

have a stake in this venture - the carriers, the Federal government, state and local bodies, and the travelling public. But additional discussion on the nature and extent of these commitments sidesteps the real issue of whether the service is needed beyond the present mix of private and public policies.

We therefore recommend the initiation of a comprehensive study on the need for a National Rail Passenger System and the methods for developing a modern rail network if such a system is desirable. While the main emphasis of the study would be directed toward developing policies for rail service, such consideration can only be made in the context of all transportation modes. The study has already been partially begun with the institution of the High Speed Ground legislation, including the Northeast Corridor Project. It should be broadened to include the need for medium and long distance rail service.

The study should determine:

- Existing capacity of all modes for meeting the nation's present passenger transportation needs;
- Anticipated expansion of those resources by 1975 on the basis of current governmental or private activities (such as the Interstate Highway program, by Government,