Portland, Maine, was the place to be May 19–21!

The 2010 ITE Northeastern District Annual Meeting was hosted by the Maine Chapter and New England Section of ITE and featured technical workshops and tours, sessions on current hot topics and fun!

The District Meeting drew over 220 attendees, including 20 from the Upstate New York Section, 40 from the Met Section, and 160 from the New England Section (70 from Massachusetts). About 20 students attended the meeting with representation from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, University of Buffalo, Polytechnic Institute of NYU, University of Connecticut and University of Maine. Twelve of the students prepared posters for presentation at the Thursday afternoon poster session. We had attendees from 7 of ITE’s 10 Districts, with representation from California, Oregon, Illinois, Tennessee, Florida, Virginia, Washington, DC, Maryland and Quebec. The local arrangements committee encouraged attendance by non-members of ITE to expose them to the organization and to our profession. Almost 25% of the meeting attendees are not members of ITE International.

The technical side of the meeting included nine technical sessions (with 33 speakers), a tour of the Maine Turnpike Authority Operations Center, and two workshops, Advanced Synchro/ SimTraffic Techniques (with 61 participants) and FHWA Curve Advisory Speeds. Technical sessions ranged from coordinating land use and transportation in Maine to new techniques for counting pedestrians and cyclists to use of integrated GIS and GPS for travel time studies. PowerPoint presentations given during the technical sessions will be available soon on the meeting website (www.maineite.org) along with photos taken during the meeting.

Despite the rain that caused cancellation of the golf event and bike tour, participants got together for networking and socializing. The Welcome Reception was a cruise held on the Bay Mist of Casco Bay Lines. During the first part of the cruise, fog prevented much sightseeing, though hardly anyone noticed while they were plied with food and drink. But for the last half, the skies cleared and passengers were treated to spectacular views of Casco Bay and a few “blinks” from Portland Head Light.

Attendees heard from the three candidates for ITE Vice-president (Rock Miller, Ray Davis and Troy Peoples), the current ITE President (Paul Eng-Wong), the ITE Executive Director (Tom Brahms), and the Northeastern District Representative to the ITE Board (Lynn LaMunyon). The two candidates to replace Lynn on the ITE Board (Don Adams and Paula Benway) also gave campaign speeches.

The Traffic Bowl, emceed by a magnificent moose visiting from Massachusetts, was won by the New England Section. The moose sometimes wears a costume to look like Ken Petraglia, P.E.

During the annual banquet, several District awards were given:

- The Upstate New York Section received the Section Activities Award
- UMass Amherst received the District’s Student Chapter of the Year Award
- Mark Warren, representing Polytechnic Institute of NYU, received the District Student Paper Award for his paper “Beyond Check points: Secure Transportation Planning in the 21st Century”
- Ken Petraglia received the Harvey Boutwell Award for Distinguished Service
Since the last edition of the Chronicle, there have been several events that are worthy of celebration. These events have allowed our Section to shine. As an organization of volunteers, it has resulted in many hours of preparation and coordination during the events. I wish to thank all those that have contributed to make ITE a wonderful place for professional and technical growth.

The Student Symposium moved south this year to the UConn campus at Storrs, Connecticut. This event was successfully organized by the MA Chapter for many years and blossomed into a NE Section sponsored event to the New England-wide participation by various student chapters and individuals from other regional universities. The day-long event was filled with student presentations, a keynote luncheon speech by Commissioner Joseph Marie from the Connecticut Department of Transportation, the District Student Traffic Bowl competition, and the CT Chapter meeting and awards ceremony. I would like to Joe Hallisey and Nicholas Lownes for their vision to bring the event to Connecticut and their hard work to coordinate the event. The generous hospitality of UConn administrators and many corporate sponsors allowed the event to be held in the Campus Center. I would like to Joe Hallisey and Nicholas Lownes for their vision to bring the event to Connecticut and their hard work to coordinate the event. The generous hospitality of UConn administrators and many corporate sponsors allowed the event to be held in the Campus Center. Many of the attendees were also able to join in with the campus excitement as the UConn Women’s Basketball Team had just returned from winning the NCAA National Tournament to a welcoming Gampel Pavilion. The NE Section Board is seeking volunteers to host the event for 2011.

As part of the Student Symposium, the Northeastern District Student Traffic Bowl was also conducted. The teams that competed included UMass Amherst, UConn, NYU Polytechnic, and the New Jersey Institute of Technology. The UMass team was victorious and, as of the time that you are reading this article, has hopefully succeeded in winning the International Traffic Bowl at ITE’s Annual Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. This is the first year that ITE is conducting this event at the international level. Due to the timing of the event in relation to the end of the school year, the Northeastern District and New England Section Boards united in financial support to send the following team of students (current and recently graduated) to represent us: Sam Gregorio, Steve Tupper, and Deanna Peabody. While they are at the meeting, UMass Amherst will also be receiving the award for the International Outstanding Student Chapter for the second consecutive year. Congratulations UMass!

Then, there was the Northeastern District Annual Meeting in Portland. For those that are not aware, the planning process for this event starts about two years before it is held. Kevin Hooper, leaders from the Maine Chapter, and other volunteers stepped up to the plate. Ok, let’s stop here for a moment. Yes, I said Kevin Hooper. For someone that has contributed so much to ITE, both locally and nationally, he raised his hand yet again to lead this production. Next time you pick up the ITE Parking Generation manual and some other publications, look at the major contributing authors. Kevin, I would like to thank you for being a wonderful role model for sustained volunteerism. You have kept us smiling the whole time!

As we reviewed the final planning materials, attendance projections, and accommodations for the event earlier in the year, we were not as optimistic about “the numbers” as we have been in the past. With the state of our economy and professional development budgets being choked at agencies and consulting firms, we were prepared for a diminished attendance. The cozy and charming Portland Regency Hotel and Conference Center became even cozier as we packed it for the Thursday lunch and evening banquet. At 140 full-time and 80 daily participants, we had the highest attendance in the past 6 years! I would like to thank Kevin Hooper, Tom Enrico, Peter Hedrich, Paul Godfrey, Diane Morabito, Rod Emery, Tom Gorrill, John Adams, and Sandi Duchesne for their hard work. If you have not attended this event in the past, I encourage you to attend the 2011 meeting in Port Jefferson, New York. Hopefully, we’ll be able to get the televisions at the bar to show the Red Sox game instead of the ‘Evil Empire’. We’ll see…

Please review the NEITE calendar for upcoming events for the Section and our Chapters. Sam Gregorio and Steve Tupper did a great job revamping the whole website. The next generation of NEITE is making their mark. Please consider bringing a new younger member to the next meeting(s) as we seek to strengthen the involvement from other emerging professionals. I look forward to seeing you in Waltham, Providence, Warwick, Concord, and elsewhere around New England in the upcoming months.

#
NEITE Chronicle is interested in short articles on innovative projects and cutting-edge solutions

Send articles, listings (ITE and other relevant) and especially graphics and photographs to Andy Arseneault at andy.arseneault@jacobs.com.

Jacobs’ contributing staff:
Rod Emery
Andy Arseneault
Anne McKinnon

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Useful Links
Institute of Transportation Engineers
http://www.ite.org
American Society of Civil Engineers
http://www.asce.org
New Hampshire Chapter
http://www.aschnc.org
Vermont Section Chapter
http://sections.asce.org/vermont
Maine Section Chapter
http://www.maineasce.org/maine.htm
Connecticut Section
http://www.csce.org/
Urban Land Institute
http://www.uli.org
Massachusetts Association of Consulting Planners
http://www.macponline.org
The American Planning Association
Northern New England Chapter
http://www.nnecapa.org
Massachusetts Chapter
http://www.massapa.org
Connecticut Chapter
http://www.ccapa.org
Rhode Island Chapter
http://www.rhodeislandapa.org

As always, please do not hesitate to contact the Chronicle if you have any thoughts or suggestions, or if you would like to submit an article for the upcoming issue.

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Interview with Dave Scott

By Ken Patrlgia, P.E. PTOE

While I was glad to hear that Dave Scott was doing well and enjoying his job with FHWA, I was still pleased to know that he missed us! Dave has a keen memory and enjoyed talking about his days in New England.

Dave spent eight years in the Navy before entering and graduating from UMass Amherst in 1989. He began his career immediately after graduation in transportation at the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VAOT) as an entry-level engineer in the Planning Section. By 1997, Dave was promoted to director of Program Development, and in case you’re wondering, the dates are not in error – he made that jump in just eight years. He held this position until 2005. His next stop was working for FHWA in Wisconsin for five years. His major project was working on the $810 million Marquette Interchange Project in Downtown Milwaukee. Dave has just moved to Minnesota as FHWA’s office in Minnesota and is the assistant Division Administrator.

Dave’s biggest challenge over his career came from the change in attitude about engineering relating to Flexible Design, Safe Streets, Livability, etc. The push for roundabouts, regardless of appropriateness, was another factor in these changes in attitudes. Dave believes in some of these measures, but would like to see more of a balance between the principals of Flexible Design and practical engineering. (NOTE: I agree with Dave on this issue – roundabouts are very effective in the proper setting, but they are not appropriate in some cases. I liken it to asking Tom Brady to give up the quarterback role at which he excels, and asking him instead to become a nose tackle where he would likely fail). Dave also notes that older transportation systems and land use constraints in the northeast result in greater need for these principles than in the Midwest.

Dave did not hesitate when asked about what gave him the most satisfaction: staff development and teamwork. He always enjoyed watching younger people grow into positions of leadership, including some of VAOT’s current leaders. He also described the teamwork exhibited by the State, FHWA and the consultant as “remarkable” when it all came together.

Asked about the mark he has left on the transportation industry, he remembers his beginning at VAOT, when it was difficult to get a project out the door, to later success in getting projects advanced and having good projects built.

“I miss New England and I expect to be back at some point” … Dave Scott

We remember Dave as an active member of NEITE and the Vermont Chapter, and he will always be remembered for chairing the 2004 District 1 Meeting in Burlington that was a successful meeting on all fronts. This meeting was well-organized, offered an informative technical program, and made a huge profit that benefited the District. I think he was particularly pleased that one-third of the technical program presentations were delivered by students. I know firsthand about Dave’s real legacy. During my tenure as vice president of NEITE, Dave pointed out that Vermont was the only state not included in a joint Section meeting, which is something most of us had not considered. The next year, as President, I worked with the Board to institute the new annual joint Section meeting in Vermont. Unfortunately, Dave had already left Vermont, but I made it clear in my welcoming remarks that this would be his legacy.

Dave’s only regret to this point in his career is that he moved into a management position so quickly that he did not get to do more technically. At his FHWA post in Wisconsin he got back into project work, or as he said, “I went back to work.”

Dave and Leslie have been married for 26 years. Leslie worked at VOAT, but not in Dave’s section. Dave’s other passion is his 1979 MG now that he now has more time for cruising.
“Beyond 2010: New Directions in Transportation” was the theme of the UMass Amherst ITE Student Chapter 11th Annual Technical Day Meeting on the campus of the University of Massachusetts on March 11, 2010. Throughout the day, over 100 students and professionals participated in the meeting’s events. This year is the Student Chapter’s 20th Anniversary and much of the event was planned around alumni attendance.

Many UMass students, student chapter members, and attending transportation professionals participated in the four informative presentations during the technical session in the early afternoon. This presentations included: “I-91 ITS Design Build Project,” by Meryl Ann Mandell, project manager at MassDOT District 2; “The Future of Rail in New England,” by Dana Roscoe, principal planner and transportation manager of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; “Pavement of Tomorrow,” by Walaa Mogawer, civil and environmental engineering professor at UMass Dartmouth; and “Funding the Future,” by Clinton Bench, deputy executive director of MassDOT’s Office of Transportation Planning.

The day’s events also included the NEITE Executive Board Meeting in which many of the Section’s events and items were discussed in detail. This included a discussion between the Board and UMass Student Chapter President Steven Tupper and former vice-president Samuel Gregorio on their vision for the complete overhaul of the New England Section website for which the UMass Student Chapter has been charged with upgrading .

The event concluded with a social hour followed by dinner. During the social hour, MassDOT CEO and Secretary of Transportation Jeffrey Mullan presented the Jane F. Garvey Leadership Award, through a computerized network connection set-up, to Kathleen Stein, principal of Howard/ Stein-Hudson and Associates, Inc., who could not attend the event in person. At dinner, Faculty Advisor Michael Knodler presented Samuel Gregorio and Steven Tupper with the ITE Student Service Awards for their dedication and service to the Student Chapter. Professor John Collura presented Gary Roux, principal planner and traffic manager of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, with the UMass Distinguished Alumni Award for his service to the profession of transportation engineering.

The night concluded with Secretary Mullan offering the keynote address entitled, “Facing Transportation Challenges in the Commonwealth.”

The event was a tremendous success and the UMass Student Chapter would like to thank all those who attended.
MassDOT Highway Operations

The Emerging Professionals Group toured the MassDOT Highway Operations Center (HOC) located at 50 Haul Road in South Boston for its first event of the year on June 10, 2010. The tour was followed by a social gathering at City Bar at the Westin Hotel.

HOC Superintendent Michael Fitzpatrick provided an overview of the function of the Highway Operations Center which was followed by Q&A and observations at individual workstations. The HOC provides monitoring and service critical to providing a safe and efficient environment for users and to support optimum utilization of the highway system. This is done through managing emergency response by monitoring and responding to traffic, security and systems events. Live camera feeds from throughout the MassDOT roadway network are on display and are monitored by both computer and personnel in a “war room” type environment to identify system events. When an event is identified the HOC notifies State Police and other first responders. In addition the HOC manages all variable message signs on MassDOT roadways as well as supervising equipment critical to the operation of the Central Artery.

The social event at City Bar provided the opportunity for the attendees to socialize with their peers in a relaxed environment. Kevin Dandrade, NEITE president, and Guus Driessen, NEITE treasurer, also attended, providing the attendees with the added benefit of socializing with some of the NEITE leadership.

A diverse group of 25 took part in this event. The participants represented various age and experience levels, including both NEITE members and non-members, and representatives of private consulting firms as well as public agencies.

Based on feedback, this event was a tremendous success—thank you to all who participated. The NEITE Emerging Professionals Group is actively planning future events. Be on the lookout for future e-mails. Ideas or comments about the Emerging Professionals Group? Please contact Jason DeGray at jdegray@vhb.com.

Executive Board Corner

By: Jeffrey S. Dirk, PE, PTOE, FITE

The Executive Board of the New England Section held its March meeting with the UMass Amherst Student Chapter in conjunction with the 11th Annual Technical Day at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The Board holds six regular business meetings, five of which are joint meetings with the State Chapters culminating with the Annual Meeting in December. At its meeting the Board discussed planning for the 6th Annual Transportation Student Symposium held at the University of Connecticut and the schedule for June Board meetings with the Maine and New Hampshire Chapters, and with the Massachusetts Chapter to be held on September 15. Final arrangements for the Northeastern District Annual Meeting hosted by the Section in Portland in May were discussed. I hope that you had an opportunity to attend this meeting which featured an extensive technical program and presentations from the candidates for ITE International Director and the three candidates for ITE International Vice President.

The Section continues to operate within a balanced budget of $25,000 that was established at the beginning of the year. The Section generates its income from two primary sources: membership dues which are released from ITE International through the District, and proceeds from the Annual Meeting in December. Additional income is received from the District through targeted grants for student initiatives and from advertisements in the Chronicle. The Section’s finances have benefitted from good attendance at the Annual Meeting over the past several years and the stewardship of Bill McNamara in keeping meeting costs in line with projected income.

The Board focused on establishing goals for publication of the Chronicle and ensuring that sufficient content is available. This effort has been assisted by the establishment of a subcommittee to assist the Chronicle editor in obtain articles for publication. Members are encouraged to submit articles to the editor for publication. This is an excellent opportunity to inform the membership of interesting projects that you or your firm may be working on. The Public Relations Committee will be completing the five-year update to the Section Directory as required by the Section By-Laws so please ensure that your contact information is up to date with ITE International. The Board also received an update on the pending upgrade of the Section website. The UMass Amherst Student Chapter has agreed to undertake this (continued on page 7)
UMass Amherst ITE Student Chapter - Northeastern District 1 Traffic Bowl Champions

The University of Massachusetts Amherst Student Chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers win the 2010 Northeastern District 1 Traffic Bowl!

This jeopardy style competition was held on April 7, 2010 at the 6th Annual Transportation Student Research Symposium at the University of Connecticut Storrs campus. UMass was represented by transportation engineering graduate students Steven Tupper, Deanna Peabody, and Samuel Gregorio as well as alternates Katrina Hecimovic and Radha Gomez. They put their traffic operations, planning, and design knowledge to test against fellow engineering students from various colleges in New England, New York, and New Jersey. The team will have the opportunity to compete at the International level at the ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit in Vancouver, British Columbia in August.
What exactly are the laws around bicycles in Massachusetts? ...and why you should know them


First, the law strengthened and clarified a number of existing laws, in some cases simply by adding “bicyclist.” Second, several of the new provisions bring Massachusetts inline with most of the rest of the country (two-abreast riding, opening car door with care, safe-passing distance). Finally, the new law facilitates more engagement by law enforcement address motorist behavior and enforcement of safe cycling rules.

Passage of the law is also resulting in increased awareness of existing laws and myths about cycling. For transportation professionals, key themes in Massachusetts (and most of New England) laws include a) a bicycle is a vehicle and will be found on most roadways; b) cyclists are not required to ride in bike lanes or sidepaths and will be found on most roadways; c) for everyone’s safety, travel lanes should be wide enough to enable a motorist to safely pass a cyclist without changing lanes or crossing into opposing traffic, 14 feet minimum; and plan and design for bicycles.

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<tr>
<th>Cyclist access and riding rights</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cyclists have the right to use all Massachusetts public ways except limited access or express state highways where signs specifically prohibit bicycles.</td>
<td>Cyclists are not required to use a bike lane, shoulder, or sidepath. Bikes may legally use Memorial Dr., Storrow Dr., Jamaicaway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyclists may ride to the right of vehicular traffic.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bicyclists may ride two abreast in one lane, but must allow traffic to pass.</td>
<td>Change from single-file requirement.</td>
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<td>Bike riding is prohibited on sidewalks in business districts. Bicycles are allowed on sidewalks outside business districts unless prohibited by local ordinance.</td>
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<th>Cyclist operating rights/requirements</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cyclists shall be subject to Mass. traffic laws and regulations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyclists must use hand signals when stopping or turning unless both hands are necessary for the safe operation of the bicycle.</td>
<td>Clarified to permit not signaling if both hands should be on the bike for safety.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helmets must be worn by cyclists under age 16.</td>
<td>All other NE states and NY (except VT) require helmets on those under age 15.</td>
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<td>It is illegal to carry a child under 1 year on your bike; you must use a trailer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyclists are required to give their name and address to a police officer who observes a traffic law violation.</td>
<td>Strengthened to allow police to fine non-cooperative violators $20-$50.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyclists must yield to pedestrians and give an audible signal before passing pedestrians. Sirens and whistles are prohibited.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Front headlight and red taillight or reflector are required when riding before sunrise &amp; after sunset. Pedal reflectors or reflective legbands also required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Handlebars cannot be above rider’s shoulders. No alteration of the bicycle fork allowed.</td>
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(continued on page 10)
Hello Northeast District Members!

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recently reported “Deaths on the nation’s highways declined in 2009 to a level not seen since 1954.” The article reported that the fatality rate for 2009 declined to the lowest on record—1.16 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled. This is down 7.2% from the 2008 rate of 1.25 fatalities per 100 million VMT. That same day in the ITE Journal I read Paul Eng-Wong’s president’s message, Decade of Action for Road Safety. Paul noted that ITE has partnered with the United Nations and U.S. House of Representatives for the “Decade of Action for Road Safety” campaign. With over 1.2 million deaths related to vehicle crashes worldwide, it is great to see we are making progress and that ITE is part of this progress! We should all look for opportunities to be an active part of this initiative.

Since 2010 is the start of a new decade and new initiatives, let’s look in the rearview mirror for some hints from the recent past. (I would like to thank the two predecessors and the fine groundwork they laid for me). In 2008 Ken Petraglia focused on putting the right individuals leading the Northeast District’s Committees—a strategy that Jim Collins refers to in his book Good to Great as putting the right person on the right seat on the bus. Ken appointed Mike Knodler, UMass Amherst student chapter advisor, as chair of the Student Chapter Committee. In 2009 Mike Salatti made his focus students and student chapters. The combination of Ken and Mike’s initiatives has had a positive impact on our District student activities. In 2009 we saw revitalization of NY Poly and University of Rhode Island’s student chapters, the initiation of University of Buffalo Chapter, increased participation by students across the District at UMass Amherst’s Annual Technical Day, and as already mentioned UMass Amherst’s Student Chapter Award.

I will continue to support Ken and Mike’s initiatives, in addition to my own initiatives, to encourage active membership with a three-pronged approach:

- Encourage existing members to get involved and to find new members. Invite the person in the cubicle next to you to become a member or bring him/her to an ITE event.
- Encourage our student members to remain active after graduation and encourage other new members.
- Provide interesting and educational events to demonstrate the benefits of ITE by example.

So we have some big expectations to live up to! In January the District Executive Board met to review 2009 and prepare for 2010. In February we were invited to participate in the International Coordinating Council meeting led by Chair Pat Noyes. The purpose of this council is to oversee the work and cross-disciplinary coordination of the individual councils and more than 70 current council projects. This meeting focused on how best to share information generated at the international level with the sections and how to share technical projects between sections. The Coordinating Council is working on a directory that will inform council members about the senior members and project managers, while the Coordinating Council will rely on the Districts to provide feedback and the technical projects that are being completed at the section level.

As I make my rounds to visit the sections, I hope to cross paths with many of you. I also encourage you to reach out to me by telephone (518) 446-0996 or email dadams@cmellp.com if you have any ideas/suggestions for the District. Take care,

Don Adams, PE, PTOE Northeast District Chair
**Motorist responsibilities** | **Comments**
--- | ---
When passing a cyclist traveling in the same direction, motorists must use adjacent lane or wait until it’s safe to overtake the cyclist. Motorists must slow down and pass cyclists at a safe distance and at a reasonable speed. | Clarified/strengthened to specifically mention cyclists and to require motorists to use adjacent lane to pass safely or wait. Note: ME, NH and CT specify that motorists must pass at least 3 feet from a cyclist.

Drivers passing a cyclist in the same direction may not make a right turn unless it can be made at a safe distance and speed (no “right hook” allowed). | Clarified/strengthened to specifically mention cyclists.

When turning left, motorists must yield to vehicles approaching from opposite direction, including a bicycle on the right of the other approaching vehicles, which is within the intersection or so close enough to be an immediate hazard. | Clarified/strengthened to specifically mention cyclists.

No person shall open a door of a motor vehicle unless it’s reasonably safe to do so without interfering with traffic, including bicyclists and pedestrians. Fine not to exceed $100. | Massachusetts joins the rest of the nation in requiring people to check before opening door.

It shall not be a defense for a motorist causing an accident with a bicycle that the bicycle was to the right of vehicular traffic. | New addition.

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**Other**

Cities and towns cannot mandate bicycle registration | Unenforced law eliminated.

Bike rental businesses must offer customers helmets. | No mandate for customers to wear them.

The standard for bike helmets is the US Consumer Product Safety Commission. | Changed from ANZI and Snell Foundation.

Police shall be trained in bicycle safety, the rights and duties of bicyclists and motorists toward cyclists. | New addition.

Enforcing traffic laws for cyclists will be improved with a simpler ticket system. | Improved system will eliminate separate bike ticket. Police to ticket auto and bike violations the same.