

II. PUBLIC POLICIES TOWARD RAIL PASSENGER SERVICE

The national railroad passenger system can be classified into four basic types of service:

- 1 - Short-haul or commuter service in metropolitan, suburban, and other areas for distances of 75 miles or less;
- 2 - Medium-distance service between 75 and 300 miles in high-density population corridors;
- 3 - Non-corridor medium-distance service; and
- 4 - Long-haul service.

While these categories cannot be precisely applied to all rail operations, there are major differences among these services. Public demand, alternative forms of public and private transportation, the comparative cost and service advantages of various modes of travel, operational costs, service and equipment requirements, public assistance, and the policies of various government agencies vary from one type of service to another.

A. Commutation and Corridor Policies

Rail commutation operations are still faced with significant problems, but since 1961 representatives of government at all levels have shown a growing concern for the retention of this service, particularly in areas with large numbers of commuters. The Housing Act of 1961 and the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964 have set forth the Federal government's role in stimulating research,