

SENATE No. 1912

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand 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
6 many 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 creating section
10 19B with the following language:-

11 Section 19B (a) The secretary shall ensure that transportation policies and infrastructure
12 decisions affirmatively include a commitment to promote and/or enhance multiple modes of
13 transportation including pedestrian, bicycle, and forms of public transportation and other

14 transportation-related contributions that increase active lifestyles that improve public health and
15 decrease childhood and adult obesity.

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

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

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

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