

By Mr. Marini of Hanson, petition of Francis L. Marini, Bradley H. Jones, Jr., Brian M. Cresta, Viriato Manuel deMacedo, George N. Peterson, Jr., and Cele Hahn for legislation to establish the position of director of South Shore traffic management within the Department of Highways. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and One.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE DIRECTOR OF SOUTH SHORE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT.

*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. For the purpose of this act, the following phrases  
2 shall have the following meanings:—

3 “Route 93 South”, the length of Route 93 in both directions  
4 originating at the southern end of the South Station tunnel and  
5 ending at the split of Route 93 and Route 3 in Braintree.

6 “Route 3 South”, the length of Route 3 in both directions origi-  
7 nating at the split with Route 93 in Braintree and ending at the  
8 Sagamore Bridge.

9 “Commissioner”, the commissioner of highways.

10 There is hereby established a position within the Department of  
11 Highways, hereinafter called the “department”, called Director of  
12 South Shore Traffic Management, hereinafter called the  
13 “director”. The powers and duties of the director shall include, but  
14 not be limited to, establishing and implementing all necessary and  
15 reasonable procedures to expedite the flow of traffic on Route 93  
16 South and Route 3 South so as to maintain consistent speeds and  
17 thereby improving the safety and convenience of the driving  
18 public. The commissioner shall determine methods to evaluate the  
19 performance of the director by establishing an average travel time  
20 for a car over a certain well-traveled distance on Route 93 South

21 and for a car traveling a similar well-traveled distance on Route 3  
22 South during peak usage and calculate subsequent improvements  
23 as compared to the first measurement.

24 The director, in conjunction with the commissioner, shall estab-  
25 lish a protocol for addressing accidents on Route 93 South and  
26 Route 3 South in order to first protect public safety and then mini-  
27 mize inconvenience to drivers. The director shall have the discre-  
28 tion to authorize removal of vehicles involved in minor accidents  
29 from travel lanes, open the high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane to  
30 all traffic in order to ease accident-related congestion and coordi-  
31 nate efforts of the department, the state police, emergency medical  
32 personnel and others to safely and efficiently clear the roadway of  
33 stranded vehicles.

34 The director is authorized and directed to investigate, assess  
35 and implement through the department new technologies and  
36 intelligent transportation systems to assist drivers, encourage  
37 steady traffic flow and notify drivers of delays, accidents, weather  
38 conditions, alternative routes should they become necessary or  
39 preferable and any other pertinent information that will encourage  
40 steady and expeditious flow of traffic on Route 93 South and  
41 Route 3 South. Said technologies and systems may include, but  
42 not be limited to, traveler information services, road information,  
43 ramp meters, hazardous and nonhazardous incident detection,  
44 emergency medical response management, advanced traffic man-  
45 agement, traffic operation centers and safety monitoring systems.

46 The director, in conjunction with the commissioner, is hereby  
47 authorized and directed to study the feasibility and effects of for-  
48 bidding vehicles bearing commercial license plates from using  
49 Route 93 South and Route 3 South during the peak travel hours as  
50 defined in section 5. Results and recommendations of said study  
51 shall be provided to the Joint Committee on Transportation no  
52 later than December 31, 2001.

53 The director, in conjunction with the commissioner, is autho-  
54 rized and directed to establish a protocol for the maintenance and  
55 improvement of Route 93 South and Route 3 South so as to  
56 embark on such infrastructure work only during times when the  
57 traffic is at its lowest volume in order to promote public safety  
58 and convenience. Exceptions may be made only for emergency  
59 repairs, at the discretion of the commissioner.

60 The director, in conjunction with the commissioner, shall regu-  
61 late the travel of vehicles carrying oversized loads by establishing  
62 the days and times said loads will be authorized to travel on  
63 Route 93 South and Route 3 South and by issuing mandatory  
64 authorization permits for vehicles carrying such loads. Said per-  
65 mits will restrict travel by said oversized loads to those periods  
66 when usage of these two highways is at its lowest volume.

