

SENATE No. 1857

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Thomas M. McGee

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 Massachusetts Department of Transportation to assess the current status of the Commonwealth's transportation system.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Thomas M. McGee</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael F. Rush</i>	<i>Norfolk and Suffolk</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>
<i>Marc R. Pacheco</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Bristol</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Anthony W. Petruccelli</i>	<i>First Suffolk and Middlesex</i>

SENATE No. 1857

By Mr. McGee, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1857) of Thomas M. McGee, Brian M. Ashe, Sean Garballey, Michael F. Rush and other members of the General Court for legislation to direct the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to assess the current status of the commonwealth’s transportation system. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

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

12 constrained, long-range transportation plans mandated by federal law; (ii) consider and
13 incorporate any additional expenditures necessary to implement the most recent capital plans of
14 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.