

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4694



Introduced by HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In a transport study conducted in 2012¹, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) estimated that with a traffic demand of 12.8 million per day, traffic and congestion in Metropolitan Manila incurs an extra transport operating cost of 2.4 billion pesos (or 51 million US dollars) daily. Without a solution to this ongoing problem, the financial and economic losses, as JICA predicts, will likely increase to 6 billion pesos per day. And while the rapid growth of Metropolitan Manila is seen in its traffic jams and gridlocks, it has become a major urban problem for the capital city.

Numbeo, a research and database website of user-contributed data, placed the Philippines at the tenth (10th) spot², below Russia, in its 2016 Mid-Year report with a Traffic Index of 199.66, stating that the average one-way travel time in Manila alone is 58.85 minutes³. Cars account for 48.5% of the total means of transportation in Manila, followed by 18.2% of people working from home (and avoiding traffic), and 12.1% walking to school or work, according to Numbeo's data.

This bill seeks to address this problem by creating a National Traffic Engineering Center to aid in decongesting and solving traffic concerns in Metropolitan Manila, as well as in other major cities in the Philippines. It also mandates a compulsory subject on road safety in the Enhanced K to 12 Basic Education Program to ensure that the future drivers of the country will be well-equipped with knowledge on proper road safety and courtesy. This is believed to be

¹ Japan International Cooperation Agency. "Roadmap for Transport Infrastructure. Development for Metro Manila and Its Surrounding Areas (Region III and Region IV-A)". *National Economic and Development Authority*, 2014.

² "Traffic Index for Country 2016 Mid Year". *Numbeo*, https://www.numbeo.com/traffic/rankings_by_country.jsp. Accessed September 30, 2016.

³ "Traffic in Manila, Philippines". *Numbeo*, <https://www.numbeo.com/traffic/in/Manila>. Accessed September 30, 2016.

a big step towards safer and more useable roads.

This bill is likewise filed in support of bills filed granting President Rodrigo Roa Duterte emergency powers to address the massive traffic congestion.

In view of the foregoing, the early approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

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Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

**AN ACT
CREATING A NATIONAL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “National Traffic Management Plan Act of 2016.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State that the promotion of the safety and economic well-being of the people shall be pursued by providing them the necessary facilities for safe and convenient travel.

SECTION 3. *Creation of the National Traffic Engineering Center.* – There is hereby created a National Traffic Engineering Center which shall be an attached agency under the Department of Transportation.

SECTION 4. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the term:

- (A) “Traffic Engineering Facilities and Equipment” include traffic control systems, geometric improvement of intersections, sidewalks and median islands, road signs and pavement markings, pedestrian overpasses, waiting sheds and other traffic safety amenities.
- (B) “Traffic Control System” includes traffic signal, local signal controllers, vehicle detectors, control center and related facilities and equipment such as close-circuit television cameras and signal lanterns.

- (C) "Traffic Control Signal" includes any device using a word or words, symbol or symbols, a color light or lights or any combination thereof operated mechanically, electrically or manually.
- (D) "Local Signal Controllers" mean any equipment controlling the signal switching time for signal lanterns from green to orange to red color based and the command sent by the computer at the control center.
- (E) "Vehicle Detectors" include such equipment installed near signalized intersection which measures the number and speed of vehicles and sends the data to the computer at the control center.
- (F) "Control Center" is the place which houses the central computer room, computer room for traffic control signals and radio communication equipment.
- (G) "Road traffic safety subject" means the separate subject that teaches either basic and/or advanced safety driving, road hazards, driving rules and offenses, and use of traffic signs.
- (H) "DepEd" means the Department of Education.
- (I) "Department" shall refer to the Department of Transportation.
- (J) "UP-NCTSFI" means the University of the Philippines National Center for Transport Studies Foundation, Inc.

SECTION 5. *Relationship with the Local Government Units.* – The Center shall provide technical assistance to local governments units on matters pertaining to traffic engineering, including but not limited to, providing traffic control devices and related facilities and equipment available at the Center and assistance in the preparation of related documents/supporting papers and studies, preparation and/or implementation of traffic management plans, conduct of traffic studies, and coordinative/monitoring support on traffic engineering and management. The Center shall likewise provide the necessary technical training to local government personnel in the operation and maintenance of traffic control system and related facilities and equipment with the end in view of transferring the management of the technologies and equipment to local government units.

SECTION 6. *Duties and Responsibilities.* – The Center shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- (A) Assist in the development and implementation of policies for urban and regional transport;
- (B) Provide technical the planning, services for the planning, design, installation, and construction, operation and maintenance of traffic engineering and management facilities and equipment nationwide;

- (C) Develop and implement a national code of standards, specifications, and operational, guidelines for the design, installation, operation and maintenance of traffic control systems;
- (D) Assist other agencies including the local government units, in finding solutions to local traffic problems;
- (E) Review and approve all design plans for traffic engineering and management proposed by any government agency or local government units to ensure uniformity and standardization;
- (F) Coordinate with other agencies and authorities created for special metropolitan political subdivisions tasked with transport and traffic engineering management in the development of comprehensive plans and strategies for urban traffic and transport;
- (G) Formulate plans and programs to train and educate the motorists and the general public on the important use of the various traffic control facilities and other aspects of road safety and courtesy;
- (H) Conduct researches, studies and seminars on traffic engineering and management with emphasis on accident prevention and efficient traffic control; and
- (I) Receive donations from local and foreign institutions or agencies for the purpose of carrying out its objectives.

SECTION 7. *Executive Director.* – The Center shall be headed by an Executive Director who shall be appointed by the President upon recommendation of the Secretary of Transportation. The Executive Director shall have a rank equivalent to an Executive Director IV position. The Executive Director shall be assisted by two (2) Deputy Executive Directors; one (1) Deputy Executive Director for Project Planning, Design and Implementation and one (1) for Administration, Operations and Maintenance Of Traffic Control System. The Deputy Executive Directors shall have the rank equivalent to Deputy Executive Director IV to be appointed by the Secretary of Transportation.

SEC. 8. *General Powers and Duties of the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Directors.* –

(A) The general powers and duties of the Executive Director shall be as follows:

- 1) To implement the policies, programs, projects, guidelines, procedures, rules and regulations promulgated, prescribed, issued or adopted by the Center for urban regional transport;
- 2) To manage the day-to-day affairs of the Center, and to ensure the operational efficiency of the traffic engineering and management facilities and equipment nationwide;
- 3) To head the technical, consultative and management staff of the Center;
- 4) To undertake the conduct of traffic survey, planning and design of traffic engineering and management measures and services, the conduct of transportation and traffic related research and studies and the preparation and updating of the Code of Traffic Management and Operations;

5) To determine the organization of the Center and create such functional units therein as deemed necessary in the proper and efficient implementation of the functions and purposes of the Center, including recommending the appointment of officials and employees, it being understood that the security of tenure of these workers shall be respected consisting of existing laws; and

6) Performs other related functions that may be assigned by the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Public Works and Highways or as may be necessary and the convenient for attainment of the objectives of the Center;

(B) The Deputy Executive Directors of the Center shall have the following general powers, functions and duties:

1) To assist the Executive Director in implementing, enforcing, and applying the policies, programs, projects, guidelines, procedures, rules and regulations promulgated, prescribed, issued, or adopted by the Center;

2) To assist the Executive Director in the performance of his other functions and duties; and

3) To perform such other duties and functions as the Executive Director may assign from time to time.

SECTION 9. *Road Traffic Safety Subject.* – The teaching of a separate and compulsory subject called Road Traffic Safety shall be included at grade six and grade twelve of the Enhanced K to 12 Basic Education Program. This subject shall include defensive driving, basic traffic rules, the importance of road safety, road hazards, and the steps to take in case of a road accident.

SECTION 10. *Implementing Agency.* – The Secretary of Education is hereby authorized and directed to adopt a system to implement and carry out the provisions of Section 9.

SECTION 11. *Coordinating Agency.* – The UP-NCTSFI is hereby authorized to assist the DepEd in designing the teaching module on road traffic safety.

SECTION 12. *Educational Materials.* – It shall be obligatory on all elementary and secondary schools to keep in their libraries an adequate number of copies of the textbook, primer, and leaflet on Road Traffic Safety to be issued by the DepEd. The DepEd shall determine the adequacy of the number of books, depending upon the enrollment of the elementary and secondary school students.

SECTION 13. *Appropriations.* – The amount of TWO BILLION PESOS (P2,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial year of implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary shall be included in the General Appropriations Act under the Department of Transportation.

SECTION 14. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 15. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary

to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 16. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,