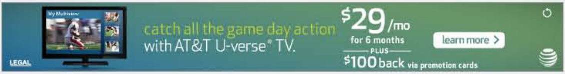

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The Daily Politics

By Celeste Katz

APRIL 21, 2008 10:46 AM

1 COMMENT

Kheel Plans To Put His Money Where His Mouth Is In '09

Congestion pricing supporters are insisting Mayor Bloomberg's pay-to-drive plan, while defeated in Albany this year, is not permanently dead (although would likely resurface in a different form), and longtime labor lawyer/transportation activist Ted Kheel is doing his best to make sure the idea plays a significant role in the 2009 mayor's race.

Kheel, who has advocated a plan even more aggressive than what Bloomberg proposed, doubling the $8-per-car charge inside the congestion zone to facilitate free mass transit, is prepared to spend $1 million of his own money to advocate the "Kheel plan" through the 2009 election.

> "If I was half my age, I would run for mayor in 2009 on the issue," said the 93-year-old Kheel, who has already met with what a spokesman described as "one serious mayoral contender who showed interest in the free transit idea," although he declined to reveal which would-be candidate that was.

So far, Kheel has spent more than $270,000 on a study about how his plan would dramatically reduce traffic and a companion "Balanced Transportation Analyzer" - an on-line tool that allows user to plug in data and view those effects on congestion, transit funding and air quality.

Kheel plans a multifaceted campaign to keep congestion pricing in the news that will include advertising and coalition building. No further details were immediately available.

> "If you go back to December 1965 when, as reported widely on the front pages of all newspapers, I publicly urged Austin Tobin, the CEO of the Port Authority, and Robert Moses of the Triboro Bridge and Tunnel Authority, to double bridge and tunnel fees and use the money to support mass transit, I have spent well over a million dollars," Kheel wrote in an e-amil message.
>
> "Ironically, the tolls have been doubled, quadrupled and tripled. But the money has been used many to accommodate more automobiles."
>
> "I now see free mass transit as the key to the resolution of traffic congestion, a problem cities throughout the world face, I am now prepared to spend an additional million dollars to save the city I was born in from choking on automobiles."

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Congestion Pricing

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Mon, 2008-04-21 19:22 - topo gigio

First of all, as I've said before, kudos to the Kheel Report folks for making available ALL the details behind their analysis of the impact from implementing congestion pricing. Whether you agree with the assumptions of the report or not, it was nicely done.

Furthermore, the amount of detail in the Kheel Report is more than folks EVER got out of Bloomberg. His plan was based on vague promises and wishful thinking. Real numbers were in short supply.

While the average Joe can play with the parameters in the Kheel Report's model using their breathalyzer...I mean Balanced Transportation Analyzer, the things underlying the BTA are given in an extensive spreadsheet here:

http://www.nnyn.org/kheelplan/BTA%20_%2024%20Jan%202008.xls

That being said, Mr. Kheel might note that $1 million doesn't buy much these days. Surely Bloomberg and Quinn distributed at least that much last time around -- probably at the taxpayers' expense. So why would Kheel's distributing $1 million at some point in the future do anything but obtain the same result as this time -- the defeat of congestion pricing?

Mr. Kheel needs to take Assemblyman Gottfried's advice and work WITH the electeds to devise a passable plan. Trying to shove something unpalatable down their throats...AGAIN...isn't going to work. Just ask Bloomberg.

And in a world of budgets worth hundreds of billions of dollars, Kheel's $1 million is just rounding error.

reply

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It's all about me
I mean you

Kardashian cries seeing herself naked on magazine

"This is just absurd," she says of nude W magazine cover. "This is serious porn!"

PHOTOS: Best & worst dressed at the SAG Awards

Curves ahead! Sofia Vergara wows in a stunning - and skin-tight - blue gown.

Sheen's rehab stint could cost CBS $250 million

The actor is set to be in treatment for the 3 months, jeopardizing this season's 8 remaining episodes.

PHOTOS: Charlie's Angels - the actor's pornstar pals

Pornstars Kacey Jordan & Melanie Rios party with Sheen before he ends up in hospital.

1 hospital worker racks up $1 MILLION in OT pay

Treatment assistant at Mid-Hudson Forensic Psychiatric Institute earns $62,000 a year in base pay.

Steve Harvey's wife: His infidelity is like rape

Mary Harvey slams her ex, and his alleged mistress in the press and on YouTube.

Mayor Bloomberg's 'spies' buy guns in AZ - without background check

Investigators sent to Arizona by NY mayor purchase semi-automatic weapons.

PHOTOS: Extreme sports' most extreme wipeouts

That has gotta hurt: Athletes suffer bruises, breaks and a little humiliation for their love of sports.

WikiLeaks boss dressed in drag to avoid U.S. agents

Julian Assange wore a dress, even though no one was chasing him, new book claims.

Trump, made out of trash!

The millionaire trash-talker is immortalized with a portrait made out of trash. Oh, the irony!

New Kids on the Block singer Knight: I'm gay

Jonathan Knight comes out as gay man, one week after Tiffany accidentally outs him on TV.

Politician teaches parents how to spy on kids in YouTube video

SEE IT: Ex-cop teaches parents how to search their kids' stuff.

'Karate Kid' star strips for PETA: Wax on, Clothes off

PHOTOS: Actress Taraji Henson is the latest famous face to strip down for animal rights.

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