

*It's starting to smell like a dying carcass at the City Council.*

Please note comment #2 (p.2) from “Lew from Brooklyn” the blog “nom de pen” of a certain esteemed and well-respected Council Member. How can you not appreciate this concerned pol?

**DAILY NEWS**

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**March 4, 2008**

## **Congestion Pricing Congested At Council? (Updated)**

In a move that does not bode well for the congestion pricing plan's chances of passing as-is in the Council, which must approve the measure before it gets sent to Albany, 20 Council members have [released a letter to Mayor Bloomberg](#) calling on him to "correct an unfairness" in the pay-to-drive plan.

"We are concerned that the burden of paying for congestion pricing will fall too heavily on New York City residents – and in particular on residents of Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx and Staten Island – while commuters from outside the City will remain unaffected," the members wrote.

"Under the current proposal, bridge and tunnel toll payments would be credited against the \$8 congestion charge. This means that commuters who currently pay tolls to use the Port Authority and Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority river crossings will pay no additional congestion fee. The bulk of these drivers live outside of New York City.

At the same time, drivers who enter Manhattan via the Brooklyn Bridge, the Manhattan Bridge or the Williamsburg Bridge will pay the full \$8 congestion charge. Most of these drivers do live within New York City.

This is blatantly unfair."

The lawmakers want Bloomberg, whom they refer to as the "primary architect of the congestion pricing plan," to either amend the plan to require commuters to pay both the tolls and a congestion fee (either full or partial) or by "forcing" the Port Authority to devote a "significant portion" of toll revenue generated on Hudson River crossings to mass transit improvements.

The letter was released by 2009 comptroller hopeful/Councilman David Yassky, and signed by the following members: James, Mark-Viverito, Garodnick, Brewer, Koppell, Jackson, Gioia, Felder, Vacca, White, Mendez, Liu, Gentile, Lappin, Stewart, Vallone, Rivera, Dilan.

UPDATE: A pro-congestion pricing reader (who asked to remain anonymous) writes:

"That congestion pricing letter is penned by some of staunchest CP advocates - Viverito, Yassky, Liu have all been active supporters. My read is that they are trying to move Chris, the mayor and the negotiations currently going on with the governor's office."

## 5 Comments

As you note, while NYC taxpayers who support the building and maintenance of these roads will pay this regressive tax, commuters who don't even pay a commuter tax any more, but use all city services, will get a free ride by deducting bridge and tunnel tolls. Thus, suburbanites are actually ENCOURAGED to drive under this plan, since it costs them nothing and their rides will be faster and easier thanks to removing city residents from their own roads. Exactly who is supposed to be representing the already maximally taxed residents of this city, the only ones stuck with both DOT maintenance costs and the full freight of this tax, among our elected representatives?

☐ Posted by Susan22 on March 4, 2008 4:43 PM

Read it anyway yu want. Assembly Dems won't get a chance to kill this dead/ It's starting to smell like a dying carcass at the City Council.

As it should.

Lew from Brooklyn

☐ Posted by Lew from Brooklyn on March 4, 2008 7:14 PM

Lew said: As it should.

Exactly.

☐ Posted by topo gigio on March 4, 2008 8:31 PM

RE: Legislators are negotiating congestion pricing.....

How much do you want to bet that with Mayor Bloomy giving the NY State Republican Senate 1 million dollars in the last year...(\$500,000 this week) that the "Liberal Republicans" will pass a form of "Congestive Pricing" soon.

"Congestive Pricing" is nothing more then yet ANOTHER Tax on all working New Yorkers, upwards of another \$2,000 a year for those coming into New York to make a living and pay their bills.

We already have tolls on all bridges and tunnels & large fines for parking. This "Congestive Pricing" is nothing more then another tax and a way for Bloomy to be loved by those Upper West & Eastsiders that feel that the City is theirs alone to own.

No wonder the "Liberal Senate Republicans and the NY GOP Party" are losing seats all across the State of New York. The NY GOP has abandoned all principles of lower taxes and spending.

Jim Kelly - NY Conservative Campaigns

☐ Posted by NYPDIrish on March 5, 2008 5:53 AM

will the Brooklyn section from all the Bridges ( Brooklyn Bridge- williamsburg Bridge ) neighborhood's bee the " park and ride " for all long island cars  
it is very hard to find a normal parking space in Brooklyn. what dangress effect it will be to the the local residential environmental and business?

☐ Posted by brooklyn and i on March 5, 2008 1:12 PM