



February 26, 2008

LETTER SENT TO MEMBERS OF:  
NEW YORK STATE SENATE  
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY  
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

The Women's City Club is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that since 1915 has worked through education, advocacy and citizen participation to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers.

We commend the Traffic Congestion Mitigation Commission appointed by New York City and State elected officials on its fair and thorough study of ways to improve the quality of life in the City by reducing congestion caused by vehicular traffic. We support the Commission's recommendations for the implementation of a pilot congestion pricing program, along with the improvements in mass transit required to ensure that this program is equitable to all New Yorkers.

We believe that, overall, the Commission's recommendations represent significant improvements to Mayor Bloomberg's proposed plan, in that they reduce the complexity of the initial proposal, increase net revenues, and more equitably spread the financial impact of the plan over all vehicles entering the Central Business District.

We remain concerned that provisions for assuring that congestion pricing revenues are dedicated to investment in mass transit may not be strong enough. Implementing legislation should require the highest possible levels of accountability and transparency in order to ensure that these funds are not diverted by the MTA to other needs or used to replace funds from other sources. Final legislative action should also reflect strong commitments by the MTA and the State DOT to complete specified transit improvements before the new pricing program goes into effect.

In addition, the Women's City Club endorses the Commission's recommendation that the State Legislature consider changes to State tax policy that would mitigate the impact of congestion pricing on New Yorkers of limited income.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Ruth E. Acker  
President

Joan Freilich  
Chair, Infrastructure Committee