



FROM	NAME & TITLE	Michelle Pourciau, Director 	CITY of BALTIMORE	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation (DOT) 417 E Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 18-0251	MEMO	

TO Mayor Catherine E. Pugh

DATE: 6/18/18

TO: Respective City Council Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee
 FROM: Department of Transportation
 POSITION: Support
 RE: Council Bill – 18-0251 – Obstructing Traffic in an Intersection - \$125 Fine

INTRODUCTION – The “Don’t Block the Box” initiative will prevent the unsafe conditions that occur as a result of drivers remaining in an intersection after the traffic light has changed to red. It not only blocks traffic, but it also closes off access to crosswalks for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists making it more unsafe for them to pass through the intersection.

PURPOSE/PLANS – For the purpose of changing the fine for obstructing or impeding the free flow of traffic within an intersection or a marked crosswalk from \$250 to \$125; clarifying and conforming related provisions; and generally relating to fines for obstructing or impeding the free flow of traffic

FISCAL IMPACT – The Fiscal impact includes the cost for traffic signal optimization throughout the City. Enforcement will be implemented incrementally based on areas with the highest violation levels. Therefore, immediately the downtown area will be optimized first including the thirteen (13) intersections and surrounding areas of influence. Also included is the cost to reprint the Environmental Control Board Citation.

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION – Public safety is one of the Department of Transportation’s primary concerns and the objective of Don’t Block the Box initiative is to modify unsafe driving behavior which endangers pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists and creates gridlock. The Department of Transportation worked collaboratively with Council President Young’s Legislative Director to ensure that the citation used for enforcement carries a fair penalty that will not include a point on any citizen’s license but will encourage safe behavior. The Department of Transportation **supports** City Council Bill 18-0251.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Taylor at Josh.Taylor@baltimorecity.gov, 443-984-3394.

Sincerely,



Michelle Pourciau
 Director