

Mayor de Blasio slams 'inconceivable' congestion pricing plan backed by Gov. Cuomo



(Jefferson Siegel/New York Daily News)

By Erin Durkin

Charging drivers to enter the most traffic-clogged parts of Manhattan is “inconceivable” even with Gov. Cuomo’s support, Mayor de Blasio said Monday.

De Blasio made his strongest comments yet against congestion pricing a week after Cuomo publicly backed the idea and said he planned to put his full weight behind it.

“I’ve never been in favor of this strategy. **I’ve never seen an example of it that I thought was fair,**” de Blasio told reporters at an unrelated press conference in Brooklyn. “I’m always going to keep an open mind, but ... I happen to be someone who does not believe in it.”

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Congestion pricing a no-go: Blaz

BY ERIN DURKIN

DAILY NEWS CITY HALL BUREAU

CHARGING drivers to enter the most traffic-clogged parts of Manhattan is "inconceivable" even with Gov. Cuomo's support, Mayor de Blasio said Monday.

De Blasio (inset) made his strongest comments yet against congestion pricing a week after Cuomo publicly backed the idea and said he planned to push it.

"I've never seen an example of it that I thought was fair," de Blasio told reporters at an

unrelated news conference in Brooklyn. "I'm always going to keep an open mind, but... I happen to be someone who does not believe in it."

Congestion pricing was proposed by then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2007, but it died after a tough battle in Albany.

"As long as this current Republican state Senate leadership is in place, I think it's incon-

ceivable," de Blasio said, noting that Majority Leader John Flanagan represents Long Island, where many drivers would be hit by the fee.

Cuomo's top deputy was not impressed with the mayor's analysis. "Yes, when one looks for a solid understanding and read of Albany's political landscape, they should definitely call Bill de Blasio," Melissa DeRosatweeted.



Cuomo has not released any details of his plan, and de Blasio said things could change if what he comes up with is dramatically different than past proposals.

Aside from the difficulty of getting a plan through Albany, **de Blasio didn't like the idea on the merits — saying even the version that would lower some tolls isn't equitable.** Asked if he wants to see drivers paying in any form to enter parts of Manhattan by the end of the second term, he showed no interest in the idea.

[Read](#) the entire article.