

Keep NYC Free

www.keepnycfree.com

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Why Only (Bad For The Economy) Tolls?

The bottom line remains that the \$2 toll nets **NOTHING** for transit and our coalition makes clear in our [report](#), [statements](#) and [testimonies](#) we can [save](#) the fare, not only avert the MTA's draconian cuts to subway and bus service, but enhance both and create a fair, equitable and stable revenue stream for necessary transit projects without killing our economy. In fact, a 2006 [report](#) made clear the economic disaster New York faces from tolling of our free East River and Harlem River bridges. The current fragile state of our national, state, regional and local economies make clear the need to avoid any Ravitch or variant toll scheme that threaten most irreparable harm. Tolls represents nothing more than a business killer. And it really hurts our smaller businesses. Look at how tolls hurt our economy:

- Reducing the number of people entering the Central Business District
- Reduced spending by those who still come to the CBD, but shift to other transportation
- Some \$1.89 billion less in spending each year.
- Annual loss of \$2.7 billion in economic output
- 23,100 fewer jobs
- \$235 million less in annual City and State tax revenues each year.

Let's seize the opportunity to recognize that especially in this lousy economic and fiscal climate, intelligent investment in transit serves our nation, our state and our city. That investment makes no sense if it relies on economy-killing tolls that risks canceling the economic development benefits of mass transit. Our coalition alternative [plan](#) recognizes that imperative; it finds the resources that empower the city and state to step up to the plate and make up their dramatic skimping on supporting transit. Our [plan](#) also identifies a fair way for those who come here to work to support transit which benefits them whether or not they use it.

Keep NYC Free and our coalition members stand ready to partner to achieve the needed outcome: low fares, steady resources to ensure that and stable revenues – without depending on economy killings toll – for necessary projects. Our website, www.keepnycfree.com, includes our [plan](#) and other useful information.

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*Issued/ delivered at new conference Monday, March 9 called by Council Member Tony Avella.