

Keep NYC Free

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Blowin' In The Wind

Sometimes a fixation could evidence a sickness. That seems to be the case with many of the prefer-to-rename-anonymous” types who promote a much discredited congestion tax to address transit financing. Keep NYC Free documented during each of the debates how the toll-tax and the congestion tax failed to meet its misguided advocates' claims. As Dylan queried “how many times can a man turn his head Pretending he just doesn't see.” Time to devote our energies to initiatives that make sense and work.

<http://www.cityhallnews.com/2011/07/new-hope-for-congestion-pricing/>

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New Hope For Congestion Pricing?

By [ADAM LISBERG](#)

With Gov. Andrew Cuomo refusing to show his hand on how to pay the MTA's long-term costs, transit advocates hope he may one day come around to supporting a revised version of a controversial idea – congestion pricing.

Planners have been quietly working on a new version of the idea since last year, believing it has an inevitable place in the future of New York City's regional transportation policy even though it has never won political support in Albany.

It comes as a coalition of transportation policy analysts mark the 100th anniversary today of the removal of tolls from Manhattan's four East River bridges, which they say would otherwise have generated an extra \$31 billion by now.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg failed to win support for the first version of the plan in 2008, when he proposed charging cars \$8 to enter central and lower Manhattan during business hours. Later iterations would have placed tolls on the free East River bridges, but they also went nowhere.

Still, supporters – none of whom would speak on the record about it – believe there is no better tool to both reduce Manhattan traffic and raise billions of dollars for the MTA's capital plan, which has a hole of roughly \$10 billion starting next year.

“I have to think a governor who has accomplished so much in so many areas ... is not going to let the MTA capital plan fall apart,” said one transit advocate working on the proposal.

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