



## MTA Press Releases

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Press Release

December 30, 2019

NYC Transit

IMMEDIATE

### MTA Bus-Mounted Camera Program Begins Issuing Bus Lane Violations on B44 SBS Route Today

*Bus Lane Violators Now Subject to Graduated Fine Structure up to \$250;*

*B44 SBS Speeds Increase Up to 17% on Segments of Route as a Result of Automated Bus Lane Enforcement Program;*

*Images of the Bus Lane Awareness Campaign are Available [Here](#)*

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) announced today that the 60-day warning period for bus lane blockers on the B44 Select Bus Service route has ended and motorists who are caught by the MTA's new bus-mounted cameras will begin to receive violations with fines up to \$250 starting today, December 30.

The forward-facing cameras on buses serving the B44 SBS route in Brooklyn were implemented on Oct. 30, which was the start of a 60-day warning period during which violators were not yet fined for standing or parking in the bus lanes. Since bus-mounted camera enforcement on the B44 began, data shows an overall improvement in bus speeds of 4 percent and up to 17 percent on segments of Nostrand and Rogers avenues. The primary indicator of bus reliability, Wait Assessment, is at 78.1 percent on the route – more than 3 percent higher than the previous year.

Enforced bus lanes are key to improving bus service, and to heighten awareness of their use, NYC Transit launched an awareness campaign earlier this month targeted to motorists. It features "Are you a bus?" posters noting that "Bus lanes are for buses," which have been posted on the backs of the buses equipped with camera systems. The awareness campaign will continue throughout next year as NYC Transit expands the bus-mounted camera program to more bus routes that use NYC DOT-implemented bus lanes throughout the city. NYC Transit is working with the NYC DOT to implement transit priority across the city, including the recently announced City commitment to 50 miles of protected bus lanes annually for the next five years.

Bus lanes and their enforcement have proven to improve bus speeds in highly congested areas, helping to increase bus speeds by as much as 36 percent in segments on First and Second avenues, 17 percent on 96<sup>th</sup> Street, 16 percent on a portion of Avenue J in Brooklyn, and as much as 40 percent near the Manhattan approach of the Hugh L. Carey Tunnel.

"Bus lanes have proven to improve bus speeds and traffic flow for everyone, and proper enforcement is helping to retain those gains and further improve service," **said Craig Cipriano, Acting MTA Bus Company President and Senior Vice President for Buses of NYC Transit.** "Our message is loud and clear: Bus lanes are for buses."

"The cameras now mounted on buses along the B44 SBS will help us achieve Mayor de Blasio's Better Buses Action Plan to increase citywide bus speeds by 25 percent," **said NYC DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg.** "We thank NYCT President Andy Byford and the State elected officials who pushed for this additional enforcement. Combined with DOT's overhead cameras, NYCT's ABLE camera system is making bus rides faster and more reliable. More automated enforcement on the B44 will help keep riders on Brooklyn's second-busiest bus route moving between Williamsburg and Sheepshead Bay."

NYC Transit is currently using the [Automated Bus Lane Enforcement \(ABLE\) system](#) on buses serving the B44 SBS, M14 SBS and M15 SBS routes. The B44 SBS travels on approximately 10 miles of dedicated bus lanes from Williamsburg to Sheepshead Bay through Nostrand and Rogers avenues and the Hub near Flatbush Avenue. Motorists who remain in a bus lane without exiting at the first possible right turn, or are captured as blocking the bus lane at the same location by two successive buses, are considered to be violating traffic laws and will be ticketed.

The ABLE camera systems capture evidence such as license plate information, photos and videos, as well as location and timestamp information, of vehicles obstructing bus lanes to document clear cases of bus lane violation. The system collects multiple pieces of evidence to ensure that vehicles making permitted turns from bus lanes are not

ticketed. This information is transmitted to NYC DOT for review and processing, and the program is administered in partnership with NYC DOT and the NYC Department of Finance. The ABLE system has captured approximately 7,000 potential bus blockers on the B44 route from implementation to December. Beginning Dec. 30, motorists who are caught by the bus-mounting cameras blocking bus lanes on the B44 route will be subject to a fine of \$50 for the first violation. For additional violations within a 12-month period, fines are \$100 for a second offense, \$150 for a third offense, \$200 for a fourth offense, and \$250 for a fifth violation and each subsequent one within a 12-month period.

While NYC DOT has been using stationary fixed-position cameras on streets for years to capture vehicles that do not make the first available turn off a bus lane, the MTA's bus-mounted cameras capture vehicles standing for long periods or parked in a bus lane. The two systems complement each other and work in tandem to ensure that violators are not fined twice for the same offense. NYPD provide additional enforcement through its Clear Lanes initiative, which uses traffic enforcement agents, tow trucks and ride-alongs with NYCT Bus personnel to target bus-lane blocking hotspots.

The bus-mounted ABLE systems are installed on 123 MTA buses across the three bus routes. The program will expand to more bus routes to be announced next year, and the proposed 2020-2024 MTA Capital Plan also includes \$85 million for further expansion of the program.

Close collaboration with NYC DOT is a key element of NYC Transit's [Fast Forward](#) plan to improve bus service, improve bus speeds and attract new ridership. Other strategies include [redesigning each borough's bus network](#) to better meet customer needs, installing traffic signal priority technology at intersections and on buses and replacing the existing fleet with new state-of-the-art buses with improved reliability and amenities.