

NYC gets \$350 million congestion grant

by UPI

NEW YORK -- A \$350 million federal grant may be enough to launch New York City's plan to reduce traffic congestion by charging drivers entering Manhattan. The U.S. Department of Transportation grant falls short of the \$536 million the city sought to fund mass transit and set up tolls to charge cars \$8 and trucks \$21 to enter Manhattan during peak times, The New York Daily News reported Tuesday. But the grant should be enough to satisfy state legislators who have final authority on whether the city can charge drivers to reduce traffic, The News reported, noting lawmakers in Albany had demanded the city obtain at least \$200 million in federal funding to help unclog Manhattan's streets. A 17-member city panel will determine ways to decrease traffic, including charging drivers. The panel's findings must be approved by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and the City Council before returning to the Legislature for a vote by the end of March.

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