

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3100**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***William M. Straus***

*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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act directing the board of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to assess the current status of the Commonwealth's transportation system.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>William M. Straus</i>	<i>10th Bristol</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>Joseph F. Wagner</i>	<i>8th Hampden</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>
<i>James R. Miceli</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>

<i>Patricia A. Haddad</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>
<i>Theodore C. Speliotis</i>	<i>13th Essex</i>
<i>Michael F. Rush</i>	<i>Norfolk and Suffolk</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Marc R. Pacheco</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Bristol</i>

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By Mr. Straus of Mattapoisett, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3100) of William M. Straus and others that the board of directors of the Department of Transportation be directed to assess the current status of the transportation system of the Commonwealth. Transportation.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act directing the board of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to assess the current status of the Commonwealth's transportation system.

*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. (a) The board of directors of the Massachusetts Department of  
2   Transportation shall develop and publish a comprehensive assessment of the current capacity,  
3   safety conditions and the state of good repair of the commonwealth’s transportation system,  
4   including all modes of surface transportation. The assessment shall analyze the current planned  
5   operating and capital expenditures of the department, including the Massachusetts Bay  
6   Transportation Authority and the regional transit authorities, and shall consider and state the  
7   baseline of the surface transportation revenues currently available and projected to be available  
8   from all sources in all modes of surface transportation, regardless of the fund in which they are  
9   kept, from fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2026. The baseline assessment shall: (i) project  
10   spending for the maintenance of the existing system, the completion of all expansion projects the  
11   commonwealth is legally bound to complete and capital improvements and projects included in  
12   the fiscally-constrained, long-range transportation plans mandated by federal law; (ii) consider

13 and incorporate any additional expenditures necessary to implement the most recent capital plans  
14 of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and the Massachusetts Department of  
15 Transportation; and (iii) shall include an assessment of commonwealth debt and whether  
16 transportation spending requirements are projected to result in encroachments on the  
17 commonwealth's current debt policies, including the debt limit established under section 60A of  
18 chapter 29 of the General Laws, and the administrative bond cap and the limit recommended by  
19 the commonwealth's annual debt affordability analysis that is included in the Governor's annual  
20 budget recommendation.

21 (b) The board shall recommend both operational and governance reforms, cost savings  
22 and potential new revenue sources pertaining to both operating and capital funds in fiscal year  
23 2016 through fiscal year 2026 to fully address any deficiencies in capacity, safety or state of  
24 good repair identified in its assessment. The recommendations shall also include revenues  
25 necessary for any expansions to the surface transportation system required to address identified  
26 capacity constraints. The board shall also consider whether the recommendations under this  
27 subsection are projected to impact the commonwealth's current debt policies, including the debt  
28 limit established under said section 60A of said chapter 29, and the administrative bond cap and  
29 the limit recommended by the commonwealth's annual debt affordability analysis that is  
30 included in the Governor's annual budget recommendation.

31 (c) The assessment set forth in subsection (a) and the recommendations set forth in  
32 subsection (b) shall be developed after holding at least 6 public hearings in various regions  
33 throughout the commonwealth. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation may provide  
34 staffing and logistical support to assist the board as the board develops the assessment and  
35 recommendations. The assessment, recommendations and drafts of any legislation necessary to

36 carry the recommendations into effect shall be published on the website of the Massachusetts  
37 Department of Transportation, delivered to the governor and the secretary of transportation and  
38 filed with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate who shall forward the same to  
39 the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means, the chairs of the house and  
40 senate committees on bonding, capital expenditures and state assets, the house and senate chairs  
41 of the joint committee on transportation and the house and senate chairs of the joint committee  
42 on revenue. The board shall vote on, publish and deliver the assessment and recommendations  
43 not later than 6 months from the effective date of this section.