Public Space Leaders Say a Healthy City Depends on Better Public Transportation

Today, the Federal Highway Administration granted final approval for NYC’s congestion pricing plan, charging a fee for vehicles entering parts of Manhattan in order to reduce traffic and help fund public transportation, the first-of-its-kind for the country. This green light ensures the program can begin next year, with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) still to decide on final toll rates, discounts, and exemptions.

Design Trust Executive Director Matthew Clarke submitted the following comment in support of the program:

“Sustainable, long-term investment in public transport is key to building a better New York. We already know the positive effects of congestion pricing. Cities around the world have used programs like these to improve the quality of life for residents by confronting traffic, upgrading public transportation, and boosting air quality.

We applaud this critical step to transforming public infrastructure, not only mitigating the negative impacts of traffic, but empowering the millions of people who live here to have access to resources and improving the livability of our streets and corridors.

We look forward to seeing the program implemented equitably by the MTA to ensure that it delivers benefits specifically for vulnerable communities. We hope New York can serve as a model of sustainable urbanism for cities across the country.”

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About the Design Trust for Public Space

The Design Trust for Public Space is a non-profit organization that unlocks the potential of New York's public spaces. Our unique model catalyzes design ideas into action for a more just and equitable city. In our 28-year history, we’ve taken on over 40 projects across all five boroughs with project partners including city agencies, community groups, and private sector experts, inspiring replicable models for urban issues and advancing the role of public space as a driver of long-term equity and social justice globally.