Alternate Congestion Pricing Plan Eliminates Bus, Subway Fares

By: NY1 News

Fought over for years in the city—but a new plan unveiled Wednesday would not only close this and subway fares down, it would eliminate them altogether. It’s an extreme congestion pricing plan that makes Manhattan the world’s most expensive town.

NY1’s traffic reporter Sandy Cutler has the lowdown:

In just a few weeks, buses and riders will be hit with a fee increase for the third time in less than a year, until months before the city’s budget deadline. In recent years, the city has seen a $100 million increase in the cost of operating buses, which means the city is increasingly relying on fares for support.

The new plan aims to provide free bus and subway rides for riders, while reducing congestion on city streets. The city’s transportation department is partnering with the MTA to create a congestion pricing system that will charge drivers for entering Manhatan’s congestion zone.

The new plan will not only make the city more expensive for riders, but it will also make it more expensive for businesses. The city estimates that the congestion pricing system will cost businesses an additional $1 billion per year. But the city says that this is a small price to pay for reducing congestion and improving public transportation.

The new plan would be implemented gradually, with a phased-in approach. The first phase, which would begin in 2022, would include a 20% increase in bus and subway fares, and a 10% increase in parking fees. The second phase, which would begin in 2025, would include a 40% increase in bus and subway fares, and a 20% increase in parking fees.

The new plan has been met with mixed reactions from riders, with some saying that it’s a necessary step to improve public transportation, while others saying that it’s too expensive for them.

The new plan is expected to go into effect in 2022, but it will need to be approved by the city council before it can be implemented.