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**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
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Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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**SENATE**

S.B. No. 914

BY:

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**Introduced by SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA**

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**AN ACT PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND ALTERNATIVE MODES OF  
TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER MOBILITY OPTIONS**

Explanatory Note

Despite the Philippines being hailed as one of the fastest growing economies worldwide, the country faces to lose P6 billion daily by 2030 due to the worsening traffic problem according to a report by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). In 2012 alone, traffic jams in Metro Manila cost the country P2.4 billion a day.

Not only does the traffic congestion impair the economy, but it aggravates the already huge contribution of the transport sector to carbon dioxide emissions. According to National Emissions Inventory in 2012, 85 percent of air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR) comes from vehicles.

With the rapid progress of urbanization in the country, urban transport systems and infrastructure become more complex, thereby posing more challenges in the mobility of the populace.

This bill seeks to address these immediate traffic and transport issues through the establishment of an integrated and efficient transport system by stimulating health consciousness through a culture of walking and cycling and protecting the environment by subscribing to low-emission modes of transport.

In view of these considerations, urgent passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



**LOREN LEGARDA**

Senator



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**AN ACT PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND ALTERNATIVE MODES OF TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER MOBILITY OPTIONS**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** -The Act shall be known as the "Sustainable  
2 Transportation Act."  
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policies.** - In conformity with the provisions of the  
5 Constitution to promote the general welfare and social justice in all phases of  
6 national development, to protect and advance the right of the people to a  
7 balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of  
8 nature, and to conserve and develop the patrimony of the nation, the State  
9 hereby adopts the following policies relative to the transportation system in our  
10 country, whether public or private:  
11

- 12 a.) The State shall promote a shift towards a safe, collective, efficient, non-  
13 congestive, non-pollutive, and healthful locomotion and transportation  
14 system that includes non-motorized transport;
- 15 b.) The State shall increase mobility options of the general public and  
16 promote the use of alternative modes of transportation such as walking,  
17 biking and the use of efficient and low emissions mass transportation  
18 system;
- 19 c.) The State shall properly plan and establish facilities and infrastructures  
20 that will respond to this paradigm shift in the transportation system;  
21 and
- 22 d.) The State shall establish its plans and programs in conformity with the  
23 overall national land use plan and transportation plans by the National  
24 Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) as well as the local  
25 comprehensive land use plans.  
26

27 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** - The following terms shall be defined as follows:  
28

- 29 a.) "Bicycle" refers to a device that a person may ride that is propelled by  
30 human power and has two tandem wheels at least one of which is more  
31 than 14 inches in diameter.
- 32 b.) "Motor vehicle" means a self-propelled vehicle or any vehicle propelled by  
33 any power other than muscular power. The term does not include an  
34 electric bicycle.

- 1 c.) "Public transportation" means a shared passenger transportation service  
2 which is available for use by the general public. These include buses,  
3 trams, trains, rapid transit and ferries.  
4 d.) "Walkways" means a paved path for pedestrians alongside streets.  
5 e.) "Sustainable transport" means any means of transport with low impact  
6 on the environment, accessible, safe, environment-friendly, and  
7 affordable. It includes walking and cycling, transit oriented development,  
8 green vehicles, carpooling, and building or protecting urban transport  
9 systems that are fuel-efficient, low emissions and space-saving and  
10 promote healthy lifestyles.  
11 f.) "Travel demand management" (TDM) means a set of tools to offer people  
12 better travel information and opportunities and help people choose to  
13 reduce their need to travel especially by car.  
14

15 **SEC. 4. Sustainable Transport Action Plan.** - The Department of  
16 Transportation and Communication (DOTC), in coordination with the NEDA,  
17 shall come up with a Sustainable Transport Action Plan which aims to provide  
18 a roadmap for national and local transportation system to be adhered to at all  
19 levels throughout the country. The Sustainable Transport Action Plan shall  
20 include strategies relating to parking, public transport, cycling, walking and  
21 transport infrastructure, and will set out the actions required to achieve the  
22 mode shift target and emission standards set over a certain period of time as  
23 identified by DOTC and NEDA.  
24

25 **SEC. 5. Installation of Walkways.** - Adequate sidewalk areas must be  
26 maintained on all roads as walkways to allow safe pedestrian passage and for  
27 the safe and convenient use of wheelchairs, strollers and similar equipment.  
28 For primary and secondary roads, there shall be allotted three (3) meters for  
29 the sidewalks. If there is no space allocated for such and the implementation  
30 will prove difficult, in lieu thereof, an elevated footbridge must be installed.  
31 This shall be provided by the local government unit (LGU) concerned within six  
32 (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.  
33

34 **SEC. 6. Public Transportation.** - The DOTC shall provide guidelines that will  
35 promote a shift towards public transportation as a primary mobility option to  
36 the general public within twelve (12) months from the effectivity of this Act.  
37 Better public transportation initiatives shall be studied and implemented in an  
38 effort to reduce the impact of the declining oil economy on our environment  
39 and financial markets as well as help reduce energy costs, pollution and even  
40 urban poverty.  
41

42 **SEC. 7. Commissioning of a "Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System."** - The  
43 DOTC shall, within twelve (12) months from the effectivity of this Act, come up  
44 with a study commissioning the creation of a Bus Rapid Transit System which  
45 will organize buses into one efficient long-distance transportation system with  
46 coordinated schedules, rates, routes, and pick-up and drop-off points. The LGU  
47 and the private sector, including but not limited to mall owners and bus  
48 companies, can be tapped in order to put up or use existing facilities such as  
49 parks, parking lots, and bus depots that will serve as large collective  
50 transportation terminals where people can park their cars and bikes and take  
51 the buses to their destinations.  
52

53 **SEC. 8. Establishment of a Water Ferry System.** - As much as practicable,  
54 water regulatory bodies led by the Department of Environment and Natural  
55 Resources (DENR), in coordination with the DOTC, shall explore the

1 establishment of a ferry system in navigable bodies of water. The possibility of  
2 interconnecting said waterways shall also be considered.

3  
4 **SEC. 9. Travel Demand Management Programs.** – The DOTC, in coordination  
5 with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of  
6 Education (DepEd), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and one  
7 representative each from the civil society, transport sector and the youth, shall  
8 come up with guidelines on travel demand management programs that will  
9 reduce the volume of cars and motorized transport in the roads as well as  
10 enhance and encourage students and workers to use the public transport  
11 system. These shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

- 12  
13 a.) carpool, vanpool, or car-share projects;  
14 b.) congestion pricing measures;  
15 c.) programs to promote telecommuting;  
16 d.) flexible work schedules, or satellite work centers;  
17 e.) transport program for government employees; and  
18 f.) intelligent transportation systems or other operational improvements  
19 that are certified by the DENR to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

20  
21 This shall be completed within twelve (12) months from the effectivity of this  
22 Act.

23  
24 **SEC. 10. Designation of Bike Lanes.** – A portion of the roadway or highway  
25 shall be designated as “bike lanes” by the LGU having jurisdiction over such  
26 roadway or highway, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and  
27 Highways (DPWH), within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

28  
29 The designated bike lanes shall be for the preferential or exclusive use of  
30 bicycles. These bike lanes shall not be obstructed by a parked or standing  
31 motor vehicle or other stationary object. The bike lanes shall be made  
32 identifiable by striping with signing or striping with pavement markings.

33 **SEC. 11. Provision of Bicycle Parking Spaces and Bike Racks.** – Bicycle  
34 parking spaces and bike racks are hereby required to be provided by owners of  
35 establishments that are:

- 36 a.) For non-residential use with gross floor area larger than 7,500 square  
37 feet;  
38 b.) Multiple-family dwellings when 12 or more are provided on a lot;  
39 c.) Public parking lots.

40 The DOTC shall establish guidelines on the minimum supply of bicycle parking  
41 spaces in buildings and other facilities, taking into consideration the  
42 population of the short-term or long-term dwellers in the area, within six (6)  
43 months from the effectivity of this Act.

44  
45 **SEC. 12. Facilities.** – The DOTC, in coordination with the DPWH and the  
46 LGUs concerned, shall carry out an investment program that will encourage a  
47 mode shift to sustainable transport within selected communities by providing  
48 safe and convenient options to bicycle and walk for routine travel, and for other  
49 purposes. This shall be completed within twelve (12) months from the effectivity  
50 of this Act.

51  
52 **SEC. 13. Education and Research Programs.** – The DOTC shall conduct  
53 studies and researches, and eventually supply information to the car-owning

1 and -riding public as well as commuters on aspects of sustainable transport  
2 that are relatively new. It shall also provide technical assistance and other  
3 resources to government agencies and private sector involved in the transport  
4 system.

5  
6 **SEC. 14. Financing.** – The DOTC, in coordination with the DENR, shall  
7 explore the possibility of accessing a growing range of global environment funds  
8 in order to be able to assist in the funding of sustainable public transport  
9 systems and less polluting energy supplies. Public-private partnerships shall  
10 also be encouraged in the development of transportation improvements.

11  
12 **SEC. 15. Implementing Agency.** – The DOTC shall be the main implementing  
13 agency for this Act.

14  
15 **SEC. 16. Separability Clause.** – Should any provision herein be subsequently  
16 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity or  
17 the legality of the other provisions not so declared.

18  
19 **SEC. 17. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,  
20 rules and regulations, other issuances, and parts thereof, which are  
21 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed and modified  
22 accordingly.

23  
24 **SEC. 18. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
25 publication in at least (2) newspapers of general circulation.

26  
27 Approved,