

De Blasio: Charging drivers to ease congestion ‘not part of my vision’



New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, shown above giving the State of the City address, said Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2017, that charging motorists to drive in Manhattan is not among his plans to ease traffic congestion. (Credit: Anthony Lanzilote)

By Matthew Chayes matthew.chayes@newsday.com February 14, 2017

Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Tuesday that charging motorists for driving in busy Manhattan is “not part of my vision” to ease congestion in New York City.

Speaking at an unrelated event in Brooklyn, de Blasio declined to support so-called congestion pricing, which would install a series of cameras and sensors to track whenever a vehicle enters the most crowded parts of the borough and issue tolls accordingly.

De Blasio said he’s “understood the intellectual rationale for it, but I’ve always had concerns.”

De Blasio, a Democrat who is up for re-election this year, said it’s “just a blunt, hard reality” that congestion pricing would fail to gain support in Albany, where the plan died the last time.

“It’s not even gonna get to first base . . . so it’s not part of my vision,” he said.

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