



American Council of Engineering Companies of New York

## **CONGESTION PRICING FOR NEW YORK CITY Transportation Plan Essential to Economic Growth and Enhanced Quality of Life**

The American Council of Engineering Companies of New York (ACEC New York), an organization representing over 240 engineering firms totaling more than 15,000 employees in New York State, supports Mayor Michael Bloomberg's proposal for congestion pricing. Designed to relieve congestion in New York City, this plan is forward looking, and will produce an immediate economic benefit to the City while supporting its projected long-term growth, and the Mayor's Vision for the year 2030.

In Mayor Bloomberg's plan, congestion pricing for Manhattan is part of a comprehensive solution to traffic problems. By introducing fees for the most congested area of the city, a 6.3% reduction in vehicle miles of travel can be achieved, thereby qualifying for Federal Funding. The funds generated will be used to maintain, improve and build new transportation systems. Less traffic translates into reduced emissions that are harmful to human lungs. The congestion plan also includes encouragement for the use of greener trucks by incorporating a reduced charge for green technology.

Mayor Bloomberg's plan will also enhance economic activity in New York City. Expanded transit services will facilitate commuting as well as trips to Manhattan for recreation and shopping. Reduced traffic levels will help to alleviate congestion on the major arteries into New York City from the boroughs and from New Jersey and Connecticut. The reductions in delays and improved reliability of travel time will be good for business and make living and working in the region more sustainable.

As an association representing the designers of transportation systems in New York State and throughout the world, we know that funding infrastructure is essential and that solutions may not be easy or painless. Mayor Bloomberg has responsibly proposed that the city try the new congestion pricing system for three years to fully examine its effects. We believe through the examination and testing of creative methods, such as congestion pricing, the city, state and federal government can collaborate to find solutions to reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, provide new transit services, support growth and maintain the region's economic competitiveness, and improve quality of life.

ACEC New York stands ready to assist the NYC Traffic Congestion Mitigation Commission with the knowledge and expertise of our member firms and hopes that it will gather the necessary support from lawmakers in both the City Council and the state legislature in 2008.

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### ***The American Council of Engineering Companies of New York***

*ACEC New York is the leading advocate for New York State's consulting engineering community, striving to enhance the business practices of professional engineering companies in the planning, design and construction industry. Founded in 1921, ACEC New York presently consists of over 240 private engineering firms employing more than 100,000 people worldwide.*