

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2977**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Antonio F. D. Cabral*

*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 to fund public transit expansion.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2977**

By Mr. Cabral of New Bedford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2977) of Antonio F. D. Cabral and others for legislation to establish the Massachusetts transportation and environment equity fund. Transportation.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**

An Act to fund public transit expansion.

*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. Chapter 90 of the General Laws is hereby amended by—

2 (a) inserting after section 7Z the following section:-

3 “Section 7Z1/2. Station Reporting Requirement. The registrar shall maintain a database  
4 containing the mileage of every motor vehicle registered pursuant to this chapter. Every facility  
5 licensed to conduct vehicle inspections pursuant to this chapter, shall, as part of said inspection,  
6 record the make, model, owner’s name, license plate number and mileage of each vehicle  
7 inspected and shall report said information to the registrar and the commissioner. Said reports  
8 shall be made electronically and said facilities shall have electronic access to the database  
9 pursuant to procedures established by the registrar.”; and

10 (b) inserting after section 34R the following sections:-

11 (1) “Section 34S. Vehicle Classification. For purposes of sections 34T and 34U only,  
12 the registrar shall issue rules and regulations to classify all vehicles required to be registered by  
13 this chapter into the following categories: zero emission vehicle, motorcycle, automobile, hybrid  
14 automobile, light truck, heavy truck, hybrid truck, sports utility vehicle, hybrid sports utility  
15 vehicle, van, luxury vehicle, motor home, trailer, other emission producing vehicle and rental  
16 vehicle, which shall include all vehicles intended as of the date of registration to be used as a  
17 rental vehicle. Said categories shall be known collectively as registration classes. When any such  
18 vehicle is first registered pursuant to this chapter, the registrar shall identify said vehicle as a  
19 member of one such registration class.”;

20 (2) “Section 34T. Green Fee. The registrar or his authorized agents shall collect the  
21 following fees, to be called green fees, each time a vehicle is registered or the vehicle registration  
22 is renewed for any reason, in the following amounts:

23 (1) For every automobile, hybrid truck and hybrid sports utility vehicle the fee shall be  
24 \$30 for a new or transfer registration and 2 year renewals, \$15 for vehicles renewing annually.

25 (2) For every zero emission vehicle, hybrid automobile and motorcycle the fee shall be  
26 \$15 for a new or transfer registration and for 2 year renewals, \$7.50 for vehicles renewing  
27 annually.

28 (3) For every light truck, van, luxury vehicle and sports utility vehicle the fee shall be \$40  
29 for a new or transfer registration and for 2 year renewals, \$20 for vehicles renewing annually.

30 (4) For every heavy truck, motor home and bus the fee shall be \$85 for a new or transfer  
31 registration and for 2 year renewals, \$42.50 for vehicles renewing annually.

32 (5) For every other emission producing vehicle the fee shall be \$60 for a new or transfer  
33 registration and for 2 year renewals, \$30 for vehicles renewing annually.

34 (6) Any vehicle owned by any subdivision of the commonwealth and used solely for  
35 official business and any vehicle identified in subsections 29, 30 and 33 of section 33 of chapter  
36 90 shall be exempt from the green fee.”;

37 (3) “Section 34U. Emissions Fee. At the time of each inspection required by section  
38 7V, the inspector shall collect and remit to the registrar the following fee, to be called an  
39 emissions fee. Said fee shall equal \$0.001 per mile for each mile driven by the vehicle since the  
40 vehicle’s last inspection, calculated using the mileage reports recorded in the database  
41 maintained by the registrar pursuant to section 7Z1/1, or, if the vehicle has not yet had 2 required  
42 inspections, equal to the vehicle’s mileage at the inspection.”;

43 (4) “Section 34V. Car Rental Fee. There shall be a surcharge of 5 per cent of the total  
44 cost of each vehicular rental transaction contract in the commonwealth, which shall be  
45 administered by the commissioner of revenue. Each vendor shall collect the surcharge and remit  
46 it to the department of revenue on a monthly basis. All provisions of chapter 62C of the General  
47 Laws relative to assessment, collection, payment, abatement, verification and administration,  
48 including penalties and interest, shall, so far as pertinent, apply to this surcharge as though it  
49 were a tax enumerated in section 2 of said chapter 62C.”; and

50 (5) “Section 34W. Parking Rental Fee. There shall be a surcharge of 5 per cent of the  
51 total cost charged to park a vehicle in the commonwealth, which shall be administered by the  
52 commissioner of revenue. Each vendor shall collect the surcharge and remit it to the department  
53 of revenue on a monthly basis. All provisions of chapter 62C of the General Laws relative to

54 assessment, collection, payment, abatement, verification and administration, including penalties  
55 and interest, shall, so far as pertinent, apply to this surcharge as though it were a tax enumerated  
56 in section 2 of said chapter 62C. Said surcharge shall not apply to parking owned by the  
57 commonwealth or a subdivision or authority thereof.”.

58 SECTION 2. Section 13 of chapter 6C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014  
59 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:

60 “(d) Tolls on Large Commercial Trucks Only.

61 (1) Notwithstanding subsection (c), the department may further charge and collect, and  
62 from time to time, fix and revise tolls paid by large commercial trucks, as defined pursuant to  
63 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) vehicle classification schedule as any vehicle within  
64 Class 8—single trailer, 3 or 4 axles up to and including Class 13—7 or more axle multi-trailer  
65 trucks, as such classifications may be revised from time to time by the FHWA, for the privilege  
66 of traveling on Massachusetts roads, including—

67 (i) on Route 95 Rhode Island to Route 95 New Hampshire, or the reverse;

68 (ii) on Route 91 Connecticut to Route 91 New Hampshire, or the reverse;

69 (iii) on Route 93 Massachusetts to Route 93 New Hampshire, or the reverse; and

70 (iv) any other trip designated by the department.

71 (2) Such tolls shall be collected on large commercial trucks only and may not be  
72 collected on any other vehicle; provided, however, no vehicle shall be tolled other than a tractor  
73 or truck tractor as defined in 23 C.F.R. 658.5, pulling a trailer or trailers.

74 (3) All revenue collected pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited exclusively to the  
75 Massachusetts Transportation and Environment Regional Equity Fund, as established in section  
76 2 of chapter 161E.”.

77 SECTION 3. The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 161D the  
78 following chapter:-

79 CHAPTER 161E

80 TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT EQUITY FUND

81 Section 1. Section 1. Definitions. In this chapter—

82 (a) the term “car rental fee” means the fee established pursuant to section 34V of  
83 chapter 90;

84 (b) the term “cost” as applied to a project and the site thereof, means all costs,  
85 whenever incurred, of acquiring land and of acquiring, developing, constructing, improving,  
86 furnishing, equipping, finishing and carrying out a project and placing the same in operation,  
87 including without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the cost of all lands, property, rights,  
88 easements and interests acquired pursuant hereto and all labor, materials, machinery and  
89 equipment necessary to carry out a project and place the same in operation, financing charges,  
90 interest prior to and during construction and for a period not exceeding two years after  
91 completion of construction, the cost of environmental investigation, analyses and remediation,  
92 the cost of demolition and removal of any buildings or structures on lands acquired and removal  
93 or relocation of any public utilities and other facilities, relocation payments as defined in, and  
94 any other costs of relocation assistance required under chapter 79A of the General Laws and this

95 chapter, the costs of architectural, engineering and legal services, plans, specifications, surveys,  
96 estimates of cost and of revenues, other expenses necessary or incident to determining the  
97 feasibility or practicability of the project, administrative, marketing and promotion expenses,  
98 reserves for debt service, and other capital and current expenses and such other expenses as may  
99 be necessary or incident to the construction of a project and the acquisition of land therefore;

100 (c) the term “emissions fee” means the fee established pursuant to section 34U of  
101 chapter 90;

102 (d) the term “green fee” means the fee established pursuant to section 34T of chapter  
103 90;

104 (e) the term “MassDOT” means the Massachusetts department of transportation,  
105 established pursuant to chapter 6A, or its successor;

106 (f) the term “operating costs” means all direct costs, whenever incurred, of operating  
107 a project that received funding from the Fund pursuant to this chapter;

108 (g) the term “parking rental fee” means the fee established pursuant to section 34W  
109 of chapter 90;

110 (h) the term “project” means the planning, design, acquisition, development,  
111 construction, expansion, rehabilitation, improvement, furnishing, equipping and finishing or any  
112 combination of the foregoing, necessary to provide subway or commuter rail service to a  
113 municipality that does not have such service or to increase the frequency or speed of such service  
114 to a community that the secretary determines is underserved by its existing subway or commuter  
115 rail service or to expand access by road to a municipality or municipalities that the secretary

116 deems would not be well served by subway or commuter rail service, together with all necessary  
117 and related furnishings, machinery, equipment, facilities, approaches, driveways, walkways,  
118 parking facilities, roadways, public transportation and landscaping, and including without  
119 limitation the acquisition of lands or other property, or rights, easements, and interests acquired  
120 for or in respect of any such lands or property for a project, the demolition or removal of any  
121 buildings or structures on lands so acquired or in or with respect to which interests are so  
122 acquired, relocation payments and other assistance therefore, and site preparation and  
123 environmental remediation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, project may not include funds for  
124 routine maintenance to existing subway or commuter rail facilities or for capital projects to  
125 improve the accessibility of existing infrastructure for passengers with disabilities or to improve  
126 access to existing service, such as parking expansion, installation of bicycle racks or  
127 improvements to pedestrian approaches;

128 (i) the term “registrar” means the registrar of motor vehicles, established pursuant to  
129 chapter 90; and

130 (j) the term “secretary” means the secretary of MassDOT.

131 Section 2. Creation of the Massachusetts Transportation and Environment Equity  
132 Fund. There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate fund,  
133 to be known as the Massachusetts Transportation and Environment Equity Fund (in this chapter  
134 referred to as the “Fund”), consisting of amounts credited to the fund in accordance with section  
135 3. The Fund shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of this chapter by the state  
136 treasurer and shall be held in trust exclusively for the purposes and the beneficiaries described



137 herein. The state treasurer shall be treasurer-custodian of the Fund and shall have the custody of  
138 its moneys and securities.

139 Section 3. The Massachusetts Transportation and Environment Equity Fund.

140 (a) The following receipts shall be credited to, and deposited by the state treasurer  
141 into the Fund and used in accordance with this section:

142 (1) The proceeds from \$0.02 per gallon of the fee collected in the previous fiscal  
143 year, pursuant to chapter 21J of the General Laws.

144 (2) The green fee.

145 (3) The emissions fee.

146 (4) The car rental fee.

147 (5) The parking rental fee.

148 (6) The proceeds from the commercial truck toll, as described in section 13(d) of  
149 chapter 6C.

150 (b) In accordance with section 7 of this chapter, the local project receipts shall be  
151 credited to, and deposited by the state treasurer in the Fund and shall be kept in segregated  
152 accounts for each project to be used in accordance with this chapter.

153 Section 4. Capital Investment Projects.

154 (a) In General. Notwithstanding any General Law or special law to the contrary, the  
155 secretary shall annually rank all projects contained in MassDOT's capital investment program.  
156 The secretary shall group said projects into 2 groups in accordance with subsection (b).

157 (b) Project Groupings.

158 (1) The first group of ranked projects, as defined in subsection (a), shall include those  
159 of said projects that would provide new rail service to a city or town in the commonwealth that  
160 does not have a commuter rail stop within its borders or, if a project would establish new stations  
161 in more than one city or town, those projects that would provide new subway or commuter rail  
162 service to cities or towns in the commonwealth half or more of whom do not have a subway or  
163 commuter rail stop within their borders.

164 (2) The second group of ranked projects, as defined in subsection (a), shall include all  
165 projects contained in said capital investment program that are not included in the first group, as  
166 defined in paragraph (1). The secretary shall rank the projects within each group based on each  
167 project's performance relative to the other projects in that group on the following evaluation  
168 criteria:

169 (i) The cost effectiveness of air quality improvements which the capital investment  
170 program predicts a project would achieve.

171 (ii) The project's projected cost per rider.

172 (iii) The likely economic benefits of a project.

173 (iv) The likelihood that a project will result in smart growth development, rather than  
174 sprawl.

175 (v) Whether a project would serve any environmental justice target, all as defined and  
176 described in the capital investment program.

177 (3) The secretary shall report said ranking of projects, described in paragraphs (1) and  
178 (2), along with the secretary's reasons therefore to the clerk of the senate and the clerk of the  
179 house and the joint committee on transportation and the house and senate committees on  
180 bonding, capital expenditures and state assets no later than January 31 of each year.

181 Section 5. Project Notification and Reports.

182 (a) The secretary shall notify the state treasurer and the clerks of the senate and of the  
183 house in writing when the secretary determines—

184 (1) that the Fund contains and is likely to continue to contain funds, less those funds  
185 already committed to other projects but including those local project revenues dedicated to a  
186 project pursuant to this chapter, necessary to cover—

187 (i) the cost of the project ranked first in the first group, as described in section  
188 4(b)(1) by the secretary pursuant to section 4, less all other funds available to MassDOT to cover  
189 such cost, calculated based on not less than 105 per cent of the debt service on all special  
190 obligation bonds to be issued pursuant to section 17 that are required to cover the cost of such  
191 project; and

192 (ii) the amount of any projected annual operating deficit determined by MassDOT,  
193 calculated as the average of the projected operating deficits of the first 10 years of the project's  
194 operation; and

195           (2)     that all plans, approvals, licenses and permits necessary to begin construction of  
196 said project are in MassDOT’s possession. Upon the sale of bonds by the state treasurer for a  
197 project described herein, that project shall be removed from the secretary’s group rankings made  
198 pursuant to section 4.

199           (b)     Subsequent to the first project having been removed from the secretary’s group  
200 rankings pursuant to subsection (a), the secretary shall notify the state treasurer and the clerks of  
201 the senate and of the house in writing when the secretary determines—

202           (1)     that the Fund contains and is likely to continue to contain funds, minus those  
203 funds already committed to other projects but including those local project revenues dedicated to  
204 a project pursuant to this chapter, necessary to cover—

205           (i)     the cost of either or both, if available funds exist, of the projects ranked first in  
206 grouped projects, as described in section 4(b), by the secretary pursuant to section 4 less all other  
207 funds available to MassDOT to cover such cost, calculated based on not less than 105 per cent of  
208 the debt service on all special obligation bonds to be issued pursuant hereto that are required to  
209 cover the cost of such project; and

210           (ii)    the amount of any projected annual operating deficit determined by MassDOT,  
211 calculated as the average of the projected operating deficits of the first 10 years of the project’s  
212 operation; and

213           (2)     that all plans, approvals, licenses and permits necessary to begin construction of  
214 said project are in MassDOT’s possession. Upon the sale of bonds by the state treasurer for a  
215 project pursuant hereto, that the project shall be removed from the secretary’s group rankings, as  
216 described in section 4(b).

217 (c) No later than 90 days after receiving said determination, the secretary shall certify  
218 to the state treasurer that the secretary has received said determination and that said  
219 determination meets the requirements of this chapter and shall name the next project to be  
220 funded. In making this choice, the secretary shall continue to give preference, in the secretary's  
221 discretion, to the first group projects, as described in section 4(b)(1).

222 (d) Determinations described in subsections (a) and (b), shall include—

223 (1) project plans sufficiently complete to indicate the project's boundaries, such land  
224 acquisition, demolition and removal of structures, and such redevelopment and general public  
225 improvements, as may be proposed to be carried out and proposed land uses including  
226 preliminary project designs and a description of the project programs;

227 (2) the proposed method for relocation of persons and organizations to be displaced  
228 by the project, if any;

229 (3) cost estimates of the project, including acquisition, and identification of parcels to  
230 be acquired and the estimated cost thereof;

231 (4) proposals for informing and communicating with the affected communities; and

232 (5) a description of measures to mitigate environmental and neighborhood impacts of  
233 the project and such other planning and urban design issues as MassDOT shall determine are  
234 presented by the project.

235 (e) MassDOT's Right of Entry with Respect to Report Filings.

236 (1) In connection with the preparation of the plans described in subsection (d) and  
237 MassDOT's exercise of its powers under this chapter, MassDOT and its authorized agents and

238 contractors may enter onto any properties and the improvements thereon and undertake  
239 appraisals, surveys, environmental analyses and investigations, including subsurface  
240 investigations, permitting analyses and investigations, and other investigations and analyses, for  
241 the purpose of determining the value and condition of such properties.

242 (2) Prior to any such entry pursuant to this subsection, MassDOT shall provide 20  
243 days written notice by certified mail to the owners of properties, as such owners are recorded in  
244 the office of the city assessor.

245 (3) Such entry, appraisals, surveys, analyses and investigations shall not be deemed a  
246 trespass, a taking by eminent domain or an entry under any eminent domain or condemnation  
247 proceedings.

248 (4) MassDOT shall make reimbursement for any actual injury or actual damage  
249 resulting to such properties and any improvements thereon from the entry, appraisals, surveys,  
250 analyses and investigations authorized hereunder, and MassDOT shall, as far as possible, restore  
251 such properties and the improvements thereon to their condition prior to such entry, appraisals,  
252 surveys, analyses and investigations.

253 (5) Without derogating from the foregoing, MassDOT is hereby authorized to  
254 exercise the power of eminent domain as provided in section 11(d) of chapter 121B of the  
255 General Laws in order to temporarily obtain access to properties and the improvements thereon  
256 for MassDOT and its agents and contractors for the purpose of conducting the appraisals,  
257 surveys, analyses and investigations authorized by this chapter. If MassDOT restores the  
258 properties and improvements as required hereunder, the damages for the temporary taking

259 hereby authorized shall be nominal in the absence of extraordinary circumstances unique to  
260 particular properties.

261           Section 6.     In order to provide for a portion of the costs of each project and the  
262 payment of the principal of and interest on special obligation bonds of the commonwealth issued  
263 pursuant hereto, there is hereby established on the first day of the first full calendar year  
264 following the notifications made by the secretary described in section 5 district improvement  
265 financing districts in the city or town or any portion thereof that will receive one or more new  
266 stations or enhanced service as part of said project and any portion of any other city or town  
267 designated by the governor that is adjacent to a city or town that will receive one or more new  
268 stations or enhanced service as part of said project, which shall operate in accordance with the  
269 provisions of section 1 of chapter 40Q.

270           Section 7.     Commencing on the first day of the first full calendar year following the  
271 notifications by the secretary described in section 5, the receipts collected pursuant to section 6,  
272 together with investment earnings thereon, shall be credited to, and deposited by the state  
273 treasurer in the segregated account within the Fund created by the state treasurer for each project  
274 pursuant to section 3. Notwithstanding section 35J of chapter 10, amounts described in this  
275 section shall not be included in the computation of the amount to be deposited in the  
276 Massachusetts Tourism Fund pursuant to said section 35J.

277           Section 8.     For all projects constructed pursuant to this chapter all construction  
278 employees employed in the construction of said project shall be paid no less than the wage rate  
279 established for such work pursuant to a project labor agreement with the appropriate labor  
280 organization or labor organizations, which includes—

- 281           (a)     a uniform grievance and arbitration procedure for the resolution of work-related  
282 disputes on job sites;
- 283           (b)     mutually agreeable uniform work rules and schedules for the project; and
- 284           (c)     an obligation for any such labor organization and its constituent members not to  
285 strike with respect to work on such project, provided that it shall not be a precondition to the  
286 award of a contract that a bidder have previously entered into a collective bargaining agreement  
287 with a labor organization, but only that the bidder be willing to execute and comply with said  
288 project labor agreement for the project if it is awarded a contract.

289           Section 9.     Expenditures of Fund Funds.

290           (a)     Expenditures from Fund funds not segregated pursuant to section 3 shall be made  
291 for the following purposes only if and when the amounts available in each project's segregated  
292 fund, created pursuant to section 3, are inadequate to the meet the cost or operating costs of that  
293 Project:

294           (1)     For the payment of the principal, including sinking fund payments and premium,  
295 if any, and interest on special obligation bonds of the commonwealth issued pursuant hereto and  
296 on notes issued in anticipation of such bonds for the relevant project.

297           (2)     For the maintenance of, or provision for, any reserves for debt service and other  
298 capital and current expenses, including without limitation any capital reserve fund created for  
299 such purpose, and for any additional security, insurance or other form of credit enhancement  
300 required or provided for in any trust or other security agreement entered into pursuant to this  
301 chapter to secure such bonds.



302           (3)     For direct expenditure for any cost of a project funded pursuant to this chapter and  
303 for the operation, promotion and marketing thereof incurred by MassDOT.

304           (b)     Should the secretary determine that amounts contained in the Fund exceed those  
305 necessary to fund project costs, the state treasurer shall transfer at the direction of the secretary  
306 up to \$25,000,000 annually into the Regional Transit Authorities Forward Funding Trust Fund,  
307 created by section 63A of chapter 10 of the General Laws. After any such transfer, the secretary  
308 may direct some or all of the balance of the Fund to MassDOT to cover costs incurred by  
309 MassDOT for any purposes.

310           Section 10.   MassDOT Acquisition of Property.

311           (a)     MassDOT shall acquire all lands, properties, rights, air rights, sub-surface rights,  
312 easements and other interests necessary to complete the projects.

313           (b)     Acquisition Authority.

314           (1)     For purposes of this section, MassDOT may take by eminent domain under  
315 chapter 79 or chapter 80A of the General Laws, or acquire by purchase, lease, gift, bequest, grant  
316 or otherwise from any party, public or private, and hold, clear, repair, operate and, after having  
317 taken or acquired the same, convey as provided in this chapter, any lands and other property, real  
318 or personal, improved or unimproved, tangible or intangible, and any interest therein, including,  
319 to the extent not inconsistent with federal law, railroad properties, necessary to complete the  
320 projects, as stipulated in the reports to be produced pursuant to section 5, after a public hearing  
321 of which the land owners of record have been notified by certified mail and of which at least 20  
322 days' notice has been given by publication in a newspaper having general circulation in the city  
323 in which the land is located; provided, however, that no such taking or acquisition shall be

324 effected until 30 days after MassDOT has notified the land owner of record by certified mail and  
325 has caused a notice of such determination to be published in a newspaper having general  
326 circulation in the city in which the land is located.

327 (2) The value of any lands or real property acquired by MassDOT by eminent domain  
328 shall be reduced by the costs necessary to remediate the environment of said site.

329 (3) To the extent not inconsistent with Federal law, the taking or other acquisition by  
330 MassDOT of railroad rights of way or related facilities from any department, authority, agency  
331 or political subdivision of the commonwealth, from any railroad company, or from any other  
332 party, shall be exempt from the procedures, findings and requirements of section 7 of chapter  
333 161C of the General Laws.

334 (c) For purposes of any constitutional entitlement to damages in the event of a taking,  
335 all properties and interests taken by MassDOT by eminent domain by any subdivision of the  
336 commonwealth are being held by MassDOT in a governmental and not a proprietary capacity  
337 and it is not the intent of this chapter to confer on MassDOT any rights to damages for such  
338 taking. Any such taking of property shall be effective notwithstanding any inconsistent prior  
339 public use. MassDOT may make relocation payments to persons and businesses displaced as a  
340 result of carrying out a project and shall otherwise provide relocation assistance as provided in  
341 chapter 79A and chapter 121B of the General Laws. To the extent not inconsistent with federal  
342 law, if there is a taking or other acquisition of railroad lines, rights of way, easements or related  
343 facilities from any party, MassDOT shall relocate such railroad lines.

344 (d) MassDOT shall have all the powers necessary and convenient to carry out the  
345 purposes of this chapter. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, MassDOT may

346 exercise with respect to the projects and any property acquired in accordance with this section all  
347 powers, and shall have all immunities, consistent with this chapter, granted to operating  
348 agencies, as defined in chapter 121B of the General Laws or otherwise granted to MassDOT  
349 under any General Law or special law.

350 (e) MassDOT is hereby authorized and directed to prepare or cause to be prepared a  
351 report in accordance with section 62B of chapter 30 of the General Laws for those of the projects  
352 for which such a report has not yet been prepared or is no longer valid at the time required by  
353 law. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 62 to 62H, inclusive, of said chapter 30,  
354 MassDOT may commence and undertake research, planning, design and other work necessary  
355 for the projects and may engage an owner's representative, architects and engineers and a  
356 construction manager therefore for each project individually, and MassDOT may take all actions  
357 necessary or appropriate or required for acquisition of lands, air rights, sub-surface rights or  
358 other property interests prior to the publication of a final environmental impact report pursuant to  
359 this section and section 62C of said chapter 30; provided, however, that MassDOT shall not  
360 record a notice of taking with respect to any lands or other property by eminent domain as  
361 provided in this section until the secretary of energy and environmental affairs has issued a  
362 notice of availability of a report submitted to said secretary in accordance with said section 62C  
363 which demonstrates to the satisfaction of said secretary that a project may be carried out with  
364 appropriate mitigation measures as may be necessary to minimize and prevent damage to the  
365 environment.

366 (f) MassDOT shall be excluded from the definition of an owner or operator of a  
367 project with respect to releases of hazardous materials that occur before MassDOT acquires  
368 ownership of any portion of a site pursuant to this chapter upon or from which such a release

369 may occur as if MassDOT were a city or town that has purchased or taken such land for the  
370 nonpayment of taxes, in accordance with the definition of "owner" or "operator" contained in  
371 paragraph (d) of section 2 of chapter 21E of the General Laws; provided, however, that  
372 MassDOT complies with all of the requirements set forth in paragraphs (d)(2) and (d)(3) of said  
373 section 2 of said chapter 21E, except that MassDOT shall have no obligation to comply with  
374 subsection (d)(3)(F) of said section 2 of said chapter 21E.

375 Section 11. MassDOT Requirements.

376 (a) No person shall be precluded by chapters 7 or 268A of the General Laws from  
377 participating by contract or otherwise in the activities of the commonwealth or MassDOT with  
378 regard to the planning, acquisition, construction and operation of a project contained in this  
379 chapter solely by reason of a financial interest, direct or indirect, in any contract or extension  
380 thereof for services with respect to the project report or otherwise with respect to the  
381 development of the project executed by such person with the commonwealth or MassDOT prior  
382 to the effective date hereof. For purposes of the foregoing, MassDOT shall have all of the powers  
383 granted to it by General Law or special law not inconsistent with this chapter. Each project shall  
384 be exempt from compliance with applicable zoning codes and any regulations promulgated  
385 thereunder.

386 (b) MassDOT shall prepare quarterly reports for each project described by this  
387 chapter. Said quarterly reports shall be submitted to the secretary of the executive office for  
388 administration and finance, the house ways and means committee, the senate ways and means  
389 committee, the clerk of the house and the clerk of the senate and posted on line on the MassDOT  
390 website and shall include—

- 391 (1) the total dollars expended on the project to date,  
392 (2) the number of contracts entered into to date;  
393 (3) the number of contracts entered into with minority businesses;  
394 (4) the number of contracts entered into with women-owned businesses;  
395 (5) the dollar value of contracts entered into with minority businesses;  
396 (6) the dollar value of contracts entered into with women-owned businesses;  
397 (7) the total number of employees working on the project; and  
398 (8) the total number of employees working on the project, broken down by race,  
399 ethnicity and gender.

400 Section 12. Upon the secretary's certification of receipt of a determination made  
401 pursuant to section 6, the state treasurer shall issue bonds in such amounts and at such time as the  
402 state treasurer determines, after consultation with the secretary and MassDOT, necessary to meet  
403 the expenditures required for the project which is the subject of said determination. Any such  
404 bonds shall be special obligations of the commonwealth payable first from the project funds  
405 created pursuant to section 7 to the extent available and second from the unsegregated funds  
406 described in section 3.

407 Section 13. The administration of the fees imposed under section 6 is hereby vested in  
408 the commissioner of revenue. Said fees shall be collected by the municipal tax officials and  
409 remitted to the department of revenue on a quarterly basis. All provisions of this chapter relative  
410 to assessment, collection, payment, abatement, verification and administration, including

411 penalties and interest, shall, so far as pertinent, be applicable to the fees imposed by this chapter  
412 as though they were taxes enumerated in section 2 of chapter 62C.

413           Section 14.   MassDOT or its successor shall pursue any Federal funds for which the  
414 projects, or any portions thereof, are eligible and to seek or coordinate with partners where  
415 warranted.

416           Section 15.   Regional Planning Agencies.

417           (a)   MassDOT shall choose a regional planning agency or agencies established  
418 pursuant to chapter 40B to conduct corridor land use planning for the projects. Each regional  
419 planning agency or agencies shall work with municipalities, state agencies and other  
420 stakeholders to complete land use corridor plans. Each land use corridor plan shall include the  
421 necessary actions to be taken by municipal or state government, including zoning and other  
422 bylaw changes, in order to maximize the long term benefit of the expansion, preserve capacity  
423 added by the project, promote sustainable economic and residential development, protect critical  
424 open space and other natural resources, and mitigate environmental and neighborhood impacts,  
425 including sprawl and gentrification.

426           (b)   MassDOT or its successor shall not begin construction on new rail stations to be  
427 completed pursuant to chapter 161E until the secretary finds that the municipality in which the  
428 station would be located has taken substantial actions to implement the applicable provisions and  
429 requirements of the corridor land use plan and have taken actions to reasonably ensure ongoing  
430 implementation of the plan after construction is complete.

431           (c)   One-tenth of one per cent of the cost of each project shall be used for corridor  
432 land use planning pursuant to this section, and shall be allocated from the Fund to the regional

433 planning agencies identified by MassDOT for the purposes of corridor land use planning  
434 pursuant to this section. Each regional planning agency receiving funds shall file a report with  
435 MassDOT and the house and senate committees on ways and means detailing their activities.

436           Section 16.    The provisions of this chapter shall be deemed to provide an exclusive,  
437 additional, alternative and complete method for the doing of the things authorized hereby and  
438 shall be deemed and construed to be supplemental and additional to, and not in derogation of,  
439 powers conferred upon MassDOT or its successor; provided, however, that insofar as the  
440 provisions of this chapter are inconsistent with the provisions of any General Law or special law,  
441 administrative order or regulation or any limitation imposed by a corporate or municipal charter,  
442 the provisions of this chapter shall be controlling.

443           Section 17.    Bonding Authority.

444           (a)    To meet the expenditures necessary to carry out the provisions of section 2, the  
445 state treasurer may issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in any amount. Any such bonds  
446 shall be special obligations of the commonwealth payable first from the project funds described  
447 in section 7 to the extent available and second from the receipts described in section 3 to the  
448 extent available.

449           (b)    Bonds of the commonwealth may be issued under authority of this section in such  
450 manner and on such terms and conditions as the state treasurer, with the concurrence of the  
451 secretary of administration and finance, may determine in accordance with the provisions of this  
452 subsection and, to the extent not inconsistent with the provisions hereof, provisions of General  
453 Law for the issuance of bonds of the commonwealth. Bonds may be secured by a trust agreement  
454 or other security agreement entered into by the state treasurer, with the concurrence of the

455 secretary of administration and finance, on behalf of the commonwealth, which trust agreement  
456 or other security agreement may pledge or assign all or any part of the local project receipts  
457 credited to the fund pursuant to sections 3 and 6, and any other pledged funds as hereinafter  
458 provided, and rights to receive the same, whether existing or coming into existence and whether  
459 held or thereafter acquired, and the proceeds thereof. The state treasurer is further authorized,  
460 with the concurrence of the secretary of administration and finance, to enter into additional  
461 security, insurance or other forms of credit enhancement which may be secured on a parity or  
462 subordinate basis with the bonds. A pledge in any such trust or other security agreement or credit  
463 enhancement agreement shall be valid and binding from the time such pledge shall be made  
464 without any physical delivery or further act, and the lien of such pledge shall be valid and  
465 binding as against all parties having claims of any kind in tort, contract or otherwise, irrespective  
466 of whether such parties have notice thereof. Any such pledge shall be perfected by filing of the  
467 trust or other security agreement or credit enhancement agreement in the records of the state  
468 treasurer, and no filing need be made under chapter 106 of the General Laws. Any such trust  
469 agreement, security agreement or credit enhancement agreement may establish provisions  
470 defining defaults and establishing remedies and other matters relating to the rights and security  
471 of the holders of the bonds or other secured parties as determined by the state treasurer, including  
472 provisions relating to the establishment of reserves, the issuance of additional or refunding  
473 bonds, whether or not secured on a parity basis, the application of the moneys and funds pledged  
474 pursuant to such agreement, in this chapter referred to as pledged funds, and other matters  
475 deemed necessary or desirable by the state treasurer for the security of such bonds, and may also  
476 regulate the custody, investment and application of moneys.



477           (c)     As additional security for bonds of the commonwealth issued under authority of  
478 this section, the state treasurer, with the concurrence of the secretary of administration and  
479 finance, shall create and establish a special fund for each project, herein referred to as the Capital  
480 Reserve Funds, within the Fund established under section 3 or otherwise under a trust or other  
481 security agreement securing such bonds, and shall pay into the capital reserve funds any receipts  
482 available for such purpose pursuant to section 3 and any other moneys appropriated and made  
483 available for the purposes of such fund, any proceeds of such bonds to the extent determined by  
484 the state treasurer, with the concurrence of the secretary of administration and finance, or as may  
485 be provided in any such trust or other security agreement, and any other moneys available for  
486 purposes of such fund as provided in this section, all of which shall be pledged funds for  
487 purposes of this chapter.

488           (d)     All moneys held in the Capital Reserve Funds, except as hereinafter provided,  
489 shall be used solely for the payment of the principal of bonds of the commonwealth issued under  
490 authority of this section as the same mature, the purchase of such bonds, the payment of interest  
491 on such bonds or the payment of any redemption premium required to be paid when such bonds  
492 are redeemed prior to maturity; provided, however, that, moneys in the Capital Reserve Funds  
493 shall not be withdrawn therefrom at any time in such amount as would reduce the amount of any  
494 such fund to less than the maximum amount of principal and interest maturing and becoming due  
495 in any succeeding fiscal year on all such bonds outstanding or such lesser amount as shall be  
496 established by the state treasurer, with the concurrence of the secretary of administration and  
497 finance, as necessary or appropriate to secure such bonds, in this chapter referred to as the  
498 “capital reserve fund requirements”, except for the purpose of paying the principal of and interest

499 on such bonds maturing and becoming due and for the payment of which other receipts held in  
500 the funds are not available.

501 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, the state treasurer may not issue  
502 bonds of the commonwealth under authority of this section at any time if following such  
503 issuance the balance on deposit in the Capital Reserve Funds would be less than the capital  
504 reserve fund requirements with respect to all such bonds then outstanding.

505 (f) If on the last day of any fiscal year during which any bonds of the commonwealth  
506 issued under authority of this section are outstanding, the balance on deposit in the Capital  
507 Reserve Funds shall be less than the capital reserve fund requirements as then calculated, after  
508 deposit therein of all amounts available therefore in the funds or otherwise under the trust or  
509 other security agreement securing such bonds, the motor fuel excise tax shall be increased and all  
510 newly created revenue directed into the Fund until the balance of said capital reserve fund shall  
511 again equal the capital reserve fund requirement as so certified by the secretary of administration  
512 and finance; provided, however, that the total amount of the excise imposed pursuant to sections  
513 3 and 3A of chapter 64G of the General Laws and section 22 of chapter 546 of the acts of 1969  
514 shall not exceed 14 per cent.

515 (g) In order to increase the marketability of any bonds issued by the commonwealth  
516 under authority of this section, and in consideration of the acceptance of payment for any such  
517 bonds, the commonwealth covenants with the purchasers, and all subsequent holders and  
518 transferees of any such bonds, that until all such bonds, including all bonds issued to refund such  
519 bonds, and the interest thereon, shall be paid or, if earlier, shall be deemed paid within the

520 meaning of any trust or other security agreement or credit enhancement agreement securing the  
521 same, that—

522 (1) the receipts shall not be diverted from the purposes identified in this chapter;

523 (2) no pledged funds shall be diverted from the funds established by section 3 or the  
524 Capital Reserve Funds, except as provided in this chapter;

525 (3) in any fiscal year of the commonwealth, unless and until an appropriation has  
526 been made which is sufficient to pay the principal, including sinking fund payments, of and  
527 interest on all such bonds and to provide for or maintain any reserves, additional security,  
528 insurance or other form of credit enhancement required or provided for in any trust or other  
529 security agreement or credit enhancement agreement securing any such bonds or notes, no  
530 pledged funds shall be applied to any other use; and

531 (4) so long as such revenues are necessary, as determined by the state treasurer in  
532 accordance with any applicable trust or other security agreement or credit enhancement  
533 agreement, for the purposes for which they have been pledged, the rate of any fees imposed by  
534 this chapter or which may constitute pledged funds under this section shall not be reduced below  
535 the amount in effect at the time of issuance of any such bond.

536 (h) Any bonds issued under authority of this section, and any notes of the  
537 commonwealth issued in anticipation thereof as hereinafter provided, shall be deemed to be  
538 investment securities under chapter 106 of the General Laws, shall be securities in which any  
539 public officer, fiduciary, insurance company, financial institution or investment company may  
540 properly invest funds and shall be securities which may be deposited with any public custodian  
541 for any purpose for which the deposit of bonds is authorized by law. Any such bonds and notes,

542 their transfer and the income therefrom, including profit on the sale thereof, shall at all times be  
543 exempt from taxation by and within the commonwealth.

544           Section 18.    The state treasurer may borrow on the credit of the commonwealth such  
545 sums of money as may be necessary for the purposes of meeting payments as authorized by  
546 chapter 161E in anticipation of the receipt of proceeds of special obligation bonds of the  
547 commonwealth issued under the authority of section 17, and may issue and renew notes of the  
548 commonwealth therefore, bearing interest payable at such time and at such rate as shall be fixed  
549 by the state treasurer. Such notes shall be issued and may be renewed one or more times for such  
550 maximum term of years, not exceeding 7 years, as the governor may recommend to the general  
551 court in accordance with Section 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution;  
552 provided, however, that all such notes shall be payable no later than 7 years after issuance. Notes  
553 and the interest thereon issued under MassDOT of this section, notwithstanding any other  
554 provisions of this chapter, shall be general obligations of the commonwealth.

555           Section 19.    This chapter shall be construed in all respects so as to meet all  
556 constitutional requirements. In carrying out the purposes and provisions of this act, all steps shall  
557 be taken which are necessary to meet constitutional requirements whether or not such steps are  
558 required by statute.

559           SECTION 4.    Effective Date for Section 3. The provisions of section 3 shall take effect  
560 on the first day of the first full calendar month following 30 days after the enactment this Act.

561           SECTION 5.    North South Rail Link.

562           (a)    Section 1 of chapter 161C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official  
563 Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence:–

564           “Furthermore, to carry out the purposes of this section, the Commonwealth of  
565 Massachusetts shall preserve intact the right-of-way for the proposed North South Rail Link.  
566 This right-of-way is extremely vulnerable to the impact of development and redevelopment  
567 around the existing rail tracks and terminals. In addition, rail projects already in planning and  
568 construction phases will exceed the capacity of the South Station terminal. Preservation of the  
569 right-of-way for the North South Rail Link will assure that rail transportation can be enhanced or  
570 expanded in our region.”.

571           (b) Chapter 161C of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 7  
572 the following section:–

573           “Section 8. The Massachusetts department of transportation, or its successor, shall  
574 perform a study to specifically identify and map the necessary right-of-way to allow for the  
575 construction of the proposed North South Rail Link connecting North Station to South Station.  
576 This study must include particular reference to the Major Investment Study/Draft Environmental  
577 Impact Report (EOEA#10270), prepared under the aegis of the executive office of environmental  
578 affairs, which was concluded on March 31, 2003. A plan to preserve said right-of-way, once  
579 identified, shall be determined and implemented immediately.”.