

B. MASSACHUSETTS

Highway and bridge projects include the following areas:

- Interstate maintenance
- National Highway System
- Bridges
- Surface Transportation Program
- Congestion Mitigation Air Quality
- Demonstration and Other
- Hazard elimination
- Interstate transfer
- Urban systems
- Interstate
- Public lands
- Scenic byways

Federal highway funding totals approximately \$3 billion for Fiscal Years 1993-1995. Hundreds of projects are planned and are enumerated in the State Transportation Improvement Program.

The Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD), formerly under the name Department of Public Works, is responsible for the execution of all highway and bridge projects with the following exceptions:

- the Massachusetts Turnpike (managed by the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority)
- the Tobin Bridge (managed by the Massachusetts Port Authority)

Ongoing projects:

- **Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel (CA/T) project**

The CA/T project, also known as "the Big Dig," is the major infrastructure project in New England. The Central Artery project is designed to increase highway capacity for traffic traveling in downtown Boston. The estimated completion date is 2003. As of February 1993, the cost for this mega-project is \$5.8 billion and, according to officials, is expected to rise to \$6.4 billion.

This project involves the depression of the Central Artery in Boston and the construction of a third harbor tunnel which will lead from South Boston to East Boston (Logan Airport). The purpose of the project is threefold: 1) to ease traffic impacts in the city of Boston; 2) to improve access to Logan International Airport; 3) to improve land access to the seaport terminals in Boston.