residents to other cities because of Quality of Life issues. Let's catch up with the rest of the country.

It is important to understand that the permits would only apply overnight: Parking during the day would not be affected. Each neighborhood would be studied to determine the best times to implement these regulations, considering its retail and commercial interests.

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While some have complained that there may be a fee for such as service, and that free street parking is a right for everyone, we disagree. Today we are indeed paying a fee: That fee is wasted time cruising looking for parking, and increased pollution. Time is money, and our health is priceless!!

One other position OANA would like to support: We feel that holders of NYC Disability Parking Permits should be exempted from congestion pricing! The concept behind these permits is that holders cannot safely use Public Transit, so they should not be unduly penalized over something they have no control over.