

## Topic IV: Police Initiatives to Stop "Road Rage" (Driving to Obstruct Traffic)

### (1) Malicious and dangerous Driving in recent years

A fatal accident occurred in which a standard motor vehicle was hit from behind by a large freight vehicle while stopped on the Tomei Expressway Road in Kanagawa Prefecture in June 2017, killing and injuring 6 people in the standard motor vehicle.

The police found that the 25-year old male construction worker was driving the vehicle in order to obstruct the movement of the standard motor vehicle just before the standard motor vehicle stopped.

Subsequent occurrences of similar malicious and dangerous driving are reported one after another, as such "Road Rage" becomes a serious social problem.

### (2) Police initiatives

In January 2018, the National Police Agency called for prefectural police to take measures such as conducting full and fair investigations into "Road Rage" by applying all criminal laws and regulations and taking administrative actions promptly and proactively in order to deter "Road Rage."

In addition, since the Road Traffic Act so far had no provisions to punish "Road Rage" itself, the National Police Agency has been examining the ideal manner of provisions to effectively suppress "Road Rage," and as a result, the Act for Partial Amendment of the Road Traffic Act enacted in June 2020 included the establishment of penal provisions for traffic obstruction ("Road Rage") and was enforced on June 30, 2020. Subsequent to the amendment of the act, part of the Order for Enforcement of the Road Traffic Act was amended and basic points on driver's licenses relating to traffic obstruction were introduced.

These amendments make it possible to eliminate malicious and dangerous drivers who commit a sudden braking or tailgating meant to hamper driving of other vehicles by carrying the penalty up to 5 years in prison and revoking their drivers' licenses. In order to deter obstructive driving, the police are making efforts to enlighten drivers about the contents of amended law, the necessity of driving with 'consideration and compromise' and the usefulness of drive recorder during the courses of obtaining or renewing driver licenses, as well as on websites, SNS (social media), leaflets and other media.

#### Outline of Penalties and Other Provisions for Driving to Obstruct Traffic

1 Penalties established for Traffic Obstruction	2 Improvement of Administrative Dispositions against Traffic Obstruction
<p><b>(1) Traffic obstruction (risk of danger to traffic)</b> A person who commits regular violations with the risk of causing the danger to other vehicles on roads deliberately</p> <p>→ Imprisonment with work of not more than 3 years or a fine of not more than 500,000 yen</p> <p><b>(2) Traffic obstruction (significant danger to traffic)</b> A person who makes other vehicles stop on a highway or causes the extreme danger on roads by committing the crimes of (1)</p> <p>→ Imprisonment with work for not more than 5 years or a fine of not more than 1 million yen</p>	<p><b>(1) Traffic obstruction (risk of danger to traffic)</b> Number of violations 25 points → Subject to revocation of driver's license, with a disqualification period of 2 years</p> <p><b>(2) Traffic obstruction (significant danger to traffic)</b> Number of violations 35 points → Subject to revocation of driver's license, with a disqualification period of 3 years</p>
<p>Note 1 Regular violations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Violation Of Traffic Distribution</li> <li>· Sudden Brake Prohibition</li> <li>· Failure To Maintain Distance Between Vehicles</li> <li>· Violation Of Prohibition Of Change Of Course</li> <li>· Violation Of Passing</li> <li>· Violation Of Reducing Light or Other Obligations</li> <li>· Violation Of Restrictions on the Use of Horns</li> <li>· Violation Of Obligations to Safe Driving</li> <li>· Violation Of Minimum Speed</li> <li>· Violation Of Parking And Stopping On National Highways</li> </ul>	
<p>Note 2 For a previous history or accumulated points, the disqualification period in (1) shall be up to 5 years, and the disqualification period in (2) shall be up to 10 years</p>	