

303A E. 91st St., Apt. 5E
New York, NY 10128-5358

April 25, 2007

Councilmember Jessica S. Lappin
336 East 73rd Street, Suite C
New York, NY 10021

Dear Councilmember Lappin:

I write today as one of your constituents to urge you to **support Mayor Bloomberg's recently announced transportation plan, including "congestion charging."**

I have never in my life voted for a Republican and have often opposed the current and previous Mayors' initiatives, but the "PlaNYC" transportation plan¹ goes beyond partisan politics. Rather, it consists of measures—some perhaps more radical than others—which are needed to ensure that New York remains a livable city. It is crucial both that we improve our transportation network and that we reduce the amount of pollution that we emit as we do so.

Perhaps the most controversial item in the Mayor's plan is the plan to implement "congestion charging," which involves drivers paying a fee to drive about lower and central Manhattan during the business day. I support this measure and urge you to do the same. It is important that we reduce the number of cars on our city's roads, and congestion charging has proven a good way to do so while increasing revenue which can be used to build less-environmentally-dangerous transportation means. In Stockholm, Sweden, congestion charging was initially an unpopular idea, but after residents there saw the effect it had on their streets, 67% of the population supported continuing the charge in a recent poll². I am confident that the same would happen in New York.

The minority of New Yorkers who own cars and regularly drive to Manhattan will be vocal about their opposition to the plan in the coming months, but I urge you not to be swayed. Rather, support the Mayor's plan and do the right thing for New York.

I await hearing your response on this issue.

Sincerely,

Michael Castleman

¹available online in PDF format at http://www.nyc.gov/html/planyc2030/downloads/pdf/report_transportation.pdf

²"Support for congestion charging 'greater than ever'", *The Local*, March 5, 2007. Online at <http://www.theLocal.se/6592/20070305/>