

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this market study is to generate information for Canadian companies seeking to export into the New England market. This study of the transportation industry in the New England states (excluding Connecticut) will focus on the following transportation segments: airports, buses, freight and passenger rail, commuter rail, rapid transit, light rail/trackless trolley, cargo shipping-ports, trucking and water transit. All monetary figures in this study are in U.S. dollars.

A. OVERVIEW OF TRANSPORTATION

Currently, in New England, there is an abundance of transportation activity. This trend, which should continue for the next decade, is a result of several factors, among them a renewed interest in transportation planning, recent legislation impacting transportation development, the federal government commitment to transportation and the emerging global economy.

New transportation planning revolves, to a great extent, around recent legislation that has been passed, namely the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991, the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). These pieces of legislation will be elaborated on in the Legislation section. Under ISTEA, there is the requirement for statewide plans from each state Department of Transportation (DOT). There is also increased consideration of the interrelationships and trade-offs among the various modes, increased public involvement, more stringent air quality requirements, increased flexibility in the use of federal-aid transportation funds, better cooperation among the Departments of Transportation (DOT), metropolitan planning organizations (MPO), other state agencies, and transportation providers, especially transit agencies. The Clean Air Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act affect most transportation development. Due to the strict requirements of the Clean Air Act, there will be highway improvements rather than expansion and increased emphasis and development of mass transit systems of buses, water ferries, rail and intermodal systems.

New transportation planning will also incorporate the new technology of the future, for example high speed rail, magnetic levitation (MAGLEV) train systems and electronic toll management for highways and bridges.

The federal government commitment to transportation and to improving the nation's infrastructure is evidenced by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. This legislation was signed into law by George Bush and will be carried out by President Clinton with slightly different emphasis. The Clinton administration is committed to developing the highways, transit, rail and intermodal system. Transportation Secretary Federico Pena