

Ranking Minority Member:

Education

Mental Health

Committees:

Banks

Commerce, Economic Development
and Small Business

Consumer Protection

Finance

New York City Education

**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**JAMES N. TEDISCO
Senator, 49th District**

Albany Office:
515 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247
(518) 455-2181
Fax (518) 426-6821

District Office:
636 Plank Road, #205
Clifton Park, New York 12065
(518) 885-1829
Fax (518) 371-2649

Satellite Office:
Fulton County Office Building
223 West Main Street, Rm. B2
Johnstown, New York 12095
(518) 762-3733
Fax (518) 762-3721
E-Mail: tedisco@nysenate.gov
Website: www.tedisco.nysenate.gov

December 6, 2022

Hon. Timothy Kennedy,
NYS Senate
Legislative Office Building Room 708
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Chairman Kennedy:

As I'm sure you know, the New York State Thruway Authority has proposed a 5 percent Thruway toll hike for EZ-Pass users and a 75 percent increase for non-EZ-Pass motorists who must rely on the Thruway to drive to work, medical appointments, shopping and take their kids to school.

New Yorkers already have it tough with the highest inflation in over 40 years causing higher prices for gas, home heating, groceries, computers, automobiles, lumber and just about every good and service. There's no question a toll hike will lead to higher consumer prices and a significant, negative impact on local communities and local roads in terms of safety and wear and tear as more cars and trucks will drive on municipal roads to avoid the tolls.

The state will be receiving \$22 billion from the federal government and voters last month approved a \$4.2 environmental bond act for infrastructure funding. The last thing the state should be doing now is raising tolls, which is just another tax on low-and-moderate-income New Yorkers who can afford it the least.

I am sponsoring bi-partisan legislation with Assemblyman Fred Thiele S.173/A.5953, to require legislative approval for any Thruway toll increase that I ask for your consideration.

I am also writing to respectfully request the New York State Senate Transportation Committee hold a public hearing on this proposed Thruway Toll Hike so we can ask questions of the Thruway Authority as well as get feedback from all parties who could be impacted by the increase including motorists, truckers, and our business community. The Thruway Authority needs to answer why this toll hike is necessary and why did they promise the legislature and people of New York State in the early 1990s that the Thruway would be toll-less for all New Yorkers by the new millennium. They renege on that promise and now want to increase tolls yet again.

Thank you for your consideration and best wishes for a happy and health holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'James N. Tedisco'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Senator James N. Tedisco