



# PART I

# I

## *Description of Current System*

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# Introduction

Chapters 1 through 6 are designed to provide a broad overview of the current status of the Nation's highway and transit systems, as well as to describe historic trends. These retrospective analyses serve as a point of departure for the prospective analyses contained in Part II and other sections of the report.

Chapter 1, **The Role of Highways and Transit**, provides a broad overview of the functions served by the Nation's highways and transit systems. The basic concepts introduced here are expanded upon in other chapters of the report.

Chapter 2, **System Characteristics**, describes the extent of the Nation's highways, bridges, and transit systems and provides information on the usage of these systems.

Chapter 3, **System Conditions**, describes the current physical condition of the Nation's highways, bridges, and transit systems and how the overall physical condition of this infrastructure has changed in recent years.

Chapter 4, **Operational Performance**, analyzes how well the highway and transit infrastructure has performed in accommodating increasing demand for travel.

Chapter 5, **Safety Performance**, describes the safety performance of highways and transit systems.

Chapter 6, **Finance**, describes the levels and types of highway and transit expenditures made by Federal, State, and local governments and identifies the sources of revenue that support these programs.