

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: OCT 16 2007

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Doubled Fines in Construction or Work Zones Amendment Act of 2007"

REFERENCE: Bill Number 17-108 as Introduced

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2008 through FY 2011 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. The proposed legislation is not anticipated to have a fiscal effect on the District's budget and financial plan.

Background

The proposed legislation would amend the District of Columbia Traffic Act, 1925 to provide for double fines, or increased criminal penalties, for traffic moving infractions when committed in a construction or work zone; and to require the display of signage, accordingly. The intent of the legislation is to increase public safety by deterring motorists from speeding and other unsafe driving practices in work zones.

The legislation stipulates that double civil fines would be imposed at any time when:

- Traffic is regulated through or around the zone; and
- Construction or work is being performed by workers in their official capacity.

The legislation requires that notices alerting drivers of double fines for moving infractions be posted at the point of ingress of construction.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2008 through FY 2011 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. It is estimated that the proposed legislation would have no fiscal impact. The cost of signs designating work zones is already borne by Department of Transportation contractors as per existing government regulations; and any increase in moving violation revenues generated by the doubling of fines in work zones is equally likely to be off-set by a decrease in moving violations given the intent of the legislation to deter unsafe motorist practices.