

The Insider (from Crain's)

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Hudson River tolls reduce Mike's coffers

Planned toll increases by the Port Authority are taking a bite out of potential congestion pricing revenue. Travelers on the George Washington Bridge and the Lincoln and Holland tunnels could pay as much as \$8 to \$9—up from \$6 today—when the PA raises tolls early next year. Congestion pricing advocates were counting on collecting the \$2 difference between today's toll and the \$8 fee to enter Manhattan.

Insiders say the congestion pricing net revenue—money available for transit improvements—is now only \$70 million a year. Previously, the low estimate was MTA Chief Lee Sander's \$100 million to \$200 million. The Bloomberg administration has claimed as much as \$390 million.

The administration admits that changes in PA tolls as well as MTA increases could affect congestion pricing calculations. "Toll increases that fund infrastructure investment and reduce driving are consistent with the principles of PlaNYC," says a mayoral spokesman.