

Keep NYC Free

www.keepnycfree.com

March 4, 2009

Dear Legislator,

As you weigh all things considered with respect to resourcing the MTA in whole or in part by tolling the FREE East River and Harlem River Bridges, please consider this [statement](#) Keep NYC Free issued Sunday in conjunction with our participation in two separate news conferences, one in Washington Heights and the other on the Manhattan side of the Queensborough Bridge.

The proposed \$2 toll tax changes nothing in terms of the inequity and unfairness of tolling as a revenue. It does change the efficiency. The \$2 charge makes what was a grossly inefficient tax scheme that would have taken two of every five dollars off the top away from mass transit into one that would require other revenues to cover its costs.

The revenues you adopt to resource mass transit should do just that and not address a gaping hole in someone else's budget. The toll scheme includes MTA assumption of bridge maintenance as well as the costs of building a toll infrastructure – perhaps not as pricey as envisioned by the congestion tax but not anywhere near insignificant when the real number could very well approach one hundred million – for that matter one-half that amount – \$50 million – remains a big chunk of change to take away from transit. The \$2 toll means the other revenues you adopt would be diverted away from transit to pay for some combination of bridge maintenance and tolling infrastructure until the tolls get hike high enough to beat the cost of inflation on those costs. Keep NYC Free (Please visit www.keepnycfree.com) and others proposed sounder, fair and equitable alternatives to tolls that we have previously shared and stand ready to discuss.

Thank you for your interest and consideration.

Sincerely,

Corey Bearak, Esq.
Policy Advisor
Keep NYC Free

(718) 224-8010/ (718) 343-6779; cell: (516) 343-6207

Please click the link below for the attachment:

[\\$2 tolls](#) net NOTHING for transit

Statement by Walter McCaffrey

(2009-03-01)