

**Text of letter sent by Theodore W. Kheel to Members of the
Traffic Congestion Mitigation Commission,
on December 14, 2007**

I am transmitting herewith some information that I urge you to consider in connection with the Monday meeting of the Traffic Congestion Mitigation Commission.

Many proposals are currently before the Commission on how to alleviate traffic congestion in our City. The proposals, including Bloomberg's important one to implement congestion pricing, all deal with cars. What nobody has focused on is that there is a *balance* in transportation between cars and mass transit. The failure to link the two has led to the anomaly that your Commission is debating congestion pricing for cars on December 17, while the MTA is separately debating two days later whether to raise the transit fare. The two are, however, inextricably related, and it is counterproductive to consider them in isolation. The cost of traveling by car affects mass transit use, and the cost of traveling by mass transit affects car use, and both affect traffic, which is your subject of study.

A little less than a year ago, my nonprofit commissioned a study to determine what the benefits would be of not only implementing a cordon toll in the city, but also lowering the transit fare all the way to zero. That study is virtually complete and will be released in January. *The most significant finding of that study is that we could drastically reduce traffic in our city by doing this*, resulting in savings to the public worth billions of dollars. A summary of the findings is enclosed. I look forward to providing you the full report in the very near future.

Sincerely,