

# Keep NYC Free

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## **Traffic Tax/ Toll Tax/ Congestion Tax - The faulty policy that no amount of messaging can correct.**

City Hall's latest tax [scheme](#) – a [grandchild](#) of the [congestion tax](#), “traffic pricing” they call it, at least makes clear what they aimed at all along – a traffic tax. Keep NYC Free [demonstrated](#) the [folly](#) of this unfair, inequitable and inefficient tax scheme.

[Nothing](#) changed there. Since then the City's own [data](#) demonstrated the congestion claimed never existed.

Keep NYC Free finds most disingenuous the attempts to tie service restorations to the revenues the faulty scheme will never realize.

MTA chair Walder made [clear](#) that the MTA would [never](#) use new resources to restore the misguided cuts to [buses](#).

The Traffic Tax represents nothing more than a [scheme](#) to hurt hard-working people and turning downtown and midtown into spaces for the well-heeled and their [mega-projects](#).

Those who claim to advocate for working families need to be careful rather than do the bidding of corporate folks seeking more space for their luxury limos.

The challenge remains to devise funding [sources](#) that impose no hurt on working families and so far they have failed.

Perhaps some sort of [purple haze](#) afflicts the traffic tax schemers?

No amount of [messaging](#) can correct the faulty Traffic Tax policy [scheme](#).

[http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2011/01/26/2011-01-26\\_congestion\\_pricing\\_no\\_longer\\_taking\\_detour.html#ixzz1C95zds3u](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2011/01/26/2011-01-26_congestion_pricing_no_longer_taking_detour.html#ixzz1C95zds3u)

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## DAILY NEWS

# Congestion pricing still on board as politicians resurrect plan to charge drivers entering city

BY [ADAM LISBERG](#) DAILY NEWS CITY HALL BUREAU CHIEF

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Tama/Getty

Mayor Bloomberg's proposed \$8 charge in 2008 for cars entering Manhattan below 60th St. could increase to \$10 under the new plan.

Congestion pricing is back!

Politicians are quietly resurrecting plans to charge drivers up to \$10 to enter [lower Manhattan](#) on weekdays.

While there is no formal proposal, the money could restore some of last year's [MTA](#) service cuts, halt the next fare increase and reduce the payroll tax outside the five boroughs.

[Mayor Bloomberg](#) proposed a similar system with an \$8 charge in 2008, only to see it shot down in the Assembly.

It would have used E-ZPasses and license plate readers to bill drivers entering [Manhattan](#) below 60th St. from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays.

Now, backers call it "traffic pricing" - and want to build support among outer borough and suburban lawmakers before proposing a specific plan.

"The MTA needs a sustainable funding source," explained state [Sen. Daniel Squadron](#) (D-[Brooklyn](#)), who's rounding up colleagues. "This has to be on the table."

One idea would reduce the payroll tax on businesses outside Manhattan - which could win backing from suburban lawmakers.

"Everybody out in the suburbs hates the payroll tax, so the idea of 'feathering' the tax could be helpful," said one person involved.

"This has to be a regional effort. It has to enjoy regional support," the source added.

Driver fees could also reverse some of the MTA service cuts that eliminated two subway lines and 36 bus routes last year, and help plug the system's \$10 billion long-term maintenance gap.

They could also delay the 7% fare hike scheduled for a year from now, backers hope.

While Gov. Cuomo has not taken sides on the idea, Bloomberg aides have been working on it behind the scenes for months.

"The key is devising a proposal that would win broad support across the five boroughs, the entire region, and in [Albany](#)," said [Deputy Mayor Howard Wolfson](#).

Two groups usually at odds - the union-backed [Working Families Party](#) and the business-friendly [Partnership for New York City](#) - are also working together on the plan.

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Read more: [http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2011/01/26/2011-01-26\\_congestion\\_pricing\\_no\\_longer\\_taking\\_detour.html#ixzz1C98WuLpp](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2011/01/26/2011-01-26_congestion_pricing_no_longer_taking_detour.html#ixzz1C98WuLpp)