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Mayor Bloomberg refers to the responsible state legislators who smartly rejected his congestion tax scheme as "spineless." On the contrary, putting the brakes on yet another tax for overburdened New Yorkers to bail out the budget bloated, bureaucratic MTA showed some real backbone. If the Mayor plans to go down this road again, New Yorkers need to start their engines and drive it out of town once more. A tax is a tax is a tax.

Corey Bearak
Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free
(718) 343-6779

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2008/07/24/2008-07-24_traffic_plan_will_live_despite_spineless.html



Traffic plan will live, despite 'spineless' pols, sez Mayor Bloomberg

BY ADAM LISBERG
DAILY NEWS CITY HALL BUREAU CHIEF
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[NEW ORLEANS](#) - [Mayor Bloomberg](#) predicted Thursday that [New York](#) will eventually adopt a version of his failed congestion pricing plan - but not until the "spineless state Legislature" gets past the November election.

"Congestion pricing will come, in New York and lots of other cities, because it is the only way where you are going to do the two things that you need to do - reduce people's driving and find money for mass transit," Bloomberg said. "I don't think that battle is lost at all."

The mayor's plan to charge drivers \$8 to enter [Manhattan](#) south of 60th St. on weekdays died in the spring after [Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver \(D-Manhattan\)](#) declined to bring it up for a vote, despite the promise of \$354 million in federal money to help start it.

"We just unfortunately, because of a spineless state legislature, were unable to get the authorization to do it, he said."

Bloomberg said he expects the [Ravitch Commission](#), appointed by Gov. Paterson to find a long-term solution to the [Metropolitan Transportation Authority's](#) financial woes, will recommend some form of congestion pricing - and he said it was no coincidence that the commission is scheduled to finish its work in December, after this election cycle.

"The politics of New York State are such that they will not do anything until after the election," the mayor said.

"After November, New York State is going to discover a very large deficit. The MTA is already discovering a very large deficit. And the public is starting to say, 'Hey, how come you aren't putting in the security systems that you promised? How come you aren't giving us the new buses we need? How come you aren't expanding all of the services that will help me get to work?'"

The mayor also said the state should start collecting tax revenues from the Indian reservations that sell cigarettes to offset the MTA's proposal of two new fare hikes.

Bloomberg made his comments at a meeting of the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#), where he and [Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell](#) called for both presidential candidates to attend a town hall meeting on [America's](#) crumbling infrastructure.