New York City's Congestion Pricing Experience & Implications for Road Pricing Acceptance in the United States

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TRB Annual Meetings January 12, 2010



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Congestion Pricing Proposal

PlaNYC Proposal

\$8 daily fee to enter/exit pricing zone

\$4 for intra-zonal trips

Tolls credited toward congestion fee

Weekdays 6am-6 pm



Congestion Pricing Proposal

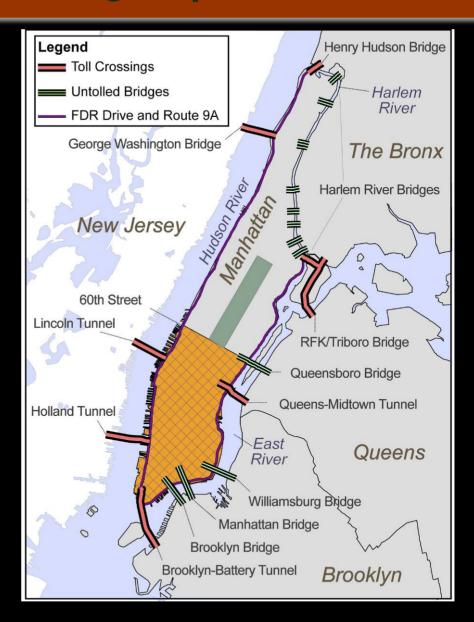
Modified Proposal

\$8 daily fee to enter pricing zone

Parking and taxi fees

\$491M revenue net of system operating costs

6.8% VMT reduction



Short-Term Transit Improvements



Congestion Pricing Process

April 2007	Mayor Bloomberg releases PlaNYC: sustainability plan for 2030
July 2007	State Legislature creates Congestion Mitigation Commission
Aug. 2007	USDOT awards \$354M to State and City
Fall 2007	Commission conducts public hearings and assesses alternatives
Jan. 2008	Commission recommends modified congestion pricing plan
Mar. 2008	City Council approves Commission plan
April 2008	Legislature fails to vote by USDOT funding deadline (Assembly Democrats from NYC block proposal)
	Governor appoints Ravitch Commission

Other Pricing Proposals in NYC

Spring 2009

East River/Harlem River bridge toll proposal blocked in Legislature (by Senate)

Legislature adopts 0.33% regional payroll tax to fund MTA

NYC increases minimum on-street parking rate from 50 cents to 75 cents/hour

Ongoing

Series of pilots for peak-rate parking pricing in retail corridors

- Greenwich Village, Manhattan (began Fall 2008)
- Park Slope, Brooklyn (began May 2009)

Demonstrate:

- Effectiveness of pricing to increase parking availability
- Need to convince stakeholders of benefit of pricing

Summary of Views on Congestion Pricing in NYC

Criterion		Views of proponents	Views of opponents
Societal impacts			
Individual level impacts	Impact on transit riders Impact on auto users		

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Criterion		Views of proponents	Views of opponents
Societal impacts		Reduces traffic congestion	
		Funds better mass transit	
		Reduces air pollution	
		Furthers goals of sustainability, urban quality of life	
		Reasonably discourages often- unnecessary driving	
Individual level impacts	Impact on transit riders	Funds better transit	
		Transit improvements will absorb increased ridership	
	Impact on auto users	Drivers will have reasonable transit alternative	
		Drivers will benefit from less traffic congestion	

Summary of Views on Congestion Pricing in NYC

Criterion		Views of proponents	Views of opponents
Societal impacts		Reduces traffic congestion	Targets "working person" driving to work/medical/etc.
		Funds better mass transit	
		Reduces air pollution	Social engineering by Manhattan-based elites
		Furthers goals of sustainability, urban quality of life	Little impact on Manhattan traffic
		Reasonably discourages often- unnecessary driving	Revenue will be diverted from the MTA
		omiceessary arriving	MTA cannot be trusted to use new revenue for better service
Individual level impacts	Impact on transit riders	Funds better transit	Trains and buses will be more crowded
		Transit improvements will absorb increased ridership	
	Impact on auto users	Drivers will have reasonable transit alternative	Transit is not and will not be viable alternative to driving
		Drivers will benefit from less traffic congestion	Value of travel time savings (if any) not worth the \$8 fee
			NJ drivers not paying fair share

Key Questions to Gain Public Acceptance

- Purpose: Is it revenue or congestion reduction?
- Fairness: Why do some drivers pay and not others?
- Benefits: what is value proposition to drivers who pay the fee?

Key Process Elements

- Vision
 - Sustainability, quality of life, accommodate population and economic growth
- Top-level leadership
- Public engagement
- Trust/demonstrate follow-through

Opportunities for Pricing Implementation

- Priced corridors
 - Highly congested
 - Downtown-oriented
 - Good transit service subsidized by tolls/fees
- Downtown parking
- VMT tax demonstration projects