

# News Release

## From Sheldon Silver, Chair Assembly Committee on Codes

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DATE: June 21, 1991  
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### LEGISLATIVE COALITION FORMED TO OPPOSE EAST RIVER BRIDGE TOLLS

Assemblyman Sheldon Silver (D-Manhattan) today announced the formation of a Legislative Coalition to Oppose Tolls on the East River Bridges. The 59 member Coalition, which is comprised of State Assemblymembers, Senators and City Councilmembers, has sent a letter to Mayor Dinkins vowing to oppose implementation of the proposed tolls on the East River Bridges.

"This Coalition will do everything possible to put this preposterous proposal to rest," said Assemblyman Silver. "City and State legislators, from both sides of the bridges, agree that this proposal is no more worthwhile now than it was more than a decade ago when it was first conceived."

The proposal to institute tolls on the East River Bridges would require the approval of the New York City Council, and the State Legislature must approve the authorities responsible for implementing and collecting the tolls. Assemblyman Silver advised Mayor Dinkins and Speaker Vallone of the formation of the Coalition during their visit to Albany earlier this week.

"The City's lack of money does not now make this proposal any more feasible or desirable, nor does a failure to repair or properly maintain the bridges constitute a viable reason to impose tolls," the Coalition stated in the letter to Dinkins. "Requiring a toll on the East River Bridges sends a message to the people who live and work in Manhattan that they are an island unto themselves."



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ALBANY

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June 13, 1991

Hon. David Dinkins  
Mayor of New York  
City Hall  
New York, New York 10007

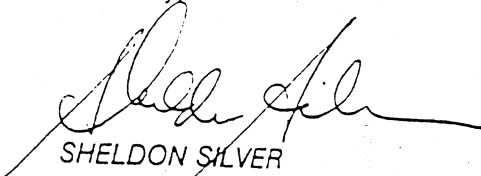
Dear Mayor Dinkins:


We, the undersigned, write to you as the Legislative Coalition to Oppose Tolls on the East River Bridges. This proposal, which has been bandied about for years, is now gaining some credibility amidst the quagmire of New York City's fiscal crisis. The City's lack of money does not now make this proposal any more feasible or desirable, nor does a failure to repair or properly maintain the bridges constitute a viable reason to impose tolls.

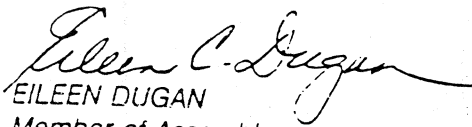
Surely you can understand the logical conclusion of air quality studies that the already unsafe levels of air-pollution in downtown Manhattan and Brooklyn would only be worsened by cars waiting in long lines to pay tolls, spewing more deadly emissions into the air. While the City continues to forge ahead with ill-conceived plans to operate an incinerator at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, the prospect of cars idling at toll-plazas ensures more pollution and congestion.

Requiring a toll on the East River Bridges sends a message to the people who live and work in Manhattan that they are an island unto themselves. The people of the City of New York have already resigned themselves to higher taxes for fewer services. We cannot afford to further demoralize our communities. This proposal must finally be put to rest, and eliminated as an option for consideration during the ongoing budget debate.

Sincerely,

  
SHELDON SILVER  
Member of Assembly

  
MARTIN CONNOR  
Member of Senate

  
EILEEN DUGAN  
Member of Assembly

  
KENNETH FISHER  
Member of Council

NOACH DEAR  
Member of Council

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PETER J. ABBATE, JR.  
Member of Assembly

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HERMAN D. FARRELL, JR.  
Member of Assembly

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JOSEPH LENTO  
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ALEXANDER B. GRANNIS  
Member of Assembly

*Daniel Feldman*  
DANIEL FELDMAN  
Member of Assembly

*Edward Sullivan*  
EDWARD SULLIVAN  
Member of Assembly

