



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

**Committee Bill No. 735**

LCO No. 4284

\*04284SB00735TRA\*

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:  
(TRA)

**AN ACT IMPROVING BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) For the purposes of this  
2 section:

3 (1) "Department" means the Department of Transportation;

4 (2) "Funds" means any funds from the Special Transportation Fund,  
5 bond allocations and any other source that is available for the  
6 construction, maintenance and repair of roads in this state;

7 (3) "User" means a motorist, transit user, pedestrian or bicyclist;

8 (4) "Bikeway" means any road, street, path or way which in some  
9 manner is specifically designated for bicycle travel, including the  
10 provision of a bicycle lane, regardless of whether such facility is  
11 designated for the exclusive use of bicycles or is to be shared with  
12 other modes of transportation; and

13 (5) "Total project cost" means the costs of the entire corridor plan  
14 project.

15 (b) Accommodations for all users shall be a routine part of the  
16 planning, design, construction and operating activities of all highways,  
17 roads and streets in this state.

18 (c) From funds received by the department or any municipality for  
19 the construction, resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation or relocation of  
20 highways, roads or streets, a reasonable amount shall be expended to  
21 provide facilities for all users including, but not limited to, bikeways  
22 and sidewalks with appropriate curb cuts and ramps, provided in no  
23 event shall less than one per cent of the total amount of funds received  
24 in any fiscal year be so expended. The department or municipality  
25 shall take future transit expansion plans into account where  
26 appropriate.

27 (d) The provision of facilities pursuant to subsection (c) of this  
28 section shall not be required if the Commissioner of Transportation or  
29 the municipal project manner demonstrates and documents with  
30 respect to a highway, road or street that: (1) Nonmotorized usage is  
31 prohibited; (2) there is a demonstrated absence of need; or (3) the  
32 accommodation of all users would be excessively expensive to the total  
33 project cost.

34 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) There is established a  
35 Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board which shall be  
36 within the Department of Transportation for administrative purposes  
37 only.

38 (b) The board shall consist of eleven members appointed as follows:  
39 The Governor shall appoint five members and the speaker of the  
40 House of Representatives, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the  
41 majority leader of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of  
42 the Senate, the minority leader of the House of Representatives and the  
43 minority leader of the Senate shall each appoint one member. The  
44 members shall be electors of the state and have a background and  
45 interest in issues pertaining to walking and bicycling, one of whom  
46 shall be a representative of an organization interested in the promotion

47 of bicycling, one of whom shall be a representative of an organization  
48 interested in the promotion of walking, one of whom shall be an owner  
49 or manager of a business engaged in the sale or repair of bicycles, one  
50 of whom shall be a representative of visually-impaired persons, one of  
51 whom shall be a representative of mobility-impaired persons, one of  
52 whom shall be a representative of transit workers and one of whom  
53 shall be a person sixty years of age or older.

54 (c) All members shall serve for a term of four years, except that of  
55 the members first appointed by the Governor, three members shall  
56 serve for an initial term of two years and two members shall serve for  
57 an initial term of three years. Any vacancy in the membership of the  
58 board shall be filled by the appointing authority for the unexpired  
59 term. Members shall receive no compensation for their services.

60 (d) The board shall, at its first meeting and annually thereafter,  
61 select a chairperson from among its members. The board shall meet at  
62 least once during each calendar quarter and at such other times as the  
63 chairperson deems necessary.

64 (e) The duties of the board shall include, but not be limited to,  
65 promoting programs and facilities for bicycles and pedestrians in this  
66 state, and advising appropriate agencies of the state on policies,  
67 programs and facilities for bicycles and pedestrians.

68 (f) The board may apply for and accept grants, gifts and bequests of  
69 funds from other states, federal and interstate agencies and  
70 independent authorities and private firms, individuals and  
71 foundations, for the purpose of carrying out its responsibilities.

72 (g) The Department of Transportation shall assist the board in  
73 carrying out its responsibilities by making available department  
74 reports and records related to the board's responsibilities, printing the  
75 board's annual report or distributing copies thereof as may be required  
76 and mailing notices of the board's meetings as may be required.

77 (h) Not later than January 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, the board  
78 shall submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general  
79 statutes, to the Governor, the Commissioner of Transportation and the  
80 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance  
81 of matters relating to transportation on (1) the progress made by state  
82 agencies in improving the environment for bicycling and walking in  
83 this state, (2) recommendations for improvements to state policies and  
84 procedures related to bicycling and walking, and (3) specific actions  
85 taken by the Department of Transportation in the preceding year that  
86 affect the bicycle and pedestrian environment.

87 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) Notwithstanding any provision  
88 of the general statutes, not less than twenty-five per cent of the funds  
89 received by the state from the federal government under the  
90 congestion mitigation and air quality improvement program and not  
91 less than twenty-five per cent of the funds received by the state from  
92 the federal government under the highway safety improvement  
93 program shall be dedicated by the Commissioner of Transportation to  
94 projects that address bicycle and pedestrian needs, including, but not  
95 limited to: (1) Safe routes to transit programs that improve pedestrian  
96 and bicycle access to transit, (2) safe routes to schools programs that  
97 improve safety on walking and bicycling routes to schools, (3) safe  
98 routes for seniors programs that improve pedestrian access to senior  
99 centers, senior housing and other locations frequented by elderly  
100 persons, and (4) safe streets and traffic calming programs that  
101 eliminate hazards and address safety deficiencies for bicyclists and  
102 pedestrians.

103 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) On and after January 1, 2010,  
104 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall issue Share the Road  
105 commemorative number plates of a design to enhance public  
106 awareness of the rights and responsibilities of both motorists and  
107 bicyclists while jointly using the highways of this state. The design  
108 shall be determined by agreement between the Department of  
109 Transportation and the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in

110 consultation with an organization advocating on behalf of bicyclists.  
111 No use shall be made of such plates except as official registration  
112 marker plates.

113 (b) A fee of sixty dollars shall be charged for Share the Road  
114 commemorative number plates, in addition to the regular fee or fees  
115 prescribed for the registration of a motor vehicle. Fifteen dollars of  
116 such fee shall be deposited in an account controlled by the Department  
117 of Motor Vehicles to be used for the cost of producing, issuing,  
118 renewing and replacing such number plates and forty-five dollars of  
119 such fee shall be deposited in the account established under subsection  
120 (d) of this section. No additional fee shall be charged in connection  
121 with the renewal of such number plates. No transfer fee shall be  
122 charged for transfer of an existing registration to or from a registration  
123 with Share the Road commemorative number plates. Such number  
124 plates shall have letters and numbers selected by the Commissioner of  
125 Motor Vehicles. The commissioner may establish a higher fee for: (1)  
126 Number plates that contain the numbers and letters from a previously  
127 issued number plate; (2) number plates that contain letters in place of  
128 numbers as authorized by section 14-49 of the general statutes, in  
129 addition to the fee or fees prescribed for registration under said  
130 section; and (3) number plates that are low number plates issued in  
131 accordance with section 14-160 of the general statutes, in addition to  
132 the fee or fees prescribed for registration under said section. All fees  
133 established and collected pursuant to this section, except the amount  
134 deposited in the account controlled by the department, shall be  
135 deposited in the Share the Road account established under subsection  
136 (d) of this section.

137 (c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the  
138 Commissioner of Transportation, may adopt regulations, in  
139 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to  
140 establish standards and procedures for the issuance, renewal and  
141 replacement of Share the Road commemorative number plates.

142 (d) There is established a Share the Road account which shall be a  
 143 separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account  
 144 shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the  
 145 account. The funds in the account shall be expended by the  
 146 Department of Transportation to enhance public awareness of the  
 147 rights and responsibilities of bicyclists and motorists while jointly  
 148 using the highways of this state and to promote bicycle use and safety  
 149 in this state. The Commissioner of Transportation may receive private  
 150 donations to said account and any such receipts shall be deposited in  
 151 said account.

152 (e) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may provide for the  
 153 reproduction and marketing of the Share the Road commemorative  
 154 number plate image for use on clothing, recreational equipment,  
 155 posters, mementoes or other products or programs deemed by the  
 156 commissioner to be suitable as a means of supporting the  
 157 Share the Road account established under subsection (d) of this  
 158 section. Any moneys received by the commissioner from such  
 159 marketing shall be deposited in said account.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To enhance nonmotorized transportation alternatives, promote healthy lifestyles, encourage smart growth and reduce congestion by adopting a complete streets policy, establishing a permanent bicycle and pedestrian advisory committee, devoting a minimum percentage of funds to programs that improve bicycle and pedestrian access and authorizing the issuance of Share the Road number plates.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: SEN. LEBEAU, 3rd Dist.; REP. KEHOE, 31st Dist.

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