


F R O M	NAME & TITLE	William M. Johnson, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE M E M O	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation (DOT) 417 East Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 15-0481		

TO

The Honorable President and Members
of the City Council
c/o Natawna Austin
Room 400 City Hall

February 26, 2015

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 15-0481, Transit and Traffic – Impeding Traffic by School Grounds, which increases the fine to \$250 for vehicles that park, stop or stand in a manner that obstructs or impedes the free flow of traffic by school grounds from 7am to 9am and from 2pm to 4pm; and enables the Department of Transportation to issue citations for this offence without issuing a written warning first.


The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly supports this bill and respectfully requests a favorable report.

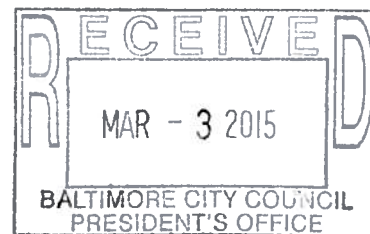
DOT frequently receives complaints from parents, neighborhood residents, school principals and others regarding the flow of traffic at schools during pick-up and drop-off times. Drivers frequently double park in front of schools and block traffic, endangering children by requiring them to dodge uncontrolled parked and moving vehicles to get to their rides. Worse, by double parking and blocking traffic, offenders exacerbate aggressive driving by preventing motorists from moving, which often results in distracted, aggressive responses right in front of schools, where this behavior is most dangerous.

However, DOT's Traffic Enforcement Officers (TEOs), who write parking violations, cannot write citations for this offence under current law without issuing a written warning first. TEOs do not have the appropriate technology available to them to issue written warnings, measure and document the requisite 15 minutes, confirm that the vehicle in fact has not moved after 15 minutes, and then write a citation to the same vehicle which received the written warning. Therefore, DOT's TEOs are unable to enforce most double parking violations under current law, including those around schools, where double parking is most frequently abused and most dangerous.

DOT appreciates the sponsors' efforts to address this issue, and looks forward to enforcing these violations with the legislation's approval and enactment. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,


William M. Johnson
Director



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