

PART III

NATIONAL POLICY FOR MASS TRANSIT

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The assessment of community planning for mass transit identified a number of factors that have interfered with sound planning. Up to this point, the report has examined the way these factors have operated on the metropolitan level. The role of Federal policy has been reported only insofar as it influenced the metropolitan experience.

This part of the report considers how policy changes at the national level might remove some of the obstacles to a sound transit planning process. It is not an evaluation or assessment of the Federal program per se, because that would have required far more attention to the legislative process in Congress and the process of administration within the executive branch than has been possible in this study. Instead, this part of the report summarizes the issues that were raised in the metropolitan cases--and potential remedies for them--as they appear from a national perspective.

One aspect of Federal policy is treated in relatively greater depth here. The goals, or formal objectives, of Federal policy potentially can exert a powerful influence on the metropolitan planning process. This potential, which to date has not been effectively employed, is examined in both the following chapters.

Chapter 6 summarizes the major national issues confronting transit planning, discussing their implications for public policy, and describes Federal policy dealing with national goals and objectives. Chapter 7 discusses alternative courses for changing public policy to address the issues and encourage improvements in the transit planning process. Chapter 8 provides a brief summary of the study's major findings.