

Increased bike box enforcement



EFFORTS to stop motorists entering bike boxes at traffic lights are being ramped up in a bid to improve the safety of cyclists.

The marked boxes, which are known as Advanced Stop Lines, are designed to give cyclists extra space so they can be seen more easily and are not right in front of a vehicle's bonnet or wheels. However, many drivers are not currently stopping before the boxes.

The Mayor's Cycling

Commissioner, Andrew Gilligan, said: 'It may be that some drivers don't realise they aren't allowed over the Advanced Stop Lines, and when the lights are red, those areas quite often have cars and lorries all over them, completely defeating their purpose.'

'Bike boxes are a really important way to keep cyclists and vehicles at a safe distance. They have already saved hundreds of drivers, particularly truck drivers who have blind spots in their cabs, from the anguish of unintentionally harming a cyclist, and of course saved hundreds of cyclists from serious accidents.'

Drivers caught in advanced stop lines when the signal is red could be fined £60 and have

three points put on their licence. The only exception to this rule is if the signal changes from green to amber and drivers cannot stop safely before the first stop line.

In addition to stepping up enforcement on motorists, rogue cyclists are also being targeted. Cyclists caught jumping red lights will be issued with a £50 fine if caught.

Mr Gilligan added: 'While usually only endangering the rider themselves, bad cycling does annoy and frighten people, and we are going to tackle it.'

'We are increasing the number of officers in our dedicated Met Police Cycle Task Force by more than a quarter. Riding bikes themselves, they will target particular cyclist misbehaviour hotspots.'

Apply early for a 16+ Zip Oyster photocard

WITH the new academic year starting in a couple of weeks, young people in education or training are reminded that applications for the 16+ Zip Oyster photocard have opened.

The card gives free travel on buses and trams and half-price pay as you go fares on the Tube, Overground and DLR. All 16, 17 and 18-year-olds living in London and in full-time education are eligible.

For the first time, 16-year-olds will be issued with a 16+ Zip Oyster photocard that is valid for

two years – previously new cards were issued on an annual basis. Seventeen and 18-year-old applicants will be issued with a one-year card.

■ Apply online at tfl.gov.uk/photocard. You should set up a Zip web account if you don't already have one, which can be used to check the progress of applications or order a replacement if the photocard is lost, stolen or damaged. Paper application forms will also be available from post offices from September 2.

Traffic information for the capital

Hangar Lane Until August 24, 8pm

North Circular A406 closed southbound between Woodville Gardens and Queen's Drive for water works. Temporary traffic signals in place to enable single alternate lane traffic.

Kentish Town Road Until September 17, 4pm

Southbound closures between Leighton Road and Royal College Street for resurfacing works.

Notting Hill August 25, 7am to August 27, 3am

Extensive closures within the area bordered by Harrow Road in the north, Notting Hill Gate in the south, Clarendon Road in the west and

Queensway in the east for the Notting Hill Carnival. Traffic likely to be slow-moving on Edgware Road (A5), Harrow Road, Holland Park Avenue and Bayswater Road.

Turnpike Lane A504 August 23, 9am to September 1, 3pm

Lane restrictions at High Road Wood junction for water works.

Bishopsgate August 23, 10pm to August 27, 5am

Closed between Camomile Street and Great Eastern Street for utility works.

■ For a full list of traffic information, go to tfl.gov.uk/trafficnews

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London Travelwatch

London's transport watchdog
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