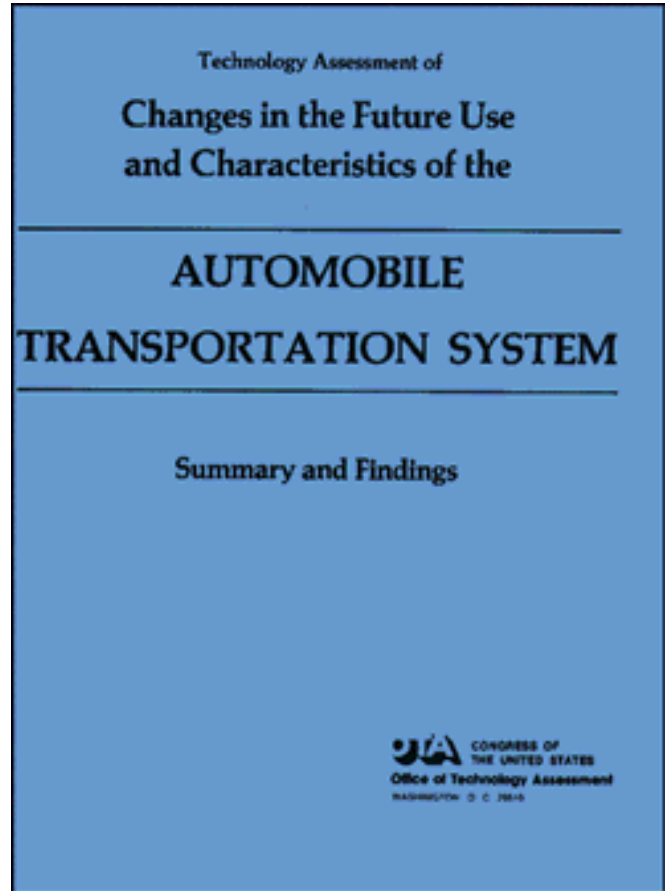


*Technology Assessment of Changes in the
Future Use and Characteristics of the
Automobile Transportation
System—Volume I: Summary and Findings*

February 1979



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Foreword

This assessment deals with changes in the future use and characteristics of the automobile transportation system that are expected in the near term (by 1985) and those that might evolve over a longer period (through 2000 and beyond). The scope of the assessment is broad and includes not only automobiles but also highways, fuel supply and distribution, automotive repair and service, insurance, traffic management, and law enforcement—in short, all of the industries and services that contribute to use of the automobile as a mode of personal transportation.

The personal mobility provided by the private automobile will ensure its strong appeal for the indefinite future. This report analyzes the restraints of energy supply, environmental impacts, highway safety, and consumer cost on the further development of the automobile transportation system. It discusses Government initiatives that may be necessary to assure such further development.

Detailed projections, policy analyses, and technological forecasts incorporated in this summary and findings report are published in Volume II: Technical Report.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russell W. Peterson".

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The OTA Automobile Assessment Advisory Panel provided valuable advice, critique, and assistance to the OTA staff throughout this assessment. Their participation, however, does not necessarily constitute approval or endorsement of this report. OTA assumes sole responsibility for the report and the accuracy of the content.