

## **City dwellers would pay 65.1% of new bridge tolls under Ravitch**

No surprise they do it EVERY year. The City's Independent Budget Office (IBO), in its "[Budget Options](#)" report, released today (2009-02-11), again called for tolling our free East River and Harlem River Bridges. (Sees page 83 of [PDF](#)).

Interesting, the report indicates (with a little bit of arithmetic analysis by this humble reader) how much NYC residents would pay. (They charge Harlem River tolls based on Henry Hudson and East River based on MTA and only charge for Manhattan entry (one-way double toll like Verrazano and PANYNJ); no charge to leave Manhattan.)

Analyzing the revenue numbers provided by IBO indicates **65.1% of the tolls proposed to be collected would be PAID by NYC residents** (predominantly from outside Manhattan, as IBO recognizes: "In addition, because most automobile trips between Manhattan and the other boroughs are made by residents of the latter, inhabitants of Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx would be more adversely affected by tolls than residents of Manhattan.")

This kind of imbalance brings to mind the failed congestion tax scheme defeated just over one year ago. As the song goes: "When will they ever learn?"