

Major planned projects include:

- Portsmouth port expansion
- Extensive rebuilding of highways and bridges
- Interstate maintenance

According to transportation officials, the most important issues in transportation are the availability of public transit systems of bus and rail, air quality, traffic congestion and maintenance of the highway system.

Rhode Island

According to transportation officials, the most important transportation planning projects include the following:

- Interstate highway maintenance and rehabilitation
- National highway maintenance and rehabilitation
- Bridge maintenance and reconstruction
- Commuter rail to Boston from Providence and the proposed extension of it to Warwick, RI
- Airport improvement
- Water transit (feasibility study in progress)
- Rail (feasibility study in progress)

The state of Rhode Island is in dire fiscal straits. A recent report of December 1992 concluded that the city of Providence will be insolvent and face a \$40 million deficit by the end of 1993 if drastic measures are not taken. This fiscal crisis has been caused by an eroding tax base, an influx of poor residents, insufficient state aid, increased public school enrollment and long-term obligations.

From 1992 to 1997, Rhode Island will receive \$15.4 million from ISTEA to spend on non-traditional projects, such as bike paths, hiking trails, boat-launching ramps, water pollution control and water transportation.