

permit comparisons to be made among the major groups of public facilities and among the component categories.

In essence, the chapters contained in this volume represent an effort to provide in a systematic way information on the infrastructure of State and local public facilities in the Nation. It answers such questions as: What are public facilities? What services do they render? How many are there and where are they located? What has been the trend of capital outlays and indicated sources of financing? How many more are needed? To some extent, one can obtain part of this information from the statistical compilations prepared by the Bureau of the Census.⁵ Similarly, one can obtain some of the information from reports and studies issued by individual Federal agencies on their program accomplishments or by some of the trade associations.

But up to now there is no single source to which one can turn in order to obtain a comprehensive picture of the Nation's public facilities ordinarily provided by State and local public bodies and to some extent by private, nonprofit organizations. The study contained in this volume endeavors to fill this void by presenting a series of chapters on the significant categories of public facilities, each prepared uniformly in accordance with a standard chapter outline.

2. *Uses of the Study*

The vast array of information presented in this volume, much of it available for the first time, is adaptable to many uses, depending upon the needs of the reader. However, several intended uses were envisaged when the study project was inaugurated such as (a) providing a quantification of the Great Society capital requirements insofar as they relate to public facilities, (b) measuring the apparent gap between these requirements and prospective private credit resources, (c) providing basic "universe" data inputs to be used in connection with the planning-programing-budgeting system established by the executive branch, and (d) providing new dimensions for the "shelf" of unmet public facility needs. These uses are amplified as follows:

(a) *Great Society Capital Requirements.* In his Message on the "Problems and Future of the Central City and Its Suburbs,"⁶ the President declared:

The city is not an assembly of shops and buildings. It is not a collection of goods and services. It is a community for the enrichment of the life of man. It is a place for the satisfaction of man's most urgent wants and his highest aspirations. It is an instrument for the advance of civilization.

In prescribing some of the blueprints for the Great Society, the President further declared:

By 1975 we will need over 2 million new homes a year. We will need schools for 10 million additional children, welfare and health facilities for 5 million more people over the age of 60, transportation facilities for the daily movement of 200 million people * * *. Among the most vital needs of our metropolitan areas is the requirement for basic community facilities—for water and sewerage. Many existing systems are obsolete or need major rehabilitation. And population growth will require a vastly increased effort in years ahead * * *. A community must offer added dimensions to the possibilities of daily life. It must meet the individual's most pressing needs and provide places for recreation and for meeting with neighbors.

⁵ Cf. *Governmental Finances* (issued annually by the Governments Division, Bureau of the Census) and *Construction Review* (issued monthly by the Business and Defense Services Administration and which includes data on permits issued for public and private construction, as compiled by the Construction Statistics Division, Bureau of the Census).

⁶ H. Doc. No. 99, 89th Cong., 1st sess. (Mar. 2, 1965).