



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
CENTRAL STAFF

Block-the-Box and Transit-Lane Camera Enforcement – CB 120599

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TRANSPORTATION AND SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

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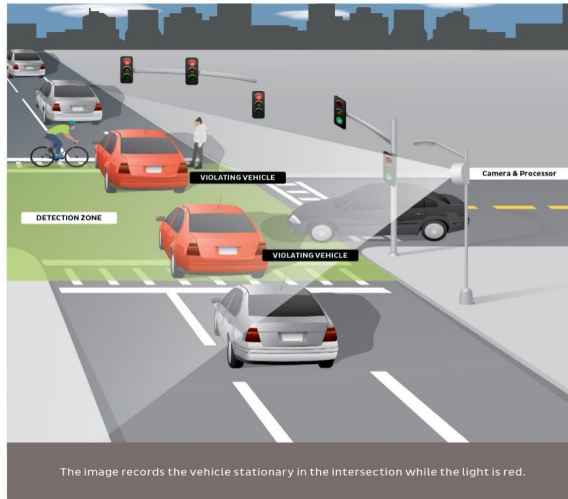
Background

- Washington State authorized use of Block-the-Box and Transit-Only Lane automated cameras in 2020.
 - Included an expiration date of June 30, 2023.
 - Half of infraction fees go to the State's Cooper Jones active transportation fund.
- City Council approved local use with Ordinance 126183.
 - Used to enforce traffic restrictions on Spokane Swing Bridge during West Seattle Bridge Closure (since removed).
 - 4 Block-the-Box cameras currently in operation.
 - 5 Transit-Only Lane cameras currently in operation.
 - Ordinance 126183 included a June 30, 2023, expiration date.

CB 120599

- In 2022, Washington State extended authorization for these cameras from June 30, 2023, to June 30, 2025.
- CB 120599 would extend local authority for these cameras to June 30, 2025.
- In order to avoid a lapse in local authority, CB 120599 is declared as a public emergency ordinance that would become effective immediately upon approval by the Mayor.
 - Under normal process, the authorization would not go into effect until 30 days after approval by the Mayor.
 - A public emergency ordinance requires a 3/4 vote of City Council.

Existing Camera Locations



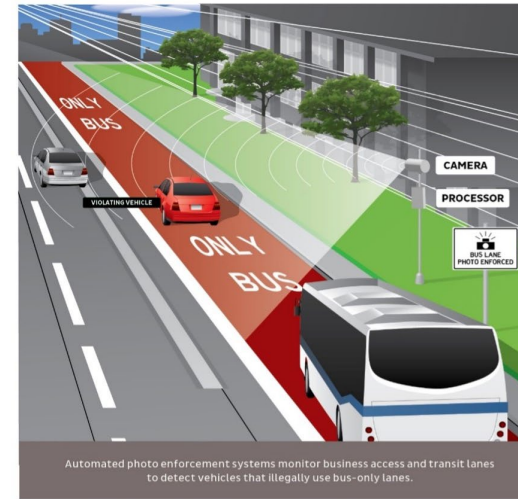
HOW IT WORKS: BLOCK THE BOX CAMERAS

Block the Box cameras are used to increase pedestrian safety and improve traffic flow.

- Step 1: The system captures a stationary vehicle in the intersection after the traffic signal turns red.
- Step 2: The image shows the stationary vehicle in the intersection while the light is red.
- Step 3: The license plate image is a close-up from one of the images captured.
- Step 4: Data, including the time and date is also recorded.
- Step 5: Cameras also record the digital video of the violation.

Block-the-Box

- EB 5th Ave @ Olive Way
- NB 4th Ave @ Jackson St
- SB Westlake Ave N @ Valley St
- NB 4th Ave @ Battery St



HOW IT WORKS: BUS LANE CAMERAS

Bus lane cameras are used to improve commute times, increase ridership and effectively manage traffic flow for all commuters.

- Step 1: Automated photo enforcement systems detect vehicles that illegally access bus lanes. Bus lane usage is restricted to Metro buses, first responders and permitted vehicles.
- Step 2: Event data is wirelessly uploaded via a secure Virtual Private Network (VPN) for processing and review.
- Step 3: The Police Department reviews each bus lane event and determines the issuance of a citation. Once issued, a citation is mailed to the registered owner.
- Step 4: Citation recipients can review bus lane violations via an online portal accessible via PIN number at www.ViolationInfo.com.

Transit-Only Lanes

- SB Aurora Ave N @ Galer St
- EB 5th Ave @ Olive Way
- NB 3rd Ave @ James St
- EB Columbia St @ 1st Ave
- SB 3rd Ave @ Stewart St

Questions?