

Some of the major features include:

- A National Highway System (NHS), consisting primarily of existing Interstate routes and a portion of the Primary System, is established to focus federal resources on roads that are the most important to interstate travel and national defense, roads that connect with other modes of transportation, and are essential for international commerce.

- State and local governments are given more flexibility in determining transportation solutions, whether transit or highways, and the tools of enhanced planning and management systems to guide them in making the best choices.

- New technologies, such as intelligent vehicle-highway systems and prototype magnetic levitation systems, are funded to push the nation forward into thinking of new approaches in providing 21st century transportation.

ISTEA federal funding totals \$151 billion for the entire U.S. and will be allocated over 6 years through 1997. State authorized amounts for both highway and transit categories are noted below.

Maine:	\$750 million
Massachusetts:	\$5.5 billion
New Hampshire:	\$480 million
Rhode Island:	\$625 million
Vermont:	\$250 million

In New Hampshire and Rhode Island, spending is primarily focused on highway and bridge work with no funds allocated for transit.

State notes:

In Massachusetts, spending is focused on a number of capital improvement projects including highway construction, bridge and tunnel work, rail, transit and facilities construction, airport modernization and marine port improvements. As a result of ISTEA, approximately 20,000 jobs were added to the economy in 1992 with 92,000 more jobs expected over the next three years, 40,000 of which will be in the construction industry.

Some projects provided by the bill are noted below:

- \$2.55 billion for the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel
- \$911 million for the road and bridge program
- \$160 million for projects on the National Highway System
- \$243 million for congestion mitigation and air quality improvement
- \$860 million for urban and rural transit which includes \$278 million for the South Boston Transitway project
- \$230 million for interstate highway maintenance
- \$181 million for the Surface Transportation Program