

information on transportation activities, together with the impacts and associated costs of these activities, the costs and implications of potential policy measures, and the range of private- and public-sector stakeholders involved result in an intricate policy context for the sector's sustainability.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT

Responsibility for Transportation in Canada

In Canada, three levels of government share responsibility for transportation. In general, the federal government is responsible for national, interprovincial, and international transportation; provincial governments are responsible for intraprovincial transportation; and municipalities are responsible for urban transit and local planning decisions. Federal and provincial ministers of transportation coordinate activities through the Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety.

At the federal level, Transport Canada has evolved significantly to meet the changing needs of Canadians since it was formed as a federal department in 1936. Generally, the department is moving away from its role as operator of the transportation system toward that of regulator and policy maker.

Provincial responsibility for the local movement of goods and people within incorporated urban areas is in many cases delegated to municipal governments to provide for more locally responsive delivery of services. Municipalities vary according to the actual and potential scope of their actions related to sustainable transportation, in part because the degree of delegation by provincial governments varies and also because of size. Larger municipalities generally have more scope for action than smaller municipalities because it is usually more feasible for them to operate effective public transportation systems.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is the national voice of municipal governments, dedicated to improving the quality of life in all communities by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government. The FCM provides guidance to municipal decision makers on a range of issues, including transportation and environmental protection. Some of these actions are discussed in more detail below.