

2018 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
58	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: Automated enforcement of block-the-box and transit-only lane violations

Ongoing: No

Primary Sponsor: O'Brien, Mike

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Johnson

Staff Analyst: Calvin Chow

Date		Total	SB	KH	LG	BH	LH	RJ	DJ	MO	KS
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Statement of Legislative Intent:

Council requests that the Department of Transportation, in conjunction with Seattle Police Department, report on the potential for using automated enforcement to reduce "block-the-box" incidents and transit lane violations. The report should address any technological, legislative, and budgetary needs to implement automated enforcement strategies.

Background:

"Block-the-box" is a term used to describe when vehicles fail to properly clear an intersection. When vehicles block-the-box, other vehicles are unable to make their intended maneuver, which in turn can exacerbate congestion and delay. There are an increasing number of block-the-box incidents at intersections in and around downtown Seattle during peak commute hours. Block-the-box incidents can occur near fire stations or hospitals (impacting emergency services), and they can interfere with transit service along high-frequency transit corridors.

Use of transit-only lanes by non-transit vehicles is also increasing, affecting the speed and reliability of transit service. Traditional traffic enforcement can further impact transit service when vehicles are stopped and cited in the transit-only lane.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Sustainability and Transportation Committee

Date Due to Council: March 2, 2018