

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free notes the impact of effective enforcement which we advocated to address congestion which too often backed up traffic for many blocks at a time in multiple directions. Increasing on-street parking meter charges and metering of currently free parking spots. See "blocking the box" in our [Alternatives](#) report, pages 1, 3, 5, 15, 16, 21 and 22. Note the comments below from the Detective Inspector that this activity is the "biggest cause of traffic jams." It remains important that the City allocated the additional monies realized by this enforcement effort and any other incidental revenues as a result of traffic congestion mitigation to restore its financial support for transit to the traditional levels before getting diminished as [documented](#) by the City's Independent Budget office.

http://www.nypost.com/seven/09112008/news/regionalnews/block_heads_lapped_128566.htm

NEW YORK POST

'BLOCK' HEADS \$LAPPED

TICKET CAMPAIGN VS. CROSSWALK SCOFFLAWS

By SAMUEL GOLDSMITH and ADAM NICHOLS (NY POST)

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Selfish drivers who bring city streets to a standstill by "blocking the box" were deluged with \$115 summonses yesterday as the city cracked down on those who jam intersections.

Traffic agents swarmed junctions, pulling over drivers who ignore laws designed to keep the city moving.

"Every year, traffic gets worse," Mayor Bloomberg said. "We're very serious about this . . . Don't drive into the box if you don't think you can get out of there."

At just one cross street - West 40th Street and Eighth Avenue - more than 25 tickets were being handed out every hour, freeing up traffic flow, but leaving lawbreakers furious at their comeuppance.

"How can I drive a taxi cab in New York City and not get stuck in the intersection?" asked Ofosu Gifty as he was fined.

"This is not fair - \$115 is my last several fares out the window."

Legally, drivers cannot enter a junction until it's clear for them to get out of it - a rule thousands ignore every day.

"It's the biggest single cause of traffic jams in New York City," said Detective Inspector Mike Pilecki, who coordinated the crackdown - which targeted four boxes.

Until now, the law could be enforced only by cops and senior traffic officers, who had to write out moving violations. But it was made a parking violation in July - letting the city's 2,500 traffic enforcement agents slap offenders with tickets.

"In the past, we had to have police officers do it and pull you to the side and get you out of the car, which would have created a bigger traffic problem than the original offense," Bloomberg said.



Motorists getting tickets were unhappy with the change.

Cabdriver Osman Aboubiada lost his fare after being pulled over - his passenger was so mad at the delay she hopped out and waved down another taxi.

"It's an



outrage," he said. "They should be clearing the traffic, not giving me a ticket. Ticketing me solves absolutely nothing."

BOX CUTTERS: "Box-blockers" snarl 60th and Lexington yesterday, and...

cabby Osman Aboubiada (above) is none too happy about his Midtown ticket.