

# Feds OK cash for NYC tolls

TRAFFIC, from 1B

cerns, and there is a process in place to do that."

Those concerns basically boil down to what some see as a new levy on suburban and outer-borough drivers who venture into Manhattan, who in exchange would get only the promise of improved mass-transit service and cleaner air.

But supporters, like Katherine Wyld of the New York City Partnership, say that excess traffic now costs the region more than \$13 billion and 50,000 jobs each year.

"Federal funding provides the carrot that will help pay for new buses, faster subways and the other measures required to incentivize people to get out of their cars and onto public transportation," she said. "This is a tremendous breakthrough in the struggle to achieve a more efficient, mobile city."

The \$354 million is almost \$200 million less than Bloomberg asked for, but still a significant incentive, supporters said.

Silver will name three of the 17 members of a commission charged with studying the congestion issue and coming up with a plan early next year that would have to be approved by the New York City Council, both houses of the Legislature, Bloomberg and Gov. Eliot Spitzer. The Senate also has three, with Spitzer, the City Council and Bloomberg picking the rest. Spitzer will appoint the

chairman.

Except for Silver, all of the leaders seemed firmly on board the congestion-pricing train yesterday.

"Congestion pricing holds immense promise for the future of New York City," Spitzer said. "It has the potential to mitigate the city's severe congestion and its associated economic costs while also improving public health by reducing harmful pollutants."

Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Spitzer's adversary in a bitter political fight over an attempt by the governor's aides to damage him politically, was on the same page as the governor on this issue.

"Today's announcement makes New York a national leader in the effort to reduce traffic congestion, modernize mass transit and improve the quality of the air we breathe," he said.

The federal money will go mostly to improving bus services, with ferries, traffic signals and pedestrian walkways also getting a boost.

Silver said that while some of the details of Bloomberg's plan may need to be changed, he agrees that steps need to be taken to improve transportation facilities, especially in light of the recent shutdown of New York City's subway system and the collapse of a bridge across the Mississippi River in Minneapolis.

# Hearings to consider universal health care

HEALTH, from 1B

them are in employer-sponsored plans. More than 7.2 million people are in government health-care programs. About 400,000 people purchase insurance privately.

The New York Health Plan Association, which represent managed health plans, says the state should reform requirements for products in the individual and small-group health insurance markets to make them more flexible and look at the heavy use of taxes and surcharges to finance the system, spokeswoman Leslie Moran said.

Assembly Health Committee Chairman Richard Gottfried, D-Manhattan, said he would like "publicly sponsored, publicly funded coverage for every New Yorker." For 15 years, he has sponsored legislation in the Assembly to do that but it hasn't gone anywhere.

"I don't know, certainly, where the Spitzer administration will ultimately come out, but they go into this topic with more genuine interest in that kind of option than perhaps any governor in the country," he said.

Health care should be funded through the tax system and should not be a "market commodity," Gottfried said.

Senate Insurance Committee Chairman James Seward, R-Milford, Otsego County, has a different opinion, spokesman Duncan Davie said.

"Sen. Seward believes that we should utilize as much as possible the market that exists out there to make health insurance more affordable, as opposed to raising taxes" to fund programs and services that could duplicate what is already available, Davie said.

Seward sponsored legislation this year that would provide tax credits for small businesses and individuals who need health care and would make it easier for people to purchase high-deductible health-insurance plans coupled with health-savings accounts. Neither bill passed both houses. United Hospital Fund President

James Tallon, one of the experts, said capturing the 2.5 million uninsured people is urgent for the health-care system, and few issues are more important in economic development than health-care costs. The fund is a health-care research and policy group.

"Uninsured people are a huge structural flaw in the health-care system because they generate costs without a source of paying for them," he said.

Tallon's group, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Fund, released a report in December that outlined a long-term "blueprint" for universal health-insurance coverage in New York. The report said it would cost about \$4.1 billion to expand coverage to almost all of the uninsured. Individuals, businesses, the state and the federal government would share costs. A mandate for individuals to obtain coverage would be necessary, they concluded. The Commonwealth Fund is a foundation that focuses on health care.

This year, the state expanded eligibility under Child Health Plus, made Medicaid enrollment simpler and agreed to allow employers to buy into Family Health Plus, all good first steps, Tallon said.

Massachusetts passed a law last year designed to bring about near-universal coverage. Everyone who can afford it is required to purchase health insurance.

Businesses that don't provide insurance to employees have to help pay for it, and the government provides subsidies to ensure affordability.

Other experts on the panel are Mark Scherzer, legislative counsel for New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage, which represents people with serious health needs; Stan Lundine, former lieutenant governor under ex-Gov. Mario Cuomo, a Democrat; and attorney Elizabeth Moore, a partner with Nixon Peabody and former counsel for Cuomo.

The Web site for development of the plan is [www.partnership4coverage.ny.gov](http://www.partnership4coverage.ny.gov).



Dave Kennedy/The Journal News

Skaters work on a formation called a snake during practice for the Suburbia Roller Derby at E.J. Murray Memorial Skating Center in Yonkers.

# Roller derby revived at Yonkers rink

DERBY, from 1B

zas of the 1970s and 1980s, when most of the outcomes were fixed and it was more like a show than a sporting event.

The new wave of roller derby was reborn in Texas in 2000 and has had a resurgence across the country — typically in cities. A TV reality series, "Rollergirls," helped bring it back from obscurity.

Freeman and the members of Suburbia will tell you that their sport is no joke. Sure, they camp it up a bit — with their names and attitudes — but the actual game is fierce, fast and aggressive. The athleticism is 100 percent "real," they say.

Though Suburbia hasn't yet begun "bouts" or matches, members practice several hours each week at the the E.J. Murray Memorial

Skating Center in Yonkers.

The women, who are mostly in their 20s and 30s, differ in ability, but not in enthusiasm.

They come to skate, sweat and get bruised — flaunting their injuries on their MySpace pages. Their names poke fun at suburban life like "The Minivan Mallers" and "Socc-her Mom."

"My family thought I might be losing my mind," said Kim O'Leary, 26, of Yonkers. "I've never played a contact sport before and look at me now — I'm wearing a helmet and a mouth guard — and I can't wait to come here. During the day, I get excited knowing that I'm going to skate, and that's important when you have a desk job."

They burn calories and build muscle strength, but practice can often feel like a night out on the

town. Some say the sport gives members a chance to be someone else, even if it's just for a few hours.

In the rink, "Lexis Maxamis," a former member of the New York City Gotham Girls roller derby, pushes a group of beginners to skate faster, stop shorter and think on their feet.

Though she is nearly dripping in sweat, her thick black eyeliner doesn't run into the silver glitter around her eyes. Her short black skirt flaps as she skates from one end of the rink to the next, revealing her purple leopard-print tights underneath.

It's hard to imagine that the tough-talking coach is by day Lexie Zimmermann, 31, a Crocs-and-khakis-wearing mom from Greenwich, Conn.

"I have a kid that goes to private

school. The fishnets and the short skirts are just for skating," Zimmermann said.

Natalia Reyes, 26, of Dobbs Ferry, wears a black T-shirt with "Fresh Meat" stenciled on the back. A beginner, she has yet to choose her skate name. She said she joined because she's "not the company softball team type."

For now, the women will continue to practice so they can apply to be part of the national Women's Flat Track Derby Association, which has more than 30 leagues across the nation.

"I'm sure people never thought derby would come back," she said. "But we're all part of a revolution here."

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# Rockland women on N.J. teams

ROLLERGIRLS, from 1B

She plays for Jersey City Bridge and Pummel and the all-star travel team, the Ironbound Maidens.

"It's cheaper than therapy, and it's the best exercise I've ever had in my life," said Ward.

Holding a spot on the Northern Nightmares, another Garden State Roller girls' team, and on the Ironbound Maidens is

Nanuet's Kim Jones, known as "Bam Bam Bone-z" at the rink. Ward and Jones are currently the only rostered league members from Rockland.

Young professional women across the country are finding a place for roller derby in their lives as the sport is once again undergoing a resurgence. The New York metropolitan area is home to about 10 other leagues, and more are being organized.

According to Ward, "I've met a great bunch of people, and they've gone from a group of people I skated with into a family."



Courtesy of Martha Ward

Martha Ward, center, of New City plays for the Ironbound Maidens of the Garden State Roller girls League based in Newark, N.J.

Two teams face off at a time with five people per team on the track. There are three blockers, one pivot, and the jammer, who scores points by passing members of the opposing team.

Rules are clear: blocking from the shoulder to the hip is to be considered legal, and elbows cannot be used, similar to hockey checks.

"It's an amazing sport," Ward said, "because nothing is scripted, nothing is preplanned. We really hit, and we really take it."

Lumps and bruises are central to the game's thrill, as are showy makeup and risque attire. After all, miniskirts and fishnets are just part of the uniform.

After more than a year of obtaining a venue, sorting out insurance issues and recruiting and training, the Garden State Roller girls are in the midst of their first season, facing other teams in monthly matches.

The requirements for joining the league are a minimum age of 21 and an insurance plan. Ward

said that women who had never skated before joined a team and were taught how to skate derby style at their rigorous training sessions.

Four times a week for two to three hours, the team meets at Branch Brook Park Roller Skating Center in Newark for practice.

"It's a big time commitment," Ward said, "but it's worth it. Absolutely worth it."

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# DMC's camp lifts spirits of foster-care kids

O'DONNELL, from 1B

Jessica Simpson, he said. Be better.

"No matter what your situation is at home," he said.

This was the second year of the camp, operating from a site owned by the Catholic Archdiocese of New York. It will be open for three weeks for children ages 7 to 15, all from New York City. They spend one or two weeks in the red-trimmed cabins off Peekskill Hollow Road.

McDaniels and Jaffe teamed up with New York Foundling, one of New York's oldest child welfare agencies, to develop the camp. He had worked with New York Foundling, begun in 1869 as a home for abandoned children, when he was looking for his birth mother.

"It makes a big difference to us because it makes a big difference to the kids," Bill Baccaglioni, the executive director of New York Foundling, said of the camp. "We are now providing (for) kids who

otherwise would never, ever have the opportunity to get out of the city for a week, where they can just let their guards down. Because their lives are pretty difficult. Some of their lives could be described as chaotic."

So here they were in the woods, swimming and hiking, going on scavenger hunts and playing nature games, but with counselors who knew the warning signs of children who were struggling and some of whom themselves were aging out of the foster care system. Tomaz Reid and Jeffrey Jean, both 19 and preparing for lives on their own, offered this as a testament to the camp: "Let's just say they go to bed when they're supposed to," Reid said.

And here was McDaniels on a warm summer night to share the barbecue and watch the children perform. Now 43, he had come through a period about a decade ago when he was thinking about suicide, and was now encouraging these children in their dreams. He would never have gotten up and

performed when he was their age, he said.

"When I started in show business, they had Cadillacs, they had gold chains and they had cassette tapes," he said. "This is when I started out. Everybody wanted to work to get those things. If you look at show business, athletics, entertainment — with the talent you guys got — if you look at 50 Cent and Jay Z and these rappers out now, they got Bentleys and they got private jets and they got platinum and diamond things.

"When you guys get 18 and 19 and 20 years old, I can't even imagine what's going to be waiting there for y'all," he said.

New York City has 17,000 children in foster care through the Administration for Children's Services. An additional 37,000 are in protective care. The agency was condemned in a report last week that blamed the deaths of 10 children on its botched investigations.

Westchester County has its own children in foster care, 118 of whom were in the adoption unit as of the end of last month. Eighty-seven have been freed for adoption, and though 75 are in pre-adoptive homes, an additional 12 need homes. They will be featured in a photography exhibit on display Oct. 18-21 at the Westchester County Center in White Plains.

Back at the campgrounds in Putnam Valley, McDaniels said the camp has exceeded all his expectations.

"What I love about it is the kids are really, really happy," he said. "All of them. Usually you get about five or six kids who love it and other kids don't want to be here. You don't know what these kids go through at home."

"I'm an adopted kid," he said. "I know what these kids are going through."

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## LOTTERIES

**New York**  
 Midday Daily: 1 1 9  
 Lucky Sum: 11  
 Midday WinFour: 4 9 4 8  
 Lucky Sum: 25  
 Daily: 4 3 3  
 Lucky Sum: 10  
 WinFour: 6 9 4 2  
 Lucky Sum: 21  
 Pick-10: 2 5 7 10 11 12 13 15 18  
 19 30 36 46 61 70 72 73 74 78 80  
 Mega Millions: 5 8 9 24 34  
 Mega Ball: 17  
 Take Five: 4 12 13 32 36

**New Jersey**  
 Midday Pick 3: 3 9 4  
 Midday Pick 4: 6 5 5 8  
 Pick 3: 1 1 4  
 Pick 4: 8 3 6 9  
 Cash 5: 4 5 14 15 35

**Connecticut**  
 Mid-Day 3: 0 6 2  
 Mid-Day 4: 9 0 0 4  
 Play 3: 5 4 0  
 Play 4: 2 3 6 2  
 Cash 5: 14 26 31 34 35  
 Classic Lotto: 4 10 16 31 38 43

## MONDAY RESULTS

**New York**  
 Midday Daily: 9 9 6  
 Lucky Sum: 24  
 Midday WinFour: 7 2 0 1  
 Lucky Sum: 10  
 Daily: 8 4 1  
 Lucky Sum: 13  
 WinFour: 1 7 7 4  
 Lucky Sum: 19  
 Pick-10: 8 12 16 20 21 28 41 56 58  
 60 62 66 67 68 71 72 74 76 78 80  
 Take Five: 1 35 36 37 38

**New Jersey**  
 Midday Pick 3: 0 6 8  
 Midday Pick 4: 0 9 3 3  
 Pick 3: 6 1 9  
 Pick 4: 6 4 1 5  
 Cash 5: 2 16 26 34 37  
 Pick 6: 2 7 10 29 47 48

**Connecticut**  
 Mid-Day 3: 8 3 7  
 Mid-Day 4: 7 5 0 4  
 Play 3: 4 9 3  
 Play 4: 6 6 4 8  
 Cash 5: 1 17 25 27 28

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