

SENATE NO. 2093

AN ACT RELATIVE TO AT GRADE TRAIN CROSSINGS

*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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a
2 commission to study at grade train crossings. Said commission shall examine the rail and
3 roadway traffic patterns at each intersection along the Worcester – Framingham –Boston rail
4 line where train tracks and public roadways intersect without any grade separation. The study
5 shall include but not be limited to the evaluation of 1) the economic impact on the communities
6 immediately surrounding the intersection and adjacent communities impacted by the traffic
7 patterns and interruptions at the intersections; 2) the impact on the flow of traffic and related
8 traffic congestion caused by the intersection crossing; and 3) the impact on public safety and
9 particularly the availability of public safety assets to portions of the community on either side of
10 the intersection. The commission shall also consider the feasibility of: the commonwealth's
11 purchase of the train tracks on said rail line and adjustment of freight schedules; building a 3rd
12 track in Framingham-Ashland area and Worcester; and moving consolidated freight operations
13 outside of densely populated areas.

14 The commission's report shall address ways to mitigate the negative impact of increased train
15 travel along the Worcester – Framingham –Boston rail line including: grade separation and
16 capital improvements to the at-grade crossings in Framingham & Ashland; capital investments
17 and new traffic patterns to address the need for continuity in service for police, fire and
18 hospitals where access is impaired by train crossings at the intersections; ways to maintain
19 growth in economic development in downtown Framingham and Ashland; mitigation of the
20 increased noise and other environmental impacts; traffic mitigation for Ashland and
21 Framingham.

22 SECTION 2. The Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority shall not increase the number of
23 commuter trips on the Worcester – Framingham –Boston rail line until the study is complete.

24