

Comptroller Bill Thompson on Congestion Pricing:
unfair to New Yorkers.

In an interview taped February 15 and aired February 17 on WNBC-TV Channel 4's News Forum, NYC Comptroller William Thompson responded to question by News 4 New York political report Jay DeDapper on congestion pricing. The question and answer exchange follows below:

DeDAPPER: Briefly, congestion pricing, do you think it's going to happen? Do you think it's going to pass in Albany?

Mr. THOMPSON: We don't know.

DeDAPPER: It's obviously going to go to Albany, it looks like.

Mr. THOMPSON: Yeah, I think so. I mean, in the long run, you've got to do something. You've got to reduce congestion. And if we, you know, I think in talking to the people in New York City, it's important that we use all the money from that to improve mass transit. That's what it should be used for. Not to, you know, not to be able to reduce the amount that the MTA and the state gives us. It should be used to improve mass transit.

DeDAPPER: And that's why people want to see the MTA budget five-year plan to find out how they plan to spend the money.

Mr. THOMPSON: I think it's important that they come up with the MTA budget early, before the decisions have to be made.

DeDAPPER: Do you agree with the proposal that came out of the commission?

Mr. THOMPSON: I've got some problems with it. I mean...

DeDAPPER: Name one big problem you have.

Mr. THOMPSON: Well, how do you allow deductibility of tolls for people coming in through the George Washington Bridge and coming in from Jersey...

DeDAPPER: Like the Holland Tunnel, right.

Mr. THOMPSON: ...and Long Island, and at the same point, you say to New Yorkers, you have to dig deeper in your pocket? You know, those are the sins of the city. I mean, I think there's an unfairness there. So that was one of the big complaints I had before. I still have that complaint. I just think it's unfair to New Yorkers.

Read the entire interview at: <http://www.wnbc.com/politics/15314350/detail.html>