

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Peter J. Koutoujian

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to promote healthy transportation planning.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Peter J. Koutoujian

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

10th Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO PROMOTE HEALTHY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. WHEREAS, increasing evidence from health research links the increase in
2 childhood and adult obesity and related conditions of ill health to the significant decrease in
3 regular physical activity of people in part due to transportation policies geared heavily toward
4 motor vehicle use; and

5 WHEREAS, increased childhood and adult obesity will reduce the quality of life for many
6 Massachusetts residents and result in ever increasing costs to deal with the medical
7 complications of obesity, including diabetes, heart ailments and other diseases;

8 THEREFORE;

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 19A
10 the following section:- Section 19B (a) The secretary shall ensure that transportation policies
11 and infrastructure decisions affirmatively include a commitment to promote and/or enhance
12 multiple modes of transportation including pedestrian, bicycle, and forms of public
13 transportation and other transportation-related contributions that increase active lifestyles that
14 improve public health and decrease childhood and adult obesity.

15 (b) All local, regional and state roadway construction, reconstruction, and maintenance projects
16 receiving state or federal transportation funding shall meet the guiding principle of the state
17 roadway design guidelines, The Project Development and Design Guide, which states that
18 roadways of the Commonwealth must safely accommodate all users of the public right-of-way
19 including: pedestrians, (including people requiring mobility aids); bicyclists; drivers and
20 passengers of transit vehicles, trucks, automobiles and motorcycles. The guidelines further state

21 that designers and decision-makers are encouraged to fully consider these modes of
22 transportation throughout the planning, design, and construction phases of projects.

23 (c) The secretary shall take actions to include a voting representative from the Executive Office
24 of Health and Human Services on the board of the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning
25 Organization and on other regional planning organizations.

26 (d) All transportation and parking projects using state funds or requiring review under the
27 Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act will include routine accommodations for non-
28 motorized modes, such as bicycles, including parking and connections.

29 (e) Any transportation project using state funds or requiring review under the Massachusetts
30 Environmental Policy Act that expands roadway capacity shall include plans and projects to
31 specifically increase non-motor vehicle use in the communities to the same degree that roadway
32 capacity is increased.