

Vermont

According to transportation officials in Vermont, the state is in the midst of conducting various transportation studies on planning, design and environmental impact. Important transportation issues include:

- Highway maintenance and enhancement
- Bridge rehabilitation and replacement
- Rail rehabilitation (bridges, rails, ties and ballast
(A feasibility study is now in progress.)
- Public transit- buses

Maintenance of the physical integrity of the existing state transportation system is primary as are projects whose objective is to enhance the system, be it highway, rail or air.

B. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING EFFORTS

For the first time ever, there are several regional transportation planning efforts underway. Politically and economically, it has been recognized that if New England works cohesively as a region, its transportation needs will be met more efficiently and will be eligible for a greater portion of federal money. Some of the efforts include the following:

- New England mayors and governors met in February 1993 to discuss working as a unit in New England to promote and advance the New England economy. One of their objectives is to bring back the rail system and the once-proud seaports.

- The New England Transportation Initiative (NETI) has recently produced a Request for Qualifications for a Conceptual Study Design of the transportation system in New England. The federal grant which NETI received provides for a \$650,000 study. The actual study will begin in July 1993 and last for 18 months. The guiding policy for the study is stated below:

"To optimize the quality of the transportation system for the movement of people and goods in a coordinated and cost-effective manner, encompassing all major modes of interstate and intercity travel with regional implications-- roads, rail, air and water-- in a manner that is environmentally sensitive and economically productive."