Energy, the Economy, and Mass Transit October 1975

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Energy, The Economy, and Mass Transit



UNITED STATES CONGRESS Office of Technology Assessment

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The Honorable John L. McClellan Chairman. Committee on Appropriations United States Senate Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Board of the Office of Technology Assessment, we are pleased to forward to you the attached report on Energy, the Economy and Mass Transit. This is in accordance with your request to the Office of Technology Assessment dated September 27, 1974. An earlier summary of this report was transmitted to you on June 18, 1975.

This report is being made available to your Committee in accordance with Public Law 92-484.

Sincerely,

Chairman of the

Sincerely,

Vice Charirman of the Board

Enclosure

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OCT 211975

The Honorable Olin E. Teague Chairman of the Board Office of Technology Assessment Congress of the United States Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In response to the letter of September 27, 1974, from Senator John L. McClellan, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations, the Office of Technology Assessment undertook an analysis of Energy, the Economy and Mass Transit.

I am pleased to submit the attached report on this analysis and to express my appreciation to all of those who contributed to it.

EMILIO Q . DADDARIO Director

Enclosure

PREFACE

This assessment of Energy, the Economy, and Mass Transit was requested by the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations on behalf of its Transportation Subcommittee. The Committee requested the Office to review the relationship of mass transit to energy consumption and to alternative economic conditions.

OTA examined: (1) the probable effects of changes in energy supplies and prices on transit patronage and the transit industry; (z) the potential role of public mass transit programs in stimulating a depressed economy; and (3) the effect on the economy and urban transit if transit funds were sharply reduced. In addition, the study evaluates alternative transportation policies for responding to various economic and energy conditions and examines within this framework the effect of transit incentives and automobile disincentives on transit patronage and automobile use.

The assessment was carried out by OTA'S Transportation Assessments Group with the assistance of its Urban Mass Transit Advisory Panel. Skidmore, Owings and Merrill and Systems Design Concepts Inc. conducted systems studies for the assessment. Data were received from nine metropolitan regions throughout the United States. We are indebted to numerous local officials for their kind assistance.

This report is a joint effort, identifying a range of viewpoints but not necessarily reflecting the judgment of any individual.