

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Susan C. Fargo

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:

Susan C. Fargo

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Third 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.

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

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

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11 THEREFORE;

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by creating section 19B with
13 the following language:-

14 Section 19B (a) The secretary shall ensure that transportation policies and infrastructure
15 decisions affirmatively include a commitment to promote and/or enhance multiple modes of
16 transportation including pedestrian, bicycle, and forms of public transportation and other
17 transportation-related contributions that increase active lifestyles that improve public health and
18 decrease childhood and adult obesity.

19 (b) All local, regional and state roadway construction, reconstruction, and maintenance projects
20 receiving state or federal transportation funding shall meet the guiding principle of the state
21 roadway design guidelines, The Project Development and Design Guide, which states that
22 roadways of the Commonwealth must safely accommodate all users of the public right-of-way
23 including: pedestrians, (including people requiring mobility aids); bicyclists; drivers and
24 passengers of transit vehicles, trucks, automobiles and motorcycles. The guidelines further state
25 that designers and decision-makers are encouraged to fully consider these modes of
26 transportation throughout the planning, design, and construction phases of projects.

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

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

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