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Congestion Pricing: Where's the bill?

Posted by [Sally Goldenberg](#) March 03, 2008 1:36PM

As the March 31 congestion pricing deadline nears, some City Council members are abuzz over when they will see a bill outlining Mayor Michael Bloomberg's plan to charge Manhattan-bound drivers \$8 on weekdays.

Brooklyn Democrat Lewis Fiddler, one of the Council's opponents to the mayor's proposal, plans to slam the administration for not handing over a bill yet, in the wake of approval last month from an advisory commission studying the plan.

"The commission is done for a month. You know, give me a bill. Send me a bill. Let me see it. Let's see if they change anything. But don't sit here and wait 'til the last minute," Fiddler said.

The Council, state Assembly and state Senate have to vote on the plan put forth by the mayor and tweaked by the advisory panel by the month's end in order to qualify for \$354 million in federal funding.

A City Hall source said the administration is working with Council and Albany colleagues on a bill.

The Senate, under the leadership of Republican Joe Bruno, is expected to endorse the plan. Approval in the Council and Assembly are uncertain.

So far no Staten Island politicians have come out in favor of the plan, arguing it does not offer enough benefits for the borough.

Bloomberg's counterargument has been that Islanders, who often already pay at least \$8 to leave Manhattan, would not be charged extra since the congestion fee would be offset by existing tolls. He also has tried to sell the plan as a way to raise money for mass transit, which Island politicians say is insufficient in the borough.