

Back by popular demand - The New York Sun Premium Archive

Recent Blog Posts

Lyn Devon to Collaborate with Ballet Hispanico for Junior Society Benefit

While You're Up, Get Me Grant's . . .

John Paulson's Motives

MoMA Opening: "The Original Copy: The Photography of Sculpture, 1839 to Today"

Peter Stein bows out of Met Opera's New Production of Boris Godunov

Handing the Torch of Liberty to a Newspaperman

Gulf Coast Restoration

Watch Real Gulf Stories at YouTube.com/BP



Congestion Pricing Is Popular Among Ideas To Boost MTA

By **BENJAMIN SARLIN**, Special to the Sun | September 16, 2008

BUSINESS LEADERS, ACADEMICS, AND ACTIVISTS ARE offering up a range of suggestions — which include reviving congestion pricing, selling city bridges, and eliminating subway fares altogether — on how the Metropolitan Transportation Authority should handle its looming shortfalls.

During a Ravitch Commission hearing yesterday at New York University, a former city transportation commissioner, Luicuis Riccio, said yesterday that the city should consider selling the Williamsburg and Manhattan bridges for \$1 to the MTA, which could then charge tolls on commuters and use the revenue to finance mass transit improvements. According to Mr. Riccio, who is now a professor at Columbia, such a move could allow the city to implement aspects of Mayor Bloomberg's proposed congestion-pricing program without having to seek the permission of the state government, which killed a push for the idea earlier this year. He suggested such a move could raise hundreds of millions of dollars a year for capital improvements.

In a letter to the commission, the chairman of Nurture New York's Nature, Theodore Keel, suggested reviving some form of congestion pricing in order to eliminate subway fares entirely and provide free mass transit citywide.

The Fiscal Policy Institute's James Parrot proposed a slight fare increase, increased federal and state assistance, and one or more dedicated taxes, possibly including a modest uncapped payroll tax.

Members of the Ravitch Commission said they would take participants' suggestions into consideration in determining their recommendations to the MTA.


Reader comments on this article

Comment	By	Date
I just don't get it...why can't subway and bus riders just pay for the true cost of the fare? What... [MORE]	Toby	Sep 16, 2008 08:20
More scams, with congestion pricing being the biggest. It was a scam then, it's a scam now, and it will... [MORE]	Travis	Sep 16, 2008 09:27
The only way to deal with the insatiably greedy, incompetent, and corrupt bottomless black hole known as the MTA is... [MORE]	Porterhouse	Sep 16, 2008 10:48
It's great that a handful of people in Albany (one person, really) was able to block congestion pricing -- a... [MORE]	Pete	Sep 16, 2008 11:59
Toby: We'll pay the "true cost" of mass transit just as soon as you pay the true cost of the... [MORE]	Pete	Sep 17, 2008 15:32

Comment on this article

Name Email Address

Title of Comments

Comments:


Email me if someone replies to my comment

Note: Comments are screened, and in some cases edited, before posting. The New York Sun reserves the right to reject anything found to be objectionable.

Would You Like to Become a Sustaining Subscriber of the Sun? [Sign up now](#)
[Inquire](#) about the Sun Seminars

Follow The New York Sun

They can tell when the beans are roasted to perfection just by the way they sound.

 Discover Tully's World 

Gulf Coast Restoration 

 Rollover to watch real Gulf stories 

Save Money. Save Time.



The alaskaair.com Low Fare Calendar!

FIND LOW FARE

www.alaskaair.com Ads by Google

RELATED SUN TOPICS > powered by 

- Domestic Policy
- Political Policy
- Politics
- Public Transportation
- Transportation


RELATED SUN STORIES >

- Zimbabwe Power-Sharing Agreement Stirs Doubt
- City Gets \$29 Million To Prevent Nuclear Attacks
- Libertarian Candidate Argues Gun Lawsuit Against Bloomberg
- Israel at Its Best
- Charter School Advocates Push A New Agenda

No term contract required.

Premium installation.

No early termination fees.



Best Passover Vacation in Arizona

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)



who do you love? sweepstakes

Win a getaway that's just your type. Plus, save 10%.

cambria cove. [Enter Now](#)