

History Lesson

Maybe the appointed Lieutenant Governor has some trouble with history because he raised the specter of a twice-defeated toll-tax at a transit forum hosted by NYU. Keep NYC Free expressed optimism about moving forward in common cause after our legislators approved the last MTA funding plan. Bringing back a failed, discredited and unworkable SCHEME brings just recreates the battles and wasted efforts involved when we all need to come together on a fair funding plan to support transit projects we need over the longer term. Keep NYC Free [alternatives](#) meet that imperative. Rather than tired old policies and the politics it brings to the fore, New Yorkers need everyone to focus on helping legislators to build a program that addresses transit and road finance needs. There's a reason George Santayana wrote, "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Let's all be mindful and commit to move past toll-taxers' fixation on that unfair, inequitable, unsound and inefficient scheme to sensible measure such as those Keep NYC Free advocates.

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2009/10/29/2009-10-29_we_havent_heard_last_on_river_tolls_ravitch.html

Ex-MTA chief, Lt. Gov. Ravitch: East River tolls may not be dead after all

[Sarah Armaghan](#) and [Pete Donohue](#)

Daily News Writers

Thursday, October 29th 2009, 4:00 AM

Lt. Gov. Richard Ravitch said: User fees fees will come back and back, and they will happen.

The battle over East River bridge tolls may be lost, but the war hasn't ended, [Lt. Gov. Richard Ravitch](#) said on Wednesday.

"User fees fees will come back and back, and they will happen," Ravitch said at [New York University's](#) Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

A former MTA chairman, Ravitch headed a state commission formed to draft a solution to the

fiscal crisis threatening the [Metropolitan Transportation Authority](#) and its bus, subway and commuter train network, the nation's largest. The so-called Ravitch plan included tolling the East



and [Harlem River](#) bridges to avert sky-high fare hikes and Draconian service cuts while paying for critical projects. The Legislature's final plan - which transit advocates and officials called a stopgap measure - didn't include tolls.

Smith for News