

# DON'T BLOCK THE BOX

## A PROGRAM FOR SAFER INTERSECTIONS

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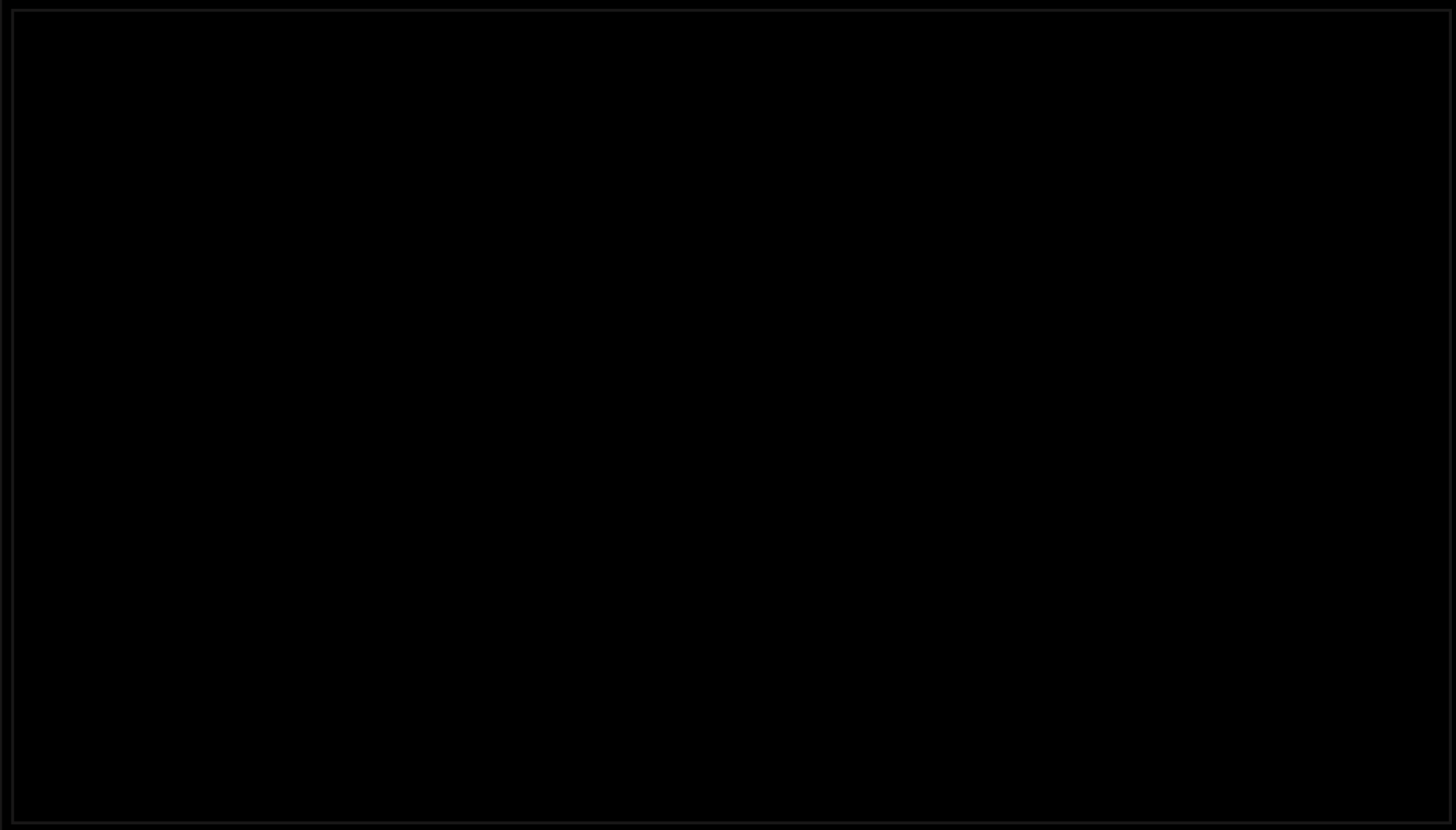
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**July 2019**

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

acog

# DON'T BLOCK THE BOX EXAMPLE - BALTIMORE, MD



VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A695RNS55S0>



# DON'T BLOCK THE BOX

## PURPOSE

- Ease congestion at critical intersections
- Improve the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and other motorists
- Allow emergency vehicles to safely pass
- Reduce instances of “Road Rage”



# EXAMPLES OF LOCAL CITY ORDINANCE

## MIDWEST CITY

Sec. 24-130. - Stop when traffic obstructed.

No driver shall enter an intersection or a marked crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection or crosswalk to accommodate the vehicle he is operating without obstructing the passage of other vehicles or pedestrians, notwithstanding any traffic-control signal indication to proceed.

## NORMAN

Sec. 20-524. - Driving: Stop when traffic obstructed.

Notwithstanding any traffic control signal indication to proceed, no person shall operate a vehicle so as to enter an intersection or marked crosswalk, unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection or crosswalk to accommodate their vehicle without obstructing the passage of other vehicles or pedestrians.

## OKLAHOMA CITY

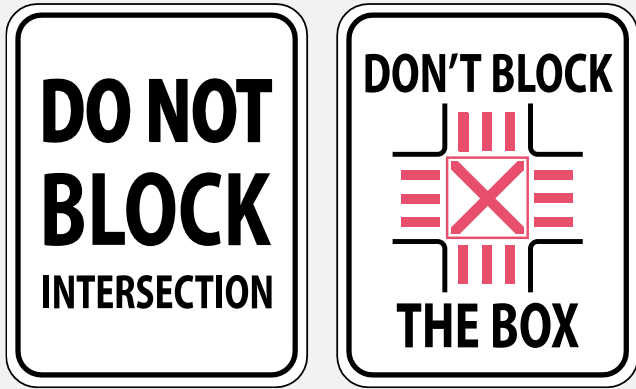
§ 32-279. - Blocking of intersection or crosswalk.

No driver shall enter an intersection or a marked crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection or crosswalk to accommodate the vehicles or pedestrians, notwithstanding any traffic control signal indication to proceed.

*(Not a comprehensive list)*

# IMPLEMENTATION

## SIGNAGE



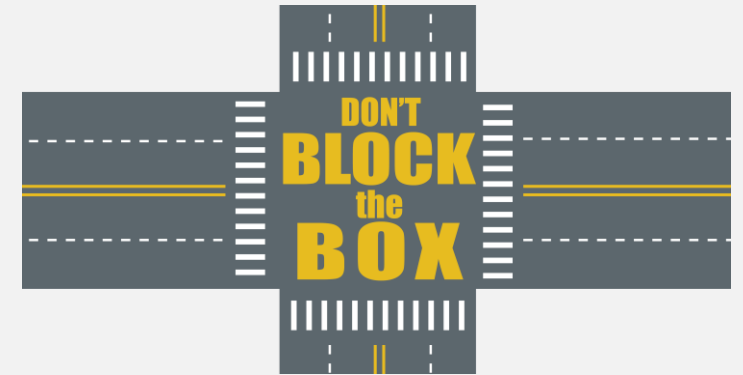
- A “DO NOT BLOCK INTERSECTION” sign should be posted at the intersection
- A sign detailing the cost of violation or a sign stating “DON’T BLOCK THE BOX” can be added

## INTERSECTION PAINT



- Box should be composed of solid white lines, defining the area to avoid blocking
- Box can be filled with crosshatched lines, a large X, or text reading “DO NOT BLOCK” or “KEEP CLEAR”

## PROMOTION

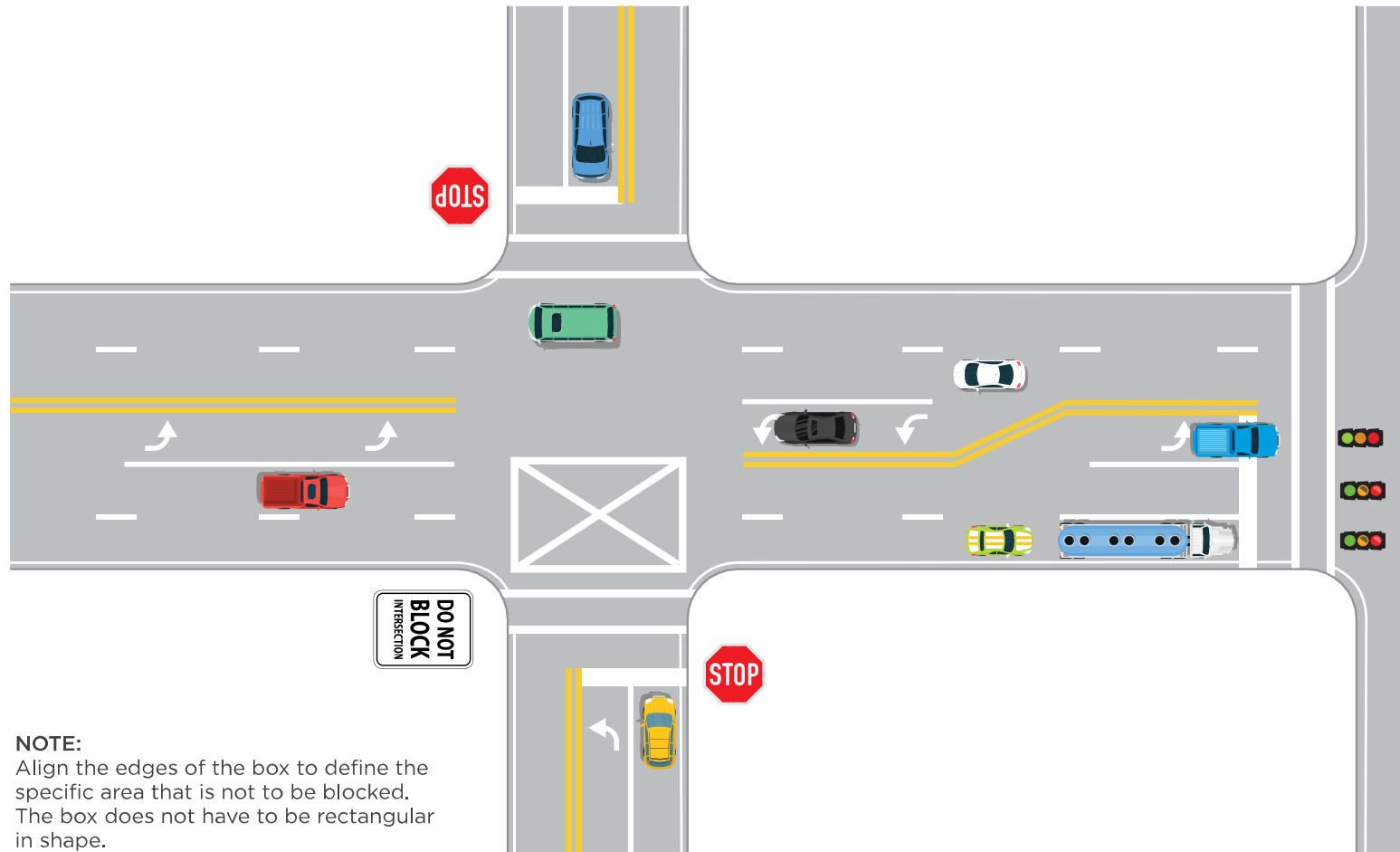


- Engage the public through traditional and social media campaigns
- Create a webpage detailing the “Don’t Block the Box” campaign

*See the City of Austin & City of Baltimore websites for examples*

# FEDERAL GUIDANCE

## DO NOT BLOCK INTERSECTION MARKINGS



**NOTE:**  
Align the edges of the box to define the specific area that is not to be blocked. The box does not have to be rectangular in shape.

### OPTION A:

Box only with 8 - 12 inch solids white lines



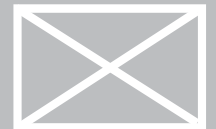
### OPTION B:

Box with, "DO NOT BLOCK", "KEEP CLEAR" or similar text only message



### OPTION C:

Box with 4 - 6 inch solid white crosshatch lines.



OR



### OPTION D:

"DO NOT BLOCK", "KEEP CLEAR" or similar text only message. (no box)

DO NOT BLOCK

# ENFORCEMENT

Officers should be positioned at intersections; especially during peak traffic hours.

## FINES:

Baltimore - \$125

Boston - \$150

New York - \$115

Seattle - \$136

Edmond- \$130

Midwest City - \$171

Norman - \$135

OKC - \$183\*

\*disregarding a signal light

## EXAMPLE:

New York City reclassified “Blocking the Box” from a moving violation to a parking violation, allowing all city traffic agents the ability to issue citations.



Photo from <https://www.okc.gov/departments/police>



# GRANT FUNDING

## OKLAHOMA HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE

- Funding to promote safety initiatives within Oklahoma
- This is a competitive application process
- Application needs traffic crash data to prove this is a problem in your jurisdiction
- Application period opens in December

## GOOD NEIGHBOR CITIZENSHIP® COMPANY GRANTS

- State Farm's national grants, focusing on safety, education, and community
- Funds may be awarded to programs conducted by municipal, county, state, or federal governments
- Safety grants available for auto and roadway safety
- Application period opens September 1, 2019



# MORE INFORMATION

- **Example Websites:**

- Baltimore, MD  
<https://transportation.baltimorecity.gov/NoBlocktheBox>
- Austin, TX  
<http://austintexas.gov/DontBlockTheBox>

- **Federal Guidance:**

[https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/htm/2009/part3/fig3b\\_18\\_longdesc.htm](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/htm/2009/part3/fig3b_18_longdesc.htm)

- **Grants:**

- OHSO  
<http://ohso.ok.gov/grants1>
- Good Neighbor Citizenship Company Grants  
<https://www.statefarm.com/about-us/community-involvement/community-grants/good-neighbor-citizenship-grants>





# QUESTIONS?

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