

ASSEMBLY BILL 1287

TRANSIT-ONLY LANE ENFORCEMENT

ASSEMBLYMEMBER DAVID CHIU

BILL SUMMARY

AB 1287 (Chiu) will reauthorize San Francisco's Transit-Only Lane Enforcement (TOLE) program by 1) removing the sunset on the 6-year pilot program, and 2) including the ability to cite for other violations that impede or interfere with transit performance and public safety, such as "blocking the box" violations at congested intersections and driving in designated transit-only lanes.

BACKGROUND

In 2008, pursuant to AB 101 (Ma-2007), the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) initiated a pilot TOLE program to use forward-facing cameras on board buses to protect the City's transit-only lanes and ensure transit priority. The pilot program was reauthorized in 2011 by AB 1041 (Ma). The goal of the program is to improve transit safety and reliability by discouraging vehicles from obstructing transit-only lanes. With this program, vehicles illegally parked or stopped within a dedicated transit lane have their license plate captured by a video camera on a passing bus and the registered owner receives a citation in the mail. This enforcement prevents buses from having to stop or unsafely maneuver around parked cars.

The TOLE program initially began with cameras on 30 buses; it has been expanded over the last six years with TOLE-compatible video cameras installed on all Muni buses (over 800 vehicles). The TOLE equipped vehicles help improve transit service and safety by discouraging illegal parking along San Francisco's 26 miles of transit-only lanes on routes carrying more than 160,000 passengers per day.

Muni Forward and Vision Zero: San Francisco's *Muni Forward* program brings together all programs and ongoing efforts to create a safer, more reliable, and efficient transit system. Under this program, SMFTA plans to expand transit service by 10 percent over the next two years and implement an additional 22 miles of transit-only lanes within the next 10 years (see map on opposite page). The TOLE program is a key tool to ensure these lanes work to achieve their intended purpose of supporting safe and reliable transit service.

Other transit priority projects include red painted transit-only lanes, transit signal priority at signalized intersections, and installation of transit stop sidewalk bulb-outs to reduce transit delay, improve reliability, and increase safety and comfort for passengers.

The TOLE program also supports the San Francisco-wide *Vision Zero* program, which aims to eliminate all traffic related fatalities by 2024. The City and County of San Francisco adopted Vision Zero as a policy in 2014, committing to build better and safer streets, educate the public on traffic safety, enforce traffic laws, and adopt policy changes that save lives. The goal is to create a culture that prioritizes traffic safety and to ensure that mistakes on the city's roadways do not result in serious injuries or death. The result of this collaborative, citywide effort will be safer, more livable streets protecting the one million people who move about the city every day.

Privacy Protection: The TOLE images and recordings are dedicated to the TOLE program and can only be used for the issuance of TOLE citations. The images and footage are not used for general surveillance. Video for the TOLE program is recorded onto a special, dedicated hard drive for professional parking control officers to review for violations. After footage is reviewed, hard drives are installed back onto Muni buses where they are overwritten with new data. Each hard drive holds approximately 72 hours of video footage. There have been no recorded privacy complaints related to the TOLE program since its initiation in 2008.

Strategic Program Evolution: Based on the continued development of the program and initial results which show that the TOLE program is supporting a reduction in transit delays, the SFMTA recommends that the program also include blocking the box violations at intersections, driving in transit-only lanes and illegal parking in bus stops throughout the system. All of these violations would be issued as nonmoving violations and administered in the same manner as parking citations.

SUPPORT

San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
San Francisco County Transportation Authority

CONTACT

Judson True, Chief of Staff
Assemblymember David Chiu
916-319-2017 or judson.true@asm.ca.gov



Transit Only Lanes in San Francisco



- Existing Transit Only Lanes
- Proposed Transit Only Lanes



SFMTA
Municipal
Transportation
Agency