

II

PROBLEMS, PROGRAMS AND INTER-RELATIONSHIPS

The Department of Transportation is responsible for identifying the major transportation problems and issues so that appropriate action can be taken to solve them. The purpose of this section therefore, is to (a) identify the major broad problem areas, (b) highlight the critical issues and related new program requirements and (c) describe the complex inter-relationships of the DOT goals and objectives and problem areas.

A. Problem Areas

The goals and objectives of the Department of Transportation represent the qualities and characteristics which the Department will strive to incorporate within the national transportation system. As such, these goals and objectives are of a long-term nature and should not change.

To achieve these goals and objectives, certain problems must be overcome and new programs must be developed and these of necessity will continue to change. In fact, this dynamic aspect of transportation is why planning is important and why periodic assessment of the problems and appropriate modification of the total Departmental plan and individual program objectives is necessary.

The basic problems of transportation are complex and deep-rooted in nature and cover a broad spectrum of interests, activities, jurisdictions and modal responsibilities. For planning and analytic purposes, however, they can be grouped into a relatively manageable list of broad problem areas which encompasses most of the specific current issues facing the DOT today.