



January 12, 2018

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

Last year, you announced that congestion pricing was an “idea whose time has come.” We could not agree more, and we applaud you and your Administration for working to put forward a plan for New York City in the coming weeks. This plan has the opportunity to significantly ease congestion in New York City, raise critical funds for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

A comprehensive congestion plan has many objectives, and raising revenue is just one component of any larger plan. The signatories of this letter — a broad group of NGOs, academics, and private companies (many of which back the Shared Mobility Principles for Livable Cities, found at [sharedmobilityprinciples.org](http://sharedmobilityprinciples.org)) — encourage your policies to reflect two fundamental principles, especially in light of new technologies and the significant growth of app-based ridesharing and pooling services.

First, we believe that every vehicle should pay its fair share for road use, congestion, and pollution. In part, this means that there should be a simple, fair charge to account for the impact of all types of vehicles on the most congested Manhattan streets, whether it’s a privately owned car, a taxi, a commercial vehicle, or a for-hire vehicle. All take up space on the streets and contribute to congestion.

Second, we believe that any serious congestion plan or tax structure should encourage the use of multi-passenger options and discourage the use of vehicles being driven alone or transporting only one passenger. This basic principle is one we believe every city and state should begin to incorporate in its planning. Some companies provide both single passenger options and multi-passenger pooling options. Congestion policy and taxes should clearly incentivize multi-passenger pooling options.

New York City’s streets are a scarce resource. Increasing throughput by increasing vehicle occupancy is a way to satisfy more users’ needs within the same limited road space. Technology is now making the sharing of vehicles increasingly simple, convenient, and cost effective.

There is a long-term bonus the State and City will earn by establishing the sharing of vehicles and congestion pricing as practiced parts of our transportation mix. The eventual widespread adoption of self-driving cars will be well served by these policies and behaviors. Transportation and urban policy experts, including those signing this letter, have pointed out that by using autonomous vehicles on a shared basis we will most effectively reduce congestion, free up parking and lane space for better uses, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and improve livability in our communities. A plan that recognizes the importance of congestion pricing and sharing of vehicles, in combination with robust, effective mass transit, will help prepare New York City for a better future.

As always, the world watches what New York does. Your Administration and your proposals have the potential to shape a national discussion about the future of transportation in our communities. Thank you for your leadership, and please let us know if you would like to discuss these issues in more detail.

Sincerely,

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Vice President, Public Policy  
Via

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cc: The Honorable John J. Flanagan  
Temporary President and Majority Leader  
New York State Senate

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie  
Speaker  
New York State Assembly